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Front cover:

The Rania Plain faces the spectacular
pass at Darband-i-Ramkhan, leading
through the Zagros mountains on the
border between Iraq and Iran.

View northeast from Tell Shemshara
(February 2012).

See the article by J. Eidem
on pp. 13-19.

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Preface

Jesper Eidem

General Director NINO and NIT

NINO and its subsidiary institute in Istanbul, NIT, continued, through 2011, to provide what we believe to be important support for Dutch and international research on the Ancient Middle East and dialogue between diverse cultures and their shared heritage. NINO in Leiden serves as the recognized base for such efforts in the Netherlands. It houses one of the best relevant libraries in the world, which remains a focal point for students and scholars. The NINO journals and publication series cover a wide range of subjects – from the beginnings of agriculture to late Ottoman heritage in the Balkans. Our own research is carried out by world-renowned scholars, who we are proud to count as NINO Research fellows, as well as by other staff at NINO and NIT. In Istanbul NIT is our main anchor in the Middle East, with its own library, activities, and research, but we are also active in Syria, and soon in Iraq.

2011 was a turbulent year in the Middle East. I witnessed this myself close-up on a trip to Egypt in late January. We watch developments with cautious optimism and some trepidation. Broader concerns aside, colleagues and friends in several countries are facing difficult times, and unrest has caused damage to cultural heritage in countries like Egypt and Syria. The extent of such damage is hard to assess at present, but in any case fades in importance compared to the human costs of conflicts like that unfolding in Syria.

Early in the year NINO received official permission for extensive excavation at the site of Qala'at Halwanji in northern Syria (see NINO/NIT Annual Reports 2009, pp. 2-10,

and 2010, pp. 18-25), but a planned campaign in spring, first postponed to autumn, finally had to be cancelled in view of the unrest in several parts of the country. We hope to resume the project at Qala'at Halwanji at the earliest opportunity, but are meanwhile also developing a new archaeological project in Iraq, within the territory of the Kurdish Region (see this issue, pp. 13-19).

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük proceeded in summer with new important results (see article pp. 3-9). Our Istanbul institute is also busy with a heritage project in the vicinity of its premises in one of the old central parts of the city, and another project, digitizing a substantial collection of photos documenting Ottoman heritage in the Balkans. The institute is thriving on its new premises in Koç University's RCAC, and manages a wide range of activities with relatively modest resources (see pp. 55-63 for more on these activities).

The same holds true for NINO in Leiden, where a small, but dedicated staff also through 2011 was busy preparing and distributing our publications and maintaining and adding to the 1.5 km shelf-space of books in our library. The plans for digitizing parts of the NINO collections are maturing at a slower pace than we hoped, but are still very much on track.

This issue of our Annual Report contains short articles on NINO/NIT-related field projects in Turkey, Egypt, and Iraq, the presentation of a 4000 year old cuneiform tablet in the NINO collections, as well as reports on 2011 activities of NINO and NIT.



Figure 1. Work in trenches L11 and L12. The people in the foreground are working inside structure 5 (photo by Rénie van der Putte).

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2011

Fokke Gerritsen and Rana Özbal

The 2011 season of excavations at Barcın Höyük yielded interesting new insights in the nature and development of the seventh millennium settlement. Following a brief overview of the work carried out in 2011, this report will present some changes in the material culture from the earliest levels. They appear to be related to changes in daily cooking practices.

Introduction

Located in the Yenişehir Valley in the province of Bursa in northwestern Anatolia, Barcın Höyük is a key site for research on the introduction and development of farming in the Marmara Region. Current evidence indicates that it was inhabited from about 6600 to about 6000 BC, placing it amongst the oldest sedentary communities in the region.

The excavation project entered a new phase of research, funded by a four-year grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). In addition to the actual fieldwork investigations, this funding will allow us to develop an Archaeological Information System through which all the primary data can be digitally stored, retrieved for analysis and made accessible to the academic community.

Work in 2011

Work continued in most of the trenches that were previously excavated, in order to improve our grasp of the stratigraphy and occupation history of the Neolithic settlement. Now that we appear to have sampled nearly the complete sequence of occupation phases, it has been

possible to identify five phases of habitation during the Neolithic period, labelled VIa (youngest) to VIe (oldest). Even though aspects of the material culture change visibly from phase to phase, the overall impression is that habitation was continuous and that developments were gradual rather than punctuated.

Two new trenches were opened in 2011, L10 and M13. In trench L10, fourteen Byzantine graves were encountered, enlarging our sample of the Middle Byzantine cemetery that covered the southern slopes of the mound. Remains from the Late Chalcolithic settlement appeared below the cemetery, including a large oven of the type found also in other parts of the settlement of this period and the curved ditch or channel that was found previously in trenches M10 to the east and L11 to the south. In future seasons, we hope to reach Neolithic phases VIIb to VIId in L10, to expand the exposures of architectural features found in adjacent trenches M10 and L11.

Trench M13 was opened to investigate the later Neolithic occupation levels. Even though these later phases had been encountered previously, their remains were often heavily disturbed by a combination of Neolithic and Chalcolithic pit digging activities as well as soil formation processes and bioturbation. Our hope to expose relatively well preserved remains in M13 turned out to be justified. We found Neolithic wall remains belonging to at least one house as well as adjacent courtyard

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2011



Figure 2. Finds from a single Vle excavation lot from trench L13: numerous fire-cracked stones and animal bone fragments, but no pottery.

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2011

deposits not far below several Late Chalcolithic ovens. When fully excavated in 2012, this should give us a much better idea of the latest Neolithic occupation phase (VIa) and its development from older levels.

Work on the middle phase of occupation, VIb and VIc, continued in trenches L11, L12, M10 and M11. In L11 and L12 most attention concentrated on the detailed investigation of a house (structure 5) that was partly exposed as early as 2007. A one metre wide strip of trench M12 was excavated to the same level in order to complete the plan of the house.

Dating to phase VIb, the rectangular house measured 6.60 (E-W) by 4.50 metre (N-S) (Fig. 1). Its walls were thin, in places only about 20-25 centimetres, but strengthened by rows of upright posts forming the skeleton of the walls. A doorway gave access to the interior from the middle of the southern wall. No traces were found of uprights in the interior space that could have helped support the weight of the roof, possibly because of several pits post-dating the occupation. These disturbances notwithstanding, it could be determined that the house had suffered from a partial collapse particularly noticeable in the southwestern corner, and several major modifications were done to make it useable again. The walls were straightened and given extra support by adding a thick layer of loam, the doorway was blocked and an internal separation was created by positioning a loam-built bench or platform at right angles to the long wall. Adjacent to the

short western wall, an annex (1.60 by c. 3.20m) closed off to the north and west and perhaps open to the south appears to date to the later phase of the use of the house. Lying on the floor were an articulated set of vertebrae from a medium-sized mammal, a cow's mandible and a rectangular block of unbaked clay, perhaps waiting to be turned into a ceramic vessel.

As mentioned already, work in the deep sounding in trench L13 continued, going through a deep sequence of sloping garbage-filled layers and outdoor surfaces, until virgin soil was reached. A wall, presumably of a house situated largely to the south of the sounding was associated with a lime-plastered outdoor surface. This single piece of architecture marked not so much a change in the nature of the deposits, but in the character of some of the find categories, and denotes the transition from level VIe to VI d. Interestingly, in part of the sounding, the oldest use surface covered a ca. 1 metre thick deposit of clayey and presumably water-lain sediments that contained occasional fragments of burnt loam, bone and charcoal. This suggests that there may have been even older phases of habitation below other parts of the mound.

Changing cooking technologies

Between levels VIe and VI d there are distinct differences in the find assemblages, in particular in the ceramics and the occurrence of stones. In the lowest layers belonging to level VIe, pottery was absent, and it occurred

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2011

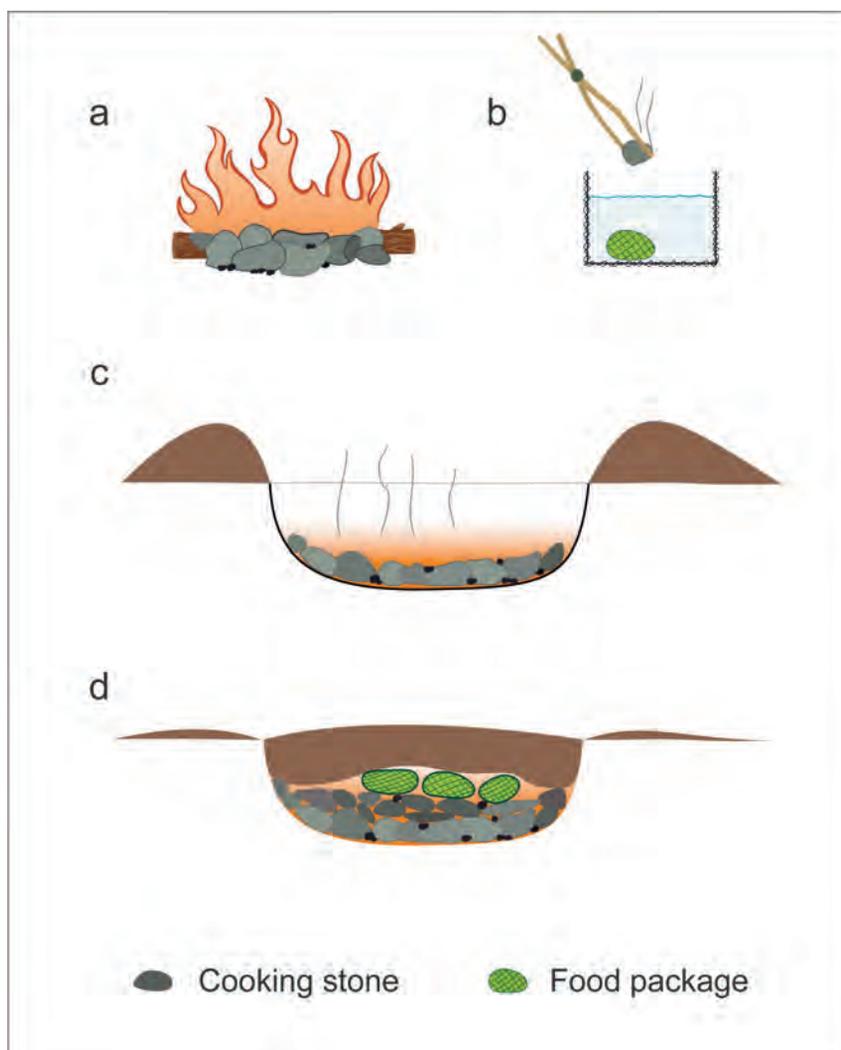


Figure 3. Some ethnographically documented ways to cook food using heated stones (drawing by C. Pişkin Ayvazoglu).

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2011

only in low frequencies above. Based on work done by Laurens Thissen, we can say that this pottery consists largely of thick-walled holemouth pots made of clay that was heavily tempered with green schist (Fig. 2). The surfaces are lightly burnished. Preliminary comparisons with ceramics from other northwest Anatolian sites tell us that this specific ware has been encountered to date only at Demircihüyük, as out of context finds. The great bulk of the finds from VIe, in terms of numbers and weight, consisted of fist-sized irregularly shaped rocks (Fig. 3). Their shapes seem to have been caused by breakage induced by exposure to high temperatures. These stones do not occur in the natural sub-soil and they must have been brought to the settlement by its inhabitants. Based on ethnographic parallels, and analogous to the interpretation of finds of clay balls at Çatalhöyük, we interpret these stones as cooking stones. They were heated in a fire before being brought in contact with the food that was to be cooked in a container of in a pit in the ground.

In contrast, the L13 deposits assigned to phase VIId yielded much higher quantities of ceramics, whereas stones are found in low numbers.

Animal bone waste, charcoal and ash occur, as before, in high concentrations, indicating a continued use of the area as a disposal area related to food preparation. The VIId pottery differs notably from the older wares (Fig. 4). The walls of vessels become thinner, and even

though the paste is often quite heavily tempered with crushed calcite, the surfaces are particularly smooth. They are well fired to pinkish, pale grey and light orange colours. In terms of shapes, Laurens Thissen has noted that, even though they make use of the same general shape concepts, the VIId vessels demonstrate some new shapes that have a lower centre of gravity than their predecessors.

The changes that occur from level VIe to VIId point to a change in cooking technology. Whereas the older pottery could be used to cook with, and lipid residues analysis indicate milk and meat residues on several vessels (see also the NINO/NIT Annual Report 2009, pp. 11-16, on our programme of lipid residue analysis), its low frequency indicates that pottery was not yet used on a large scale to cook with. Instead, the standard cooking technique employed cooking stones. After at most a brief transition phase, cooking in pottery placed directly over the fire quickly became common. The VIId pottery was well suited for this: resistant to thermal shock through its calcite temper and thin walls, and stable because of its lower centre of gravity.

There are several major advantages that cooking in pottery offers. It avoids the undoubtedly cumbersome transfer of hot stones and allows the cook to be engaged in other activities while the food cooks over the fire. It also enables a better control over temperature and timing. In contrast to cooking with stones, it is possible to let food boil or

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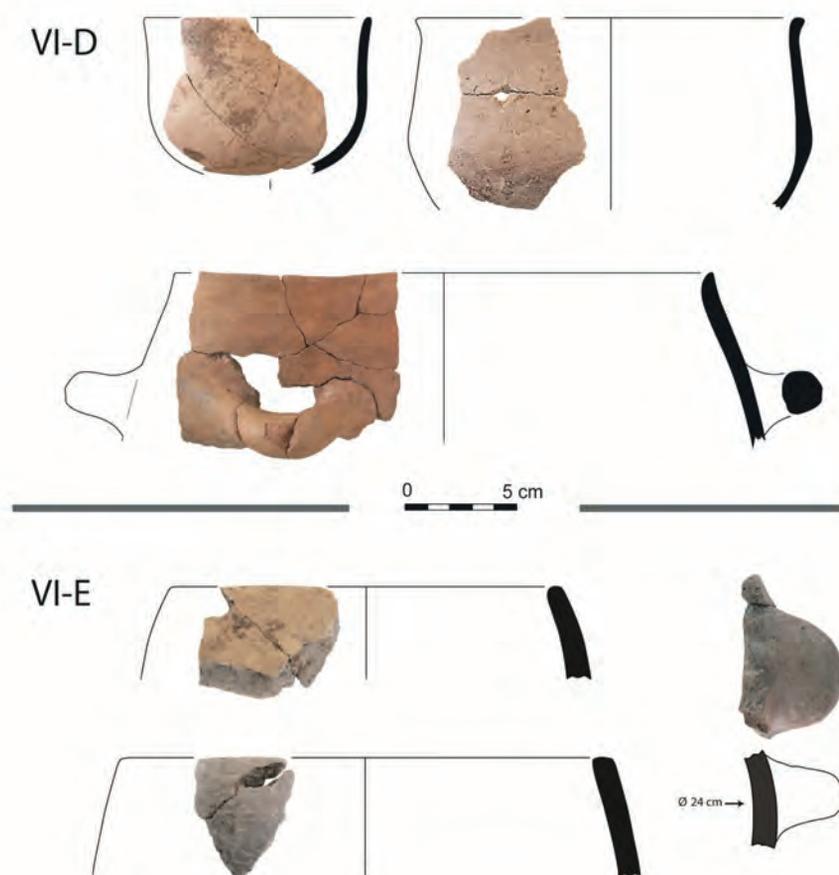


Figure 4. Thick-walled schist-tempered pottery from level VIe (bottom) and thin-walled calcite-tempered pottery from level VI d (above).

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2011

simmer for extended periods of time, and it becomes much easier to prepare liquid foods such as soups and stews. These and other factors could all have made a switch to cooking with ceramic vessels over the fire attractive. An additional consideration – or even the main one – may have been the possibility offered by cooking pottery to turn milk into dairy products. To make yoghurt, for example, a prolonged supply of moderate heat is necessary. Given the strong lipid residue evidence that we now have for the very early use of pottery to process milk, it becomes an intriguing idea that, at least for the Marmara Region where Barcın Höyük is located, the introduction of pottery and the addition of milk to the diet went hand in hand.

Acknowledgements

The Barcın Höyük ceramics are studied by Laurens Thissen (Amsterdam). The organic residue analyses are carried out by a team headed by Hadi Özbal of Boğaziçi University. The excavations at Barcın Höyük are carried out in collaboration with and through the support of many institutions. It is our pleasure to acknowledge the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), Research Institute CLUE of VU University Amsterdam, Koç University's College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Boğaziçi University's Chemistry Department, Uludağ University's Yenişehir İbrahim Orhan Vocational School and its

Director Prof. Dr Bahri Yıldız. Permission for the excavations was granted by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism's General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums. Locally, much valued assistance was provided by the Iznik Museum and the Bursa Archaeological Museum.

Further reading

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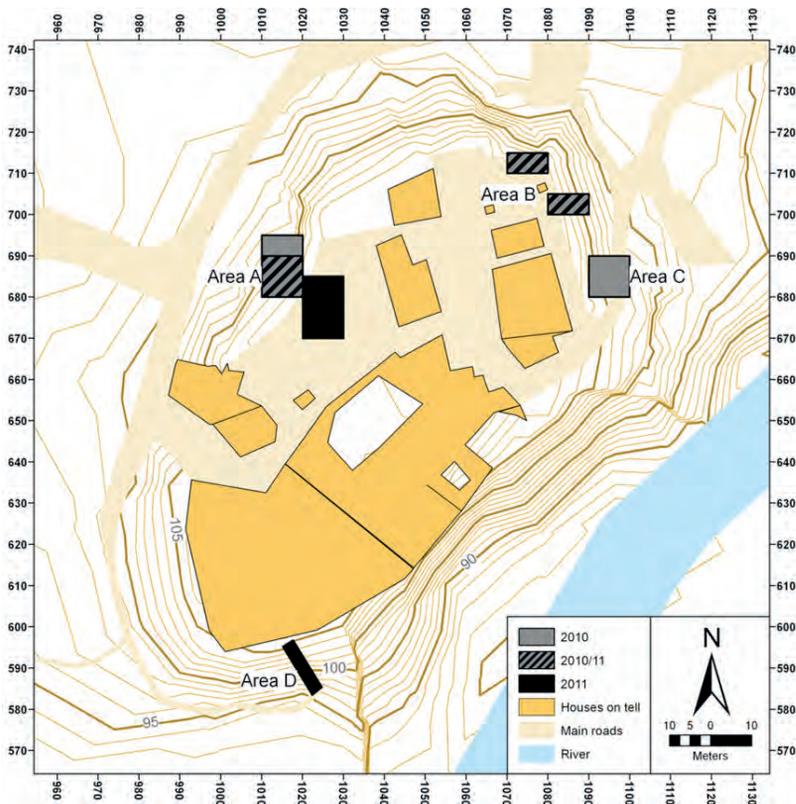


Figure 1. Tell Satu Qala, with the locations of the squares that have been excavated.



Figure 2. A glazed brick found in the foundation of a wall.

The second season at Tell Satu Qala in Iraqi Kurdistan

Wilfred van Soldt

Our excavation team consisting of staff members of Leiden University, Leipzig University and Salahaddin University (Erbil) started the excavation of Tell Satu Qala in the spring of 2010. The tell is located on the Lower Zab, between Erbil and Suleimaniya. During the first season architectural remains in three different locations on the north side of the hill were excavated that ranged chronologically from modern structures to buildings that are approximately two thousand years old (see Fig. 1: areas A, B and C). In all these layers royal inscriptions were discovered that clearly belonged to a much earlier period. They had been written on bricks that, according to the texts, belonged to the palace wall. They mentioned both the name of the king and that of the city. The texts showed that Satu Qala was ancient Idu, an important provincial capital of the Middle Assyrian empire.

In the autumn of 2011 the work of the first campaign was continued. We hoped to reach the layers that were of special interest to us, the ones containing Neo-Assyrian (ca. 900-600 BC) and Middle Assyrian (ca. 1350-1175 BC) remains. It is between these periods that most of the inscriptions were written. Work was continued in two squares that had already been opened in 2010 and two more squares were opened this season. In the earlier squares levels were reached that most probably belonged to the last phase of the Neo-Assyrian period. In one of the squares a glazed tile was found that carried the name of the Assyrian king Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 BC), who apparently had renovated the palace at Satu

Qala/Idu. The tile was reused in the foundation of a wall (Fig. 2 shows a similar case). As far as one can tell, the hill has been almost continually inhabited since the Assyrian period and as a result a proper stratification can hardly be established. For example, none of the 57 royal inscriptions discovered so far was retrieved from its original context. It is quite possible that the walls of the palace will be found in future seasons, but this is not certain.

In order to get a better view of the chronology of the site, a section was made on the south side of the tell (Fig. 1: area D). The results obtained here showed that the hill must already have been inhabited in prehistoric times and there were clear signs of occupation during the Uruk period (ca. 3000 BC).

The royal inscriptions discovered so far provide us with the names of seven kings who ruled the city of Idu. Their inscriptions are written in the Assyrian dialect of Akkadian, and since they usually mention their father we can more or less reconstruct the dynasty that controlled the city. Since the rulers call themselves king it seems likely that they reigned between the end of the Middle Assyrian and the beginning of the Neo-Assyrian empire. Under the Middle Assyrian kings Idu was ruled by an Assyrian governor who is not attested in any of the texts. Thus the kings of Idu profited from the weakness of the Assyrians in the period ca. 1180-900 BC to secure their power in the area.

New seasons are in preparation, and we hope to give more information on the city of Idu in the near future.

Fonds de carte: Martin Sauvage, EPHE, IV^e section et UPR 193 du CNRS

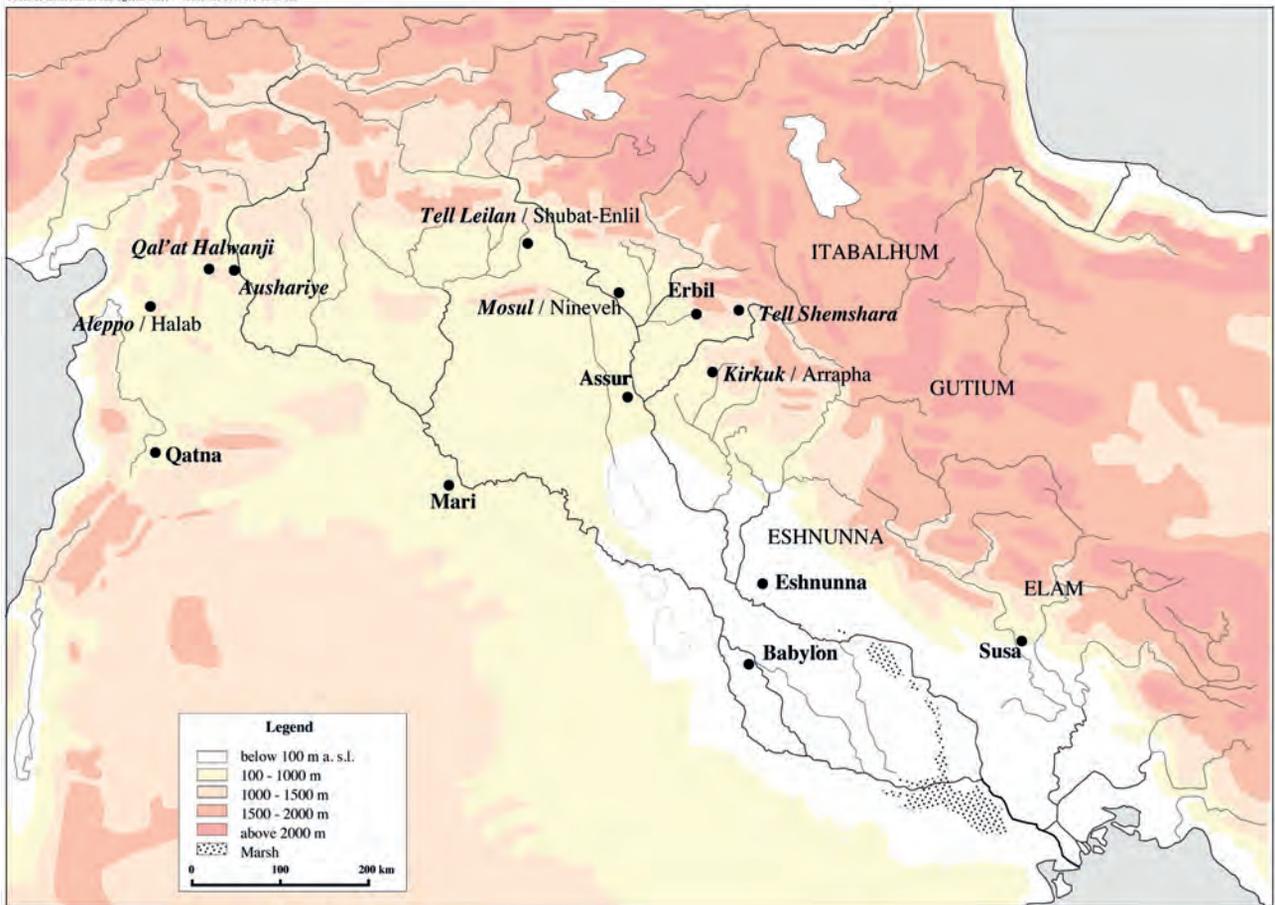


Figure 1. Map of ancient Iraq/Syria with sites mentioned in the text.
Tell Shemshara is found in the upper right.

Dokan.

An archaeological salvage project in Iraq, 1956-60

Jesper Eidem

In autumn 2012 NINO will initiate new archaeological fieldwork in Northern Iraq, in a first instance returning to the Rania Plain and the site of Tell Shemshara, briefly excavated by Danish and Iraqi archaeologists more than 50 years ago. We hope to describe this work in our next Annual Report. Here we provide an introduction to the area and the project.

A salvage first

In 1950 the Iraqi government decided to build a hydro-electric dam at Dokan, at the south end of the Rania Plain. The dam would create a large artificial lake in the plain, and this would flood some 40 ancient sites. As the construction of the dam was in progress in the mid-1950s Iraqi archaeologists were sent from Baghdad to make a list of the sites which would be flooded and to start salvage excavations in the most important of them.

The first excavation began in 1956, and during the next years some 10 ancient sites were examined by a group of young and enthusiastic Iraqi archaeologists. As a salvage operation the Dokan project was the first of its kind. Many ancient sites in Iraq and other countries in the Middle East had of course already been excavated by local or foreign archaeologists, but usually these sites had been carefully chosen because they were believed to have special importance and would provide exceptional evidence. The fairly small sites in a

remote area like the Rania Plain were not among them. Only the threat of flooding made their investigation an urgent task. Many other salvage projects necessitated by dams or other construction work have followed, both in Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and other countries, but it is worth remembering the Dokan project as a pioneering effort. Without it much information would have been lost, and the excavations here showed that also small sites in a remote area could provide important historical information.

In 1956, the same year excavations began in the Dokan project, a Danish professor, Jørgen Læssøe, was in Iraq and was asked if Denmark would like to help the salvage effort. He affirmed, of course, and after his return to Denmark he began to organize a Danish team to excavate in the Rania Plain. As field director he

chose Harald Ingholt, a Danish archaeologist who had extensive experience from excavations in Syria, and was then professor at Yale University. In May 1957 the Danish team arrived in the Rania Plain and decided to excavate the site of Tell Shemshara. They did not really know what to expect, but the site was situated in an important location close to the main mountain pass through the Zagros mountains between Iraq and Iran (see cover illustration), so they had high hopes when they started the excavation.

Digging in Iraq

The main mound of Tell Shemshara was ca. 330 m long and ca. 60 m wide. The north end was more than 10 metres higher than the rest, and the Danes decided to open a large excavation area on the high northern part.

The actual digging was done by local workmen guided by master foremen from the village of Sharqat in central Iraq. The men in this village had formed a tradition as master workers in archaeological excavations, and were employed at sites all over Iraq. They were of course paid more than the local workers.

Dokan.
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Life on the Rania Plain

The Danes had hardly put up their tents near the main mound of Shemshara when they were hit by very heavy rain and thunder. Many days strong wind made work in the excavation difficult and sometimes impossible, and throughout the summer there were more heavy rains.

Wolves could be heard near the camp at night, and an armed guard had to be hired. During June and July temperatures reached 55 °C at the middle of the day, and the team was also much disturbed by sandflies (small, mosquito-like insects).



Figure 2. Tell Shemshara during excavation in summer 1957.
View from north towards the high summit.

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During the summer the Danes dug down in the high part of the mound and uncovered no less than sixteen successive occupation levels. The lowest and earliest levels could be dated to the Neolithic, the so-called Hassuna period – some 8000 years ago. Above these levels were remains of occupation which could be dated to the second millennium BC, but without any clear ruins of buildings. Finally the latest occupation found just under the modern surface was from the 14th century of our own era – so only some 500 years old.

In the middle of July the Danes decided also to make a small excavation on the lower part of the site. They first found the same medieval occupation as on the high part of the site, but then dug into the much older level from the second millennium BC. Here they found a few rooms of a building full of ashes, clearly burnt down in antiquity. In one room, which had a tiled floor, they found, just a few days before the end of the season, an archive of some 150 clay tablets inscribed with texts in cuneiform writing.

Læssøe, an expert in ancient languages, had to make a catalogue of these tablets in a very short time before the camp was packed. He discovered that several of the tablets were letters sent by the famous Assyrian king

Shamshi-Adad – to a man named Kuwari. Actually most of the letters were sent to this Kuwari, who could then be identified as the owner of the archive. Over the next few years Læssøe was able to study and decipher all these letters and it became clear how lucky the Danish Expedition had been to find this archive.

Ancient power play

So what is the story these tablets tell us? To explain this we have to take a broader view at the history of Iraq in the early part of the second millennium BC – at the time when Hammurabi was king of Babylon and Shamshi-Adad was king of Assur.

Shamshi-Adad was a very successful politician and general, and he managed to expand his territory until it included all of northern Mesopotamia. Among the tablets found in Mari (see text box) is a large group of letters sent from Shamshi-Adad to his son. These letters show us

how the kingdom expanded eastwards into areas close to the Rania Plain, but later got a lot of trouble with the people living there.

This is where the small archive from Shemshara enters the story. The letters were all written just before and just after Shamshi-Adad and his sons tried to get control with this area,

Hammurabi and Shamshi-Adad

Much of the information we have for this period comes from a site on the Euphrates in modern Syria – from a city called Mari. Here a French excavation in the 1930s uncovered a large archive of tablets – nearly 20,000, in the ruins of the palace of the city. This archive is an incredible source of information for this period. The archives contain thousands of letters sent to the kings of Mari from other kings, from diplomats, generals, and spies.

Mari was a local Syrian kingdom, but Shamshi-Adad of Assur conquered the city, and placed one of his sons as viceroy in Mari. Shamshi-Adad himself spent most of his time in a new capital he built in what is now northeast Syria, in Shubat-Enlil. In the east part of his large kingdom he placed another son as viceroy. In this way he had reliable people on the two flanks of the kingdom.

Dokan.
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Fig. 3. Tablet from Tell Shemshara. Letter from one of Shamshi-Adad's generals to Kuwari.



Figure 4. Tell Shemshara in 2012 – compare similar view in 1957 (Fig. 2).

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and they show us how a 'big game' unfolded during a few months in the years 1781-80 BC. They also show that the ancient name of Shemshara some 4.000 years ago was – Shusharra – which remarkably survived into modern times.

The man at Shemshara, Kuwari, was placed there as governor by a kingdom in the mountains of Iran, Itabalthum. This kingdom was at war with another kingdom in the mountains, Gutium.

At the same time Shamshi-Adad was conducting a big military campaign in the area around modern Erbil, and approaching the Rania Plain. A friend of Kuwari wrote to him:

I have read the letter you sent me (and where you wrote): "Nipram came back from Shamshi-Adad and said: "What Shamshi-Adad told me is very good news; he has conquered the city of Arraphum (= Kirkuk), and is moving towards Qabra (= Erbil), and he has sent his son with 60.000 troops to besiege Nurrugum (= Mosul)." This is what you wrote in the letter you sent to me. Pay close attention to this news. Hopefully Shamshi-Adad will not conquer the whole country, and we shall not have to worry.

So an envoy had reported to Kuwari that Shamshi-Adad was busy conquering the main cities on the plain west of the Rania Plain, and hopefully he was so busy that he would not be able to do more and also move further east.

But then another friend of Kuwari wrote to him that the army of Gutium had made a raid into the core of the kingdom. At this point Shemshara was in a very dangerous situation: who would reach it first – the army of Gutium,

or the army of Shamshi-Adad? It seems the local population in the Rania Plain preferred to be protected by Shamshi-Adad against Gutium, and Kuwari followed them. So instead of being the western outpost of the mountain kingdom Shemshara now became the eastern outpost of Shamshi-Adad's kingdom. And instead of receiving letters from his friends in the east Kuwari now got letters from Shamshi-Adad and his generals.

Was Kuwari a traitor? Or did he have no choice in order to save Shemshara and the Rania Plain from the army of Gutium? This is difficult to judge, but we can see that Shamshi-Adad did not manage to control Shemshara for more than a few months. Perhaps because of the news that he wanted a coalition with the king of Gutium, as described in another letter:

You wrote to me about the servant of Shamshi-Adad who brought presents of silver, gold and silver bars to the king of Gutium. ... Shamshi-Adad wrote as follows to the king of Gutium: "You and I should make an agreement ... I will give you my daughter, and as dowry for my daughter I will give you the country of Shemshara."

This information must have come as a shock to Kuwari and the people in the Rania Plain. Now they of course had no protection from Gutium, and they rose up in rebellion against Shamshi-Adad and Kuwari. In a letter from Mari – so not from Shemshara – is a report to the son of Shamshi-Adad who was viceroy there:

Concerning the land of Shemshara which you wrote to me about. Ishar-Lim will explain to you that this land is troubled, and that we cannot hold it. The people who live in that land, turned

Dokan. An archaeological salvage project in Iraq, 1956-60

hostile and destroyed two towns. I went to help, but they retreated to the mountains.

One of the two towns destroyed was probably Shemshara itself, since the palace there had been burnt. So this is where the story of Shemshara ends. Perhaps Kuwari managed to escape, but we do not know...

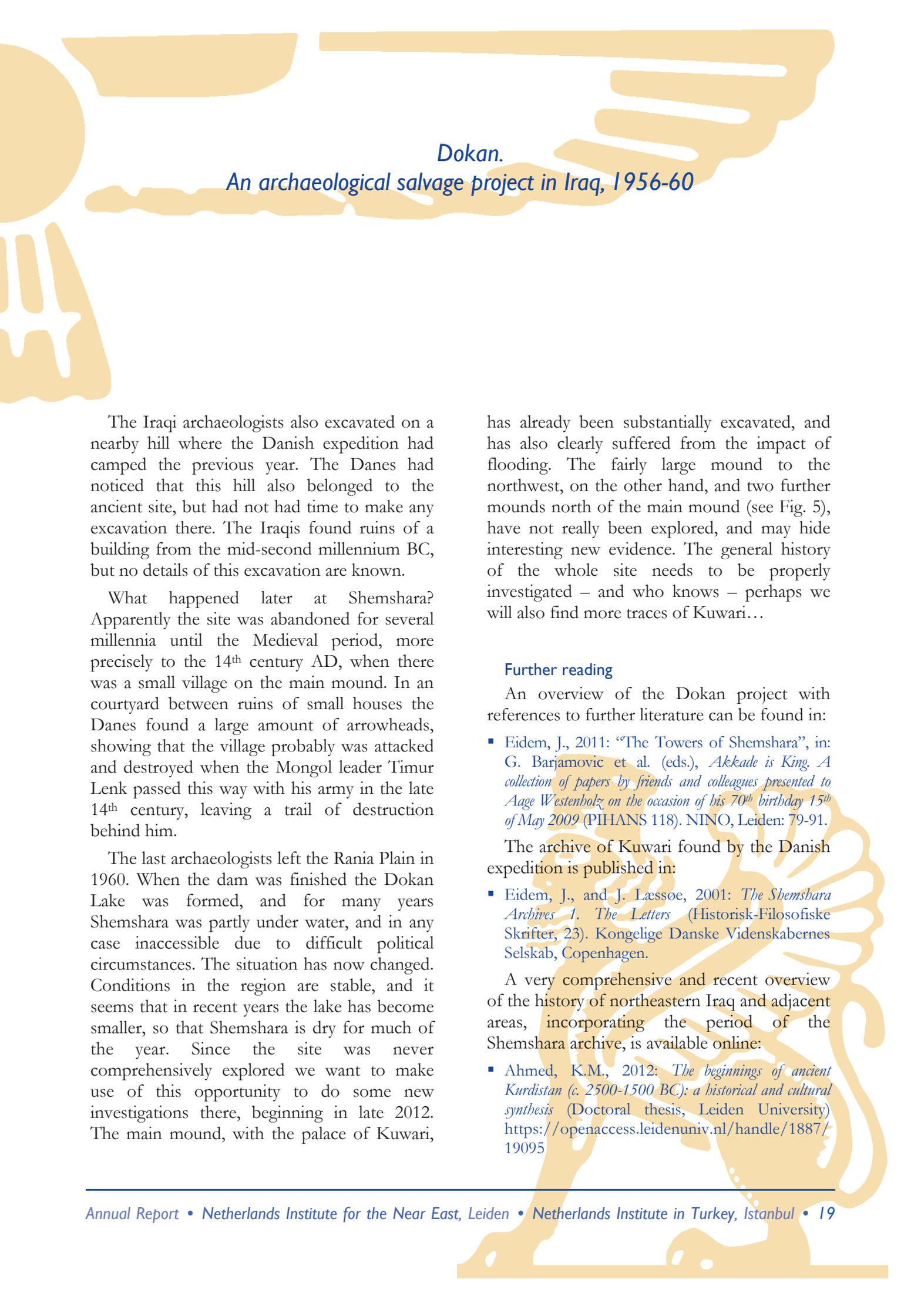
There are many more details in this story which cannot be told here. Shamshi-Adad died a few years later, and the large empire he had created was again divided into many small separate kingdoms. But he was only the first of many Assyrian kings. A few centuries later new kings of Assur again began to build an empire and eventually returned to all the places Shamshi-Adad had been, including the Rania Plain, and beyond.

Back to Shemshara

The Danes packed their camp and went home, of course wanting to come back and excavate more of the building where they had found the letters of Kuwari. So next summer they were ready to continue, but that year, 1958, there was a revolution in Iraq. There was a brief period of violence and confusion and the Danes had to cancel their plans. Since the dam at Dokan was almost finished Iraqi archaeologists went to Shemshara and continued the excavation. They exposed a large area around the rooms the Danes had excavated, and in two small rooms elsewhere in the same building they found another archive of cuneiform tablets. This was smaller, about 100 pieces, and the tablets were mainly lists of agricultural products used in the palace of Kuwari.



Figure 5. A satellite image shows the site of Tell Shemshara as it appeared in 2010. The main mound, where the Danish team excavated is marked with two red dots, and north of it are three further mounds which belong to the site.



Dokan. An archaeological salvage project in Iraq, 1956-60

The Iraqi archaeologists also excavated on a nearby hill where the Danish expedition had camped the previous year. The Danes had noticed that this hill also belonged to the ancient site, but had not had time to make any excavation there. The Iraqis found ruins of a building from the mid-second millennium BC, but no details of this excavation are known.

What happened later at Shemshara? Apparently the site was abandoned for several millennia until the Medieval period, more precisely to the 14th century AD, when there was a small village on the main mound. In an courtyard between ruins of small houses the Danes found a large amount of arrowheads, showing that the village probably was attacked and destroyed when the Mongol leader Timur Lenk passed this way with his army in the late 14th century, leaving a trail of destruction behind him.

The last archaeologists left the Rania Plain in 1960. When the dam was finished the Dokan Lake was formed, and for many years Shemshara was partly under water, and in any case inaccessible due to difficult political circumstances. The situation has now changed. Conditions in the region are stable, and it seems that in recent years the lake has become smaller, so that Shemshara is dry for much of the year. Since the site was never comprehensively explored we want to make use of this opportunity to do some new investigations there, beginning in late 2012. The main mound, with the palace of Kuwari,

has already been substantially excavated, and has also clearly suffered from the impact of flooding. The fairly large mound to the northwest, on the other hand, and two further mounds north of the main mound (see Fig. 5), have not really been explored, and may hide interesting new evidence. The general history of the whole site needs to be properly investigated – and who knows – perhaps we will also find more traces of Kuwari...

Further reading

An overview of the Dokan project with references to further literature can be found in:

- Eidem, J., 2011: “The Towers of Shemshara”, in: G. Barjamovic et al. (eds.), *Akkade is King. A collection of papers by friends and colleagues presented to Aage Westenholz on the occasion of his 70th birthday 15th of May 2009* (PIHANS 118). NINO, Leiden: 79-91.

The archive of Kuwari found by the Danish expedition is published in:

- Eidem, J., and J. Læssøe, 2001: *The Shemshara Archives 1. The Letters* (Historisk-Filosofiske Skrifter, 23). Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab, Copenhagen.

A very comprehensive and recent overview of the history of northeastern Iraq and adjacent areas, incorporating the period of the Shemshara archive, is available online:

- Ahmed, K.M., 2012: *The beginnings of ancient Kurdistan (c. 2500-1500 BC): a historical and cultural synthesis* (Doctoral thesis, Leiden University) <https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/handle/1887/19095>

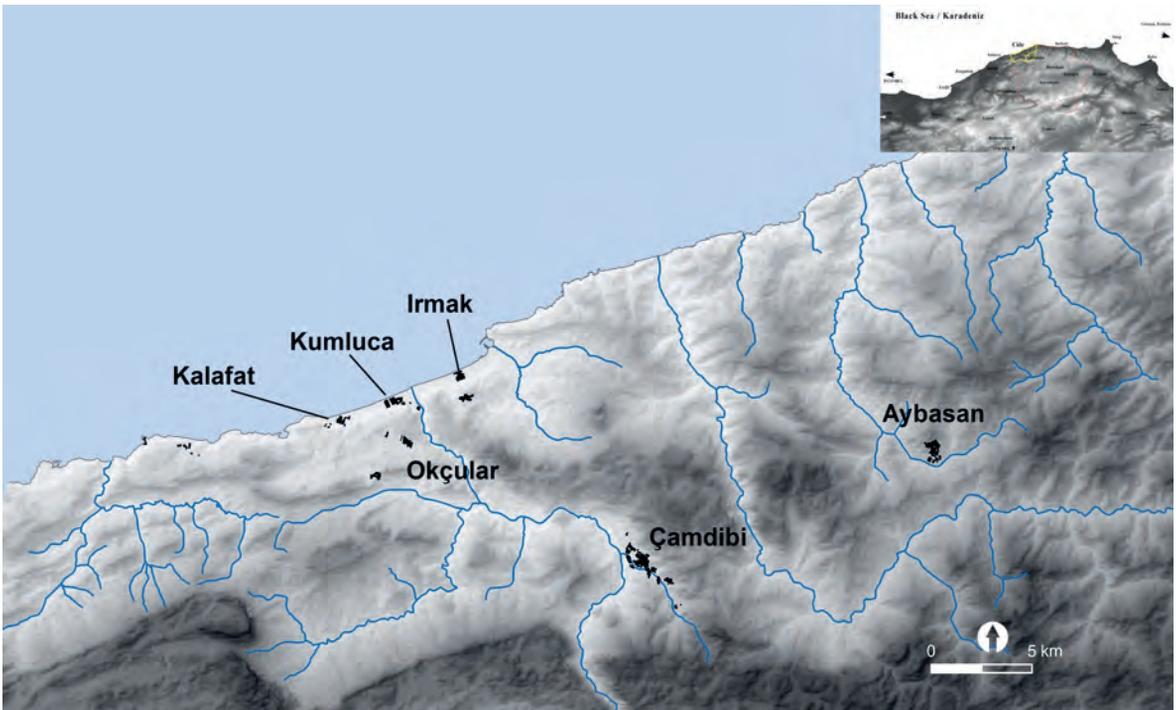


Figure 1. A section of the Turkish Black Sea coast showing the Cide and Şenpazar districts, showing the areas fieldwalked in 2011.

Season	Field days	Size team	Budget (€)
2009	20	12	12.572
2010	32	14	15.858
2011	33	22	17.273

Table 1. Number of field days, size of the team and budget for each of the seasons of the Cide Archaeological Project.

The Cide Archaeological Project, 2011

Bleda S. Düring, Claudia Glatz and T. Emre Şerifoğlu

The Cide Archaeological Project is a three year archaeological survey in the Cide and Şenpazar districts of Kastamonu, which started in 2009 (Fig. 1). It is an international collaborative project directed by Bleda Düring (Leiden University), Claudia Glatz (University of Glasgow) and Tefrik Emre Şerifoğlu (now at Bitlis Eren University). In June and July 2011 we had our final season with four weeks of fieldwalking by three teams, followed by a two week study season in which we analysed the collections from all three seasons with a number of specialists.

In all three seasons combined we worked a total of 85 days in the field, with two field teams of five people in the 2009 and 2010, and three field teams in 2011. We spent a total of about € 45.000 in the Cide Archaeological Project (Table 1) and it is appropriate to ask whether these resources were well spent. What have we gained in knowledge after working three seasons in Cide and Şenpazar?

One of the primary reasons we set up the Cide Archaeological Project was that we were dealing with an archaeological *terra incognita*. For example the Neolithic is completely undocumented in the north (Fig. 2). Earlier I have argued that we need to do intensive survey in the area to find what are probably small and ephemeral prehistoric sites in the area (Düring 2008). In order to investigate the archaeology of the Turkish Western Black Sea Region we therefore selected the Cide and Şenpazar İlçeler of Kastamonu Province.

Together these sub-provinces comprise ca. 930 km², of which we have been able to thoroughly investigate only a small part.

We had three broad questions which we wanted to explore in the course of CAP. The first concerns the *local history* of the area. We would like to know more about how large processes of Neolithisation, urbanisation, and the emergence of trade and craft networks played out in this particular region, and how the region was impacted by neighbouring imperia and what the nature of the local economy and society was in the Roman and Byzantine periods. The second concerns the *connectivity of the area with the circum-pontic and mainland Anatolia*, and to what degree we can see these connections in the material culture of these regions. The third research question concerns how we should go about *detecting ephemeral assemblages in a challenging landscape* such as the Western Turkish Black Sea Region.

Results

In three survey seasons we fieldwalked a total of 3.5 km², visited large numbers of locations in the landscape, such as caves, castles, and bridges, and recorded a total of 135 sites (Fig. 3). In the course of this research we identified artefacts and features dating to the Neolithic/Early Chalcolithic, Middle Chalcolithic, third and second millennia BC, Iron Age, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Medieval Periods. Thus we have documented almost the entire Holocene occupation history of the region. It is not possible to present the

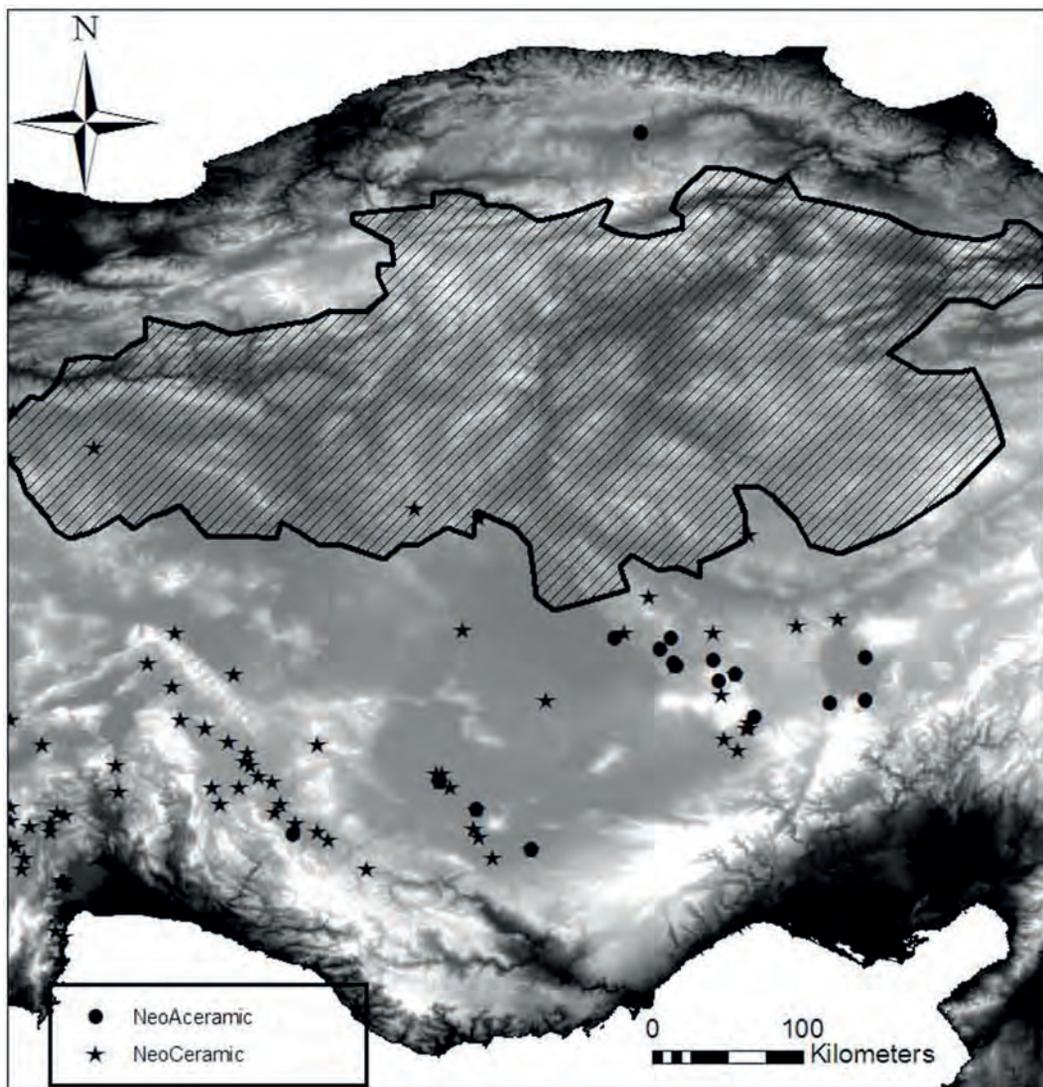


Figure 2. Map showing the distribution of known Aceramic and Ceramic Neolithic sites, after the TAY gazetteer.

The Cide Archaeological Project, 2011

materials in this short paper but more information is available elsewhere (see references at the end of this article) and the full detail will be published in our final publications which are currently in preparation. Here a short summary will suffice.

Despite a concerted effort during the final season to detect the *Palaeolithic*, it has continued to elude us: probably because both old river terraces and deep cave sediments disturbed by recent activities – where one could expect finds from this period – are absent.

The *Early Holocene* (10.000-5500 BC) is now fairly well documented, for instance, by the chipped stone surface cluster from Aybasan. The most surprising find of 2011 was a polished chisel (Fig. 4) and an accompanying flint knife (Fig. 5), which were found in the disturbed soil next to a large electricity pole: an archaeological needle in a haystack. Further, a completely preserved flat retouched arrowhead was found at Okçular which resembles pieces from Okçular and Abdulkadir from previous seasons. Together with the obsidian from Aybasan, they point to links with the Anatolian plateau in this period. This is also borne out by analysis of our obsidian – which derives from sources in the Galatian Massif.

The *Chalcolithic* and *EB I* (5500-2600 BC). Although our sample sizes for the Chalcolithic and the EB I are more extensive than for the Early Holocene, it remains difficult to build up a more detailed picture of these periods. Chalcolithic/EB I assemblages come from cave

sites such as Okçular İni and Kılıçlı Mağarası, to which we added Derebağ Köy Mağarası in 2011. The few distinctive shapes from these sites find parallels at sites in western Turkey and central Anatolia. New radiocarbon dates from Okçular İni demonstrate that some of our material dates to the fifth millennium BC, but this is not apparent from the fabrics or shapes.

The later *Early Bronze Age* (ca. 2600-2000 BC) is best documented at the cave sites of Kılıçlı and Derebağ Köy Mağarası. Together with smaller quantities of pottery from Okçular, we now have a rather substantial collection of diagnostic material for this period. With regard to cultural connections, the later EBA material from Cide suggests diverse and wide-ranging cultural contacts including the Marmara region, Thrace and the Balkans, and western and west-central Turkey as well as the central plateau.

The same two cave sites have also yielded a small number of sherds which can be dated to the early part of the *second millennium* BC and a cooking pot fragment from Okçular may date to the later part of the Middle Bronze Age (ca. 2000-1600 BC). For the Late Bronze Age (1600-1200 BC) we now have a fair number of diagnostic pieces from a surface cluster at Okçular that can be confidently dated to the LBA. Their distinctively north-central Anatolian character would suggest some form of interaction with the Hittite sphere.

The *Iron Age* (ca. 1200-334 BC) remains ephemeral in the archaeological record of Cide

The Cide Archaeological Project, 2011

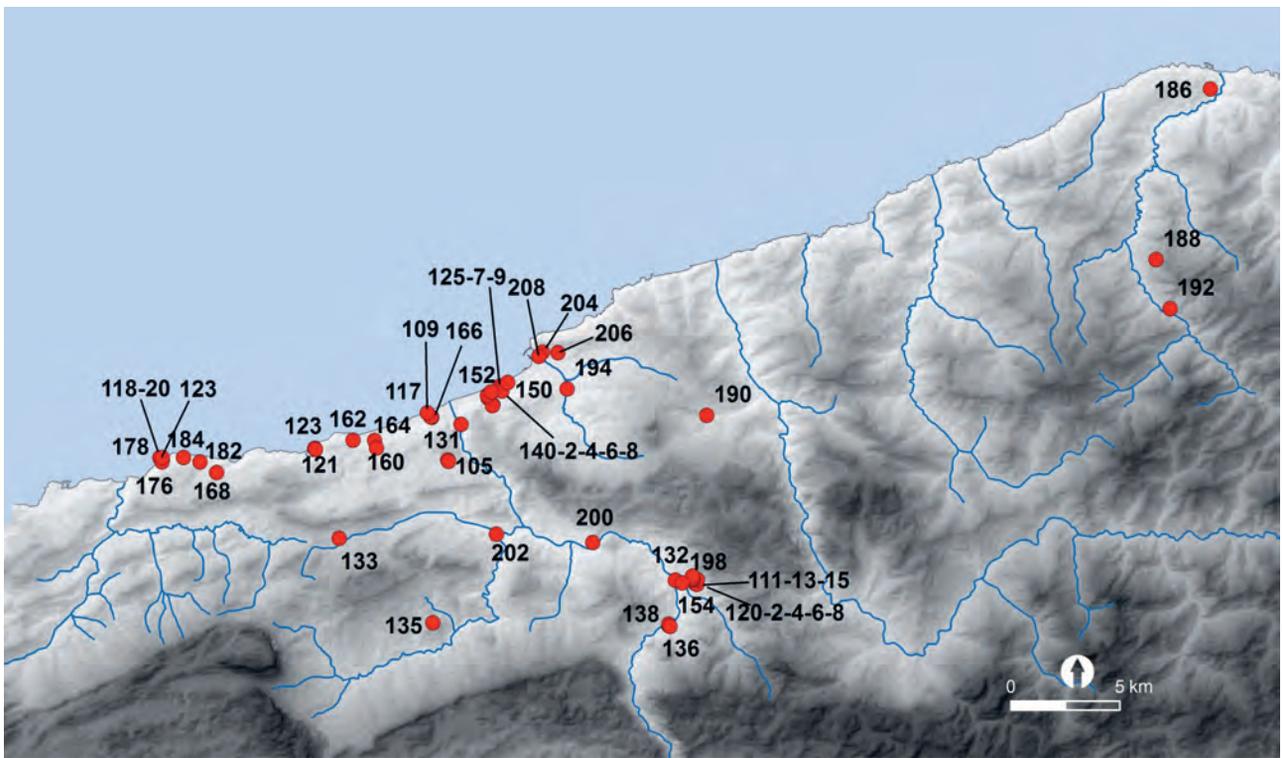


Figure 3. Sites investigated by the Cide Archaeological Project in 2011.

The Cide Archaeological Project, 2011

and Şenpazar. Again it is the cave sites of Kılıçlı and Derebağ Köy Mağarası which have yielded the most likely candidates. These are crude, hand-made pieces which date possibly to the Early Iron Age.

The *Hellenistic* period (334-85 BC) has also been difficult to identify in our material, but we do have some unequivocal examples from the Okçular and Aybasan valleys. Interestingly, several of these pieces are tempered with distinctive shiny black sand, typical of the Sinop region.

Our knowledge of the *Roman* period (85 BC-330 AD), especially in and around the town of Cide, has improved greatly as a result of our work in 2011. We recorded several clusters of large and partly ornamented dressed stones, which probably derive from large monumental structures. A series of construction pits in the Cide coastal plain have yielded substantial quantities of Roman period pottery, suggesting a rather sizable Roman town underneath modern Cide. A Kastamonu museum rescue excavation of two Roman cist graves also provided datable parallels for the robbed tombs we have recorded at İn Arkası and Gökçekale.

Sites dating to the *Byzantine* period (330-1453 AD) include three, possibly four, new Byzantine castles. Koca Kale is a typical Byzantine castle with massive fortifications surrounding a rather narrow rock outcrop and a single small rectangular building at the back end. The best preserved castle recorded during the course of the Cide Archaeological Project

is Aydos Kale. The heavily protected site lacks the rectangular internal structure typical of some of the other castles, and may, therefore, have served a different purpose.

Outlook and conclusion

Returning to the question what three seasons of survey work in the Cide and Şenpazar districts have yielded we can draw the following conclusions. First, we have documented much of the Holocene occupation sequence of the Cide and Şenpazar districts. Given the paucity of archaeological materials, our understanding remains limited and much work remains to understand larger historical processes such the rise of farming or the emergence of seafaring.

Second, in terms of cultural connections we see shifting patterns over time. In the Early Holocene we have retouched arrowheads similar to those we see in central Anatolia, obsidian from the Galatian Massif, and some objects that might fit in the Ağaçlı tradition of the Marmara Region. In the later Early Bronze Age we have geometric relief decorated wares that are similar to Yassıkaya in Zonguldak and impressed ledges that are paralleled in Yazıboy, Çankırı and in various sites in Thrace. Thus our connections are to the north and to the west. In Sinop, the prehistoric EB ceramics appear very different from ours. In the second millennium BC, however, we again document links in the ceramic repertoire with central Anatolia. In short, the Cide region seems to fluctuate between Pontic and Anatolian



Figure 4. Polished chisel from Çamdibi.



Figure 5. Flint knife from Çamdibi.

The Cide Archaeological Project, 2011

orientations in their material culture. Finally in Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine period is incorporated into much larger economic and political networks.

Third, we used two approaches, preferably in combination, in the Cide Archaeological Project to investigate the surface archaeology. The first is targeted survey, visiting potentially significant places by tapping into local knowledge. These consisted in the main of caves, castles, cist graves and standing structures of various types. Precisely because it is so mountainous and forested, the Cide landscape is dotted with archaeological sites that we would never be able to locate by ourselves. Many locations we were brought to could only be reached through long hikes of several hours in the mountains over non-existent paths and fighting through metres of brambles. Second, we fieldwalked landscapes selected for representing the diverse inhabited landscapes of the region (from the coast to mountains) and archaeological potential. Given the datasets we acquired in the difficult landscape of the Western Black Sea Region we can conclude that our research strategies have been effective, that is our combination of targeted survey and fieldwalking that has proven very productive for finding ephemeral assemblages.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Nederlands Instituut in Turkije, to the British Institute at Ankara, Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı, and Kastomu Arkeoloji Müzesi, in particular Nimet Bal for their support. Among our many sponsors we would like to mention the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), het Leiden University Fund (LUF), University College London, The Wainwright Fund, the British Academy, the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, and Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart Üniversitesi Bilimsel Araştırma Bütçesi. We would like to thank our representatives Çağman Esirgemez (2009), Ünver Göcen (2010), and Baykal Aydınbek (2011) for all their assistance.

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Figure 1. Aerial view of Dra Abu el-Naga area. The road leading to the Valley of the Kings (top right) and the debris of the recently demolished modern village (bottom left) are also visible.

Work in the New Kingdom tomb of Huy in Luxor, 2011

Paolo del Vesco

In November 2011, NINO Visiting Research Fellow Paolo Del Vesco took part in the 11th fieldwork season of the Italian Archaeological Mission at Dra Abu el-Naga (Egypt), directed by Prof. Marilina Betrò (University of Pisa), working as field director and responsible of the topographical and architectural survey. This is a brief account of the results.

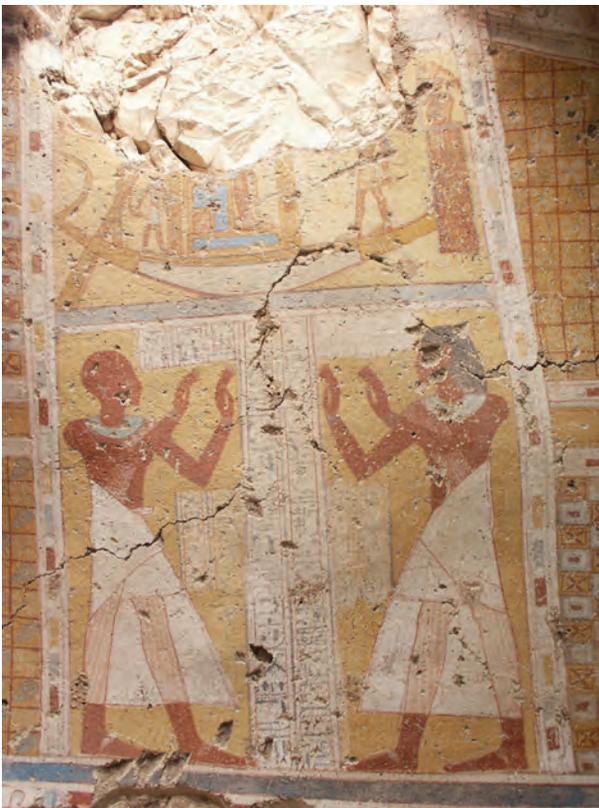


Figure 2. Central part of the painted ceiling in the first chamber of TT14.

Archeological context

The Italian Archaeological Mission of the University of Pisa operates in the Northern part of the Theban Necropolis (West Bank of Luxor), traditionally called Dra Abu el-Naga (Fig. 1). The area, well known as the site of the royal burials of the 17th Dynasty, includes more than one hundred rock-cut tombs of officials and priests from the early New Kingdom to the Late Period. As other sectors of the Theban Necropolis, Dra Abu el-Naga has suffered from the extensive and systematic, but unfortunately undocumented, excavation activities carried out by ancient and modern plunderers, agents of European collectors of antiquities and early archaeologists. Since the 1920s a more modern and methodologically sound exploration of the area conducted by a conspicuous number of foreign and Egyptian teams has led to a considerable increase of our knowledge of the topography and history of this important section of the Theban necropolis.

The excavation, documentation and conservation work of the Pisa University mission has been concentrated since 2003 in the area of the tomb of Huy (Theban Tomb 14, according to the general numbering of the rock-cut tombs of the non-royal cemeteries), a Ramesside priest attached to the cult of the deceased pharaoh Amenhotep I. The first room of this small tomb still presents part of its colourful painted decoration, and the nicely preserved ceiling shows the adoration of the

Work in the New Kingdom tomb of Huy in Luxor, 2011



Figure 3. The tomb courtyard looking towards the north-western corner. On the left: the main door and window of MIDAN.05, on the right: door and window (closed with stones at the end of the 2010 season) of one of the two tombs which were cut in the northern side of the court.



Figure 5. Fragment of painted plaster from the original wall decoration.

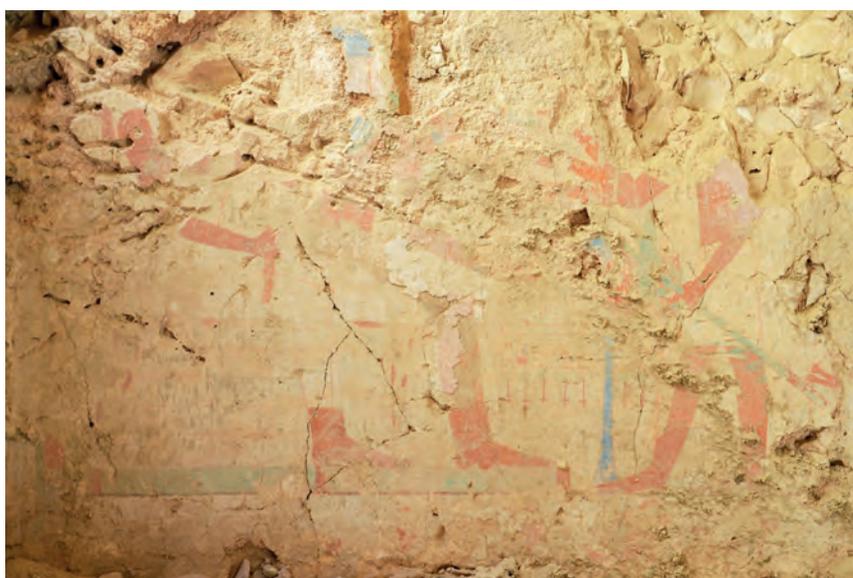


Figure 4. Remains of the painted decoration on the eastern wall of the transverse hall of MIDAN.05.

Work in the New Kingdom tomb of Huy in Luxor, 2011

solar boat and columns of hieroglyphs recording the name and the priestly titles of the tomb owner (Fig. 2). The excavation of the funerary compartment of the tomb led in 2004 to the discovery of an opening connecting it, through a small room, to a much larger and previously unrecorded tomb. The exploration of this new rock-cut funerary structure has since shown that Huy's tomb was actually built on the southern side of the open forecourt of an earlier tomb, the one we discovered (and preliminarily numbered MIDAN.05), thus inserted in the pre-existing funerary layout. The main original tomb can tentatively be dated to the very beginning of the New Kingdom. It might have been extended shortly afterwards by the cutting of two smaller tombs, opening on the northern side of the courtyard and possibly intended for members of the same family. All three tombs show the same peculiar and an extremely rare architectural feature: a single quadrangular "window" to the left of the door (Fig. 3). The main structure underwent conspicuous interventions during the 18th dynasty: the window was blocked with mud-bricks, the first transverse hall was extended and a 10 metre long corridor was added next to the original square inner chapel. All the internal walls were covered with a polychrome painted decoration of which today only few fragments survive and unfortunately none bearing the name or titles of the tomb owner. In the 19th dynasty the tomb of Huy was cut into the southern side of the court and decorated. During the following periods all tombs were re

-used and occupied by multiple interments and three new rooms were excavated at the bottom of the funerary shaft of the main funerary structure (MIDAN.05). Eventually the whole area was buried under five meters of debris gradually transported and deposited here by a number of different flooding events.



Figure 6. Carved face from a wooden anthropoid coffin.

Latest results

The 2011 archaeological work concentrated on the careful excavation of the sand and mud layers filling the transverse hall and the width of the main door of MIDAN.05 and on the documentation of the complex stratigraphical sequence of structures, deposits and robbery pits found in the tomb forecourt.

Work in the New Kingdom tomb of Huy in Luxor, 2011



Figures 7 and 8. Limestone fragments of the inscribed door jambs.



Figure 9. The offering tables found in front of the door opening of MIDAN.05.

Work in the New Kingdom tomb of Huy in Luxor, 2011

On a wall inside the transverse hall, part of the 18th dynasty painted decoration was discovered (Fig. 4). Although thin coating and delicate colours badly suffered from the fillings of muddy water and stone chips which repeatedly entered the tomb, it is still possible to recognise the scene: a seated couple, likely the tomb owner and his wife, receive offerings and tribute from a standing male figure. Behind this, other fragments of the scene reveal the presence of other people, probably seated guests at the funerary banquet, and two musicians. In the filling of the transverse hall fragments of wall paintings (Fig. 5) and wooden coffins (Fig. 6) were abundant, while numerous inscribed fragments of limestone (Figs. 7-8), probably fragments of the door jambs, were recovered from the deposit obstructing the main door.

Outside the tomb, the area in front of the door turned out to be the most interesting. Here in fact two stone offering tables and fragments of a third one were lying as if ready to be used again for ritual libations (Fig. 9). A thick layer of ashes and burnt vegetal remains surrounding the stone slabs is probably connected with the prolonged use of this area for cultic practices. Immediately beneath the offering tables an amazing discovery was made: multiple layers of garlands, bouquets and mats covered the whole area in front of the door and the façade of the tomb.

In the forecourt the interpretation of the sequence of deposits and structures is often challenging because of the high number of

robbery pits which have extensively compromised an already complex stratification. Facing the rock-cut door of the small tomb of Huy a thick mud-brick wall was already discovered during the 2010 season. This L-shaped structure (Fig. 10), finished off with a coating of whitish plaster, was probably built to create a zone of respect, as a kind of small court, in front of the tomb. A narrow niche (Fig. 11), originally plastered, was carved in the rock wall to which the mud-brick structure is connected, thus increasing the ritual significance of this separate mini-court set within the large forecourt of the main tomb.

The most puzzling feature of the forecourt is however represented by the remains of a mud-brick structure (Fig. 12) built along the axis of the main tomb door. It appears to lie on the bedrock of the court and might have been used in connection with the tomb. It consists of two parallel walls connected by a sloping surface made up of mud-bricks laid on their side and ending at the bottom with steps. No parallels for such a structure have yet been found and any interpretation is made even more difficult by its incomplete state. More information about its function will hopefully be gathered in future campaigns with the completion of the archaeological investigation.

Together with the documentation of the excavation, the cataloguing of finds, the study of the pottery and the general survey of the area, the conservation and consolidation of the painted surfaces has also been carried out.

Work in the New Kingdom tomb of Huy in Luxor, 2011



Figure 10. Mud-brick side wall of the small court of TT14.



Figure 11. Wall niche in the court of TT 14.



Figure 12. Mud-brick structure in the forecourt of tomb MIDAN.05.

Work in the New Kingdom tomb of Huy in Luxor, 2011

Of course, the excavation and all connected activities could not have been accomplished without the help of the team of Egyptian workers and the supervision of rais Mahmud Saleh.



View of the west bank of Luxor.

Further reading

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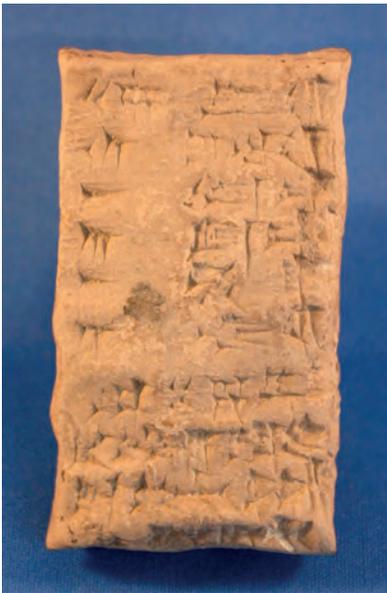


Figure 1. Tablet LB 960, obverse.

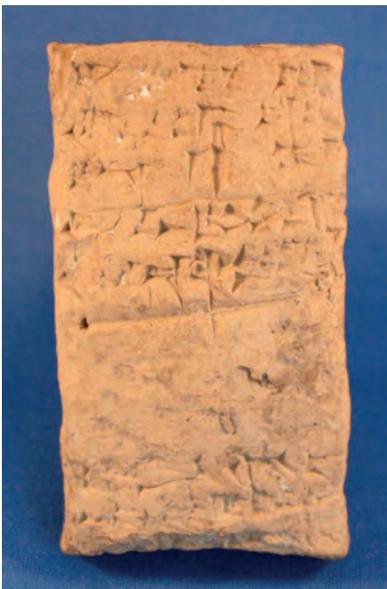


Figure 2. Tablet LB 960, reverse.

LB 960 (7,6 × 4,2 × 2,2 cm, Samsu-iluna 26/XII/30)

1	26 u ₈ .hi.a	26 ewes
	12 udu.nita ₂ .hi.a	12 male sheep
	1 ^{mi} sil ₄ .gub	1 female lamb
	3 sil ₄ .gub.hi.a	3 male lambs
5	1 máš.gal	1 male goat
	2 ùz.hi.a	2 she-goats
	šu.nigin ₂ 45 u ₈ .udu.hi.a máš [?] ùz [?]	Total: 45 sheep and goats,
	ša da-da-a dumu ku-bu-lum	that Dadâ, son of Kubbulum,
10	i-na qá-ti ì-lí-a-wi-lim	(has entrusted) to the care of Ilî-awīlim,
L.E.	dumu ar-ha-ti	the son of Arhati.
R.	ha-li-iq -ta-<am>	(Any) lost animal
	ù pí-is-sà-ta-am	or animal struck by <i>pissatum</i> -disease,
	l-ri-a-ab	he (viz. Ilî-awīlim) will replace.
15	igi u-bar-rum dumu ì-lí-ma-a-bi	In front of Ubarum, son of Ilî-ma-abî
	igi ta ¹ -ri-ba-tum dub ¹ .sar	In front of Taribātum, the scribe
	iti še.kin ¹ .kud u ₄ .30 ¹ .kam	Month XII, the 30 th day
	mu sa-am ¹ -su-i-lu-na lugal.e ¹	The year: king Samsu-iluna,
	[hur.sag] gal kur mar.tu ^{ki1}	the great mountains of Amurru
Seal (enrolled over the whole surface): ì-lí-a-w[i-lim] Ilî-awīlim		
dumu ar-hi-[ti ²] son of Arhiti [?]		
ir d ⁴ .x[...] Servant of the god x x		

From the NINO collections: an Old Babylonian tablet

Rients de Boer

An Old Babylonian herding contract from the De Liagre Böhl Collection

The ancient Mesopotamians relied on agriculture, fishing and the herding of livestock to provide in one of mankind's most basic needs: food. In fact, the administration of cattle and agricultural products was the most important reason that writing was invented in southern Iraq around 3400 BC. Consequently, we find that a great number of texts surviving today deal with bureaucracy: lists of rations, inventories, contracts etc. The text published here belongs to one text genre: the "herding contract". These contracts document the agreement between a shepherd and the owner of a flock of sheep and goats to herd the animals. The basic task of the shepherd was to guide the flock to outlying pastures and back.

Our text, with the collection number LB 960, is a typical example of the genre. It starts with a list enumerating the animals of the flock (lines 1-7), ending with a total (line 8). The text distinguishes sheep and goats according to gender and age. Male animals were considered less valuable than female ones because they could not bear any offspring. That is why more female than male sheep and goats are listed: the males were for consumption.

Lines 9-11 tell that the owner, Dadâ, has entrusted his flock to the shepherd Ili-awilim. Strangely, we lack the usual verb to denote this

action: *paqâdum* "to entrust or hand over something". The owner of the flock, Dadâ son of Kubbulum, is well known from many other texts. He lived in the city of Isin in southern Iraq. The house containing his personal archive was illegally excavated at the beginning of the 20th century. The bulk of his archive (several dozens of tablets) ended up at the Louvre in Paris and the University of Yale through the

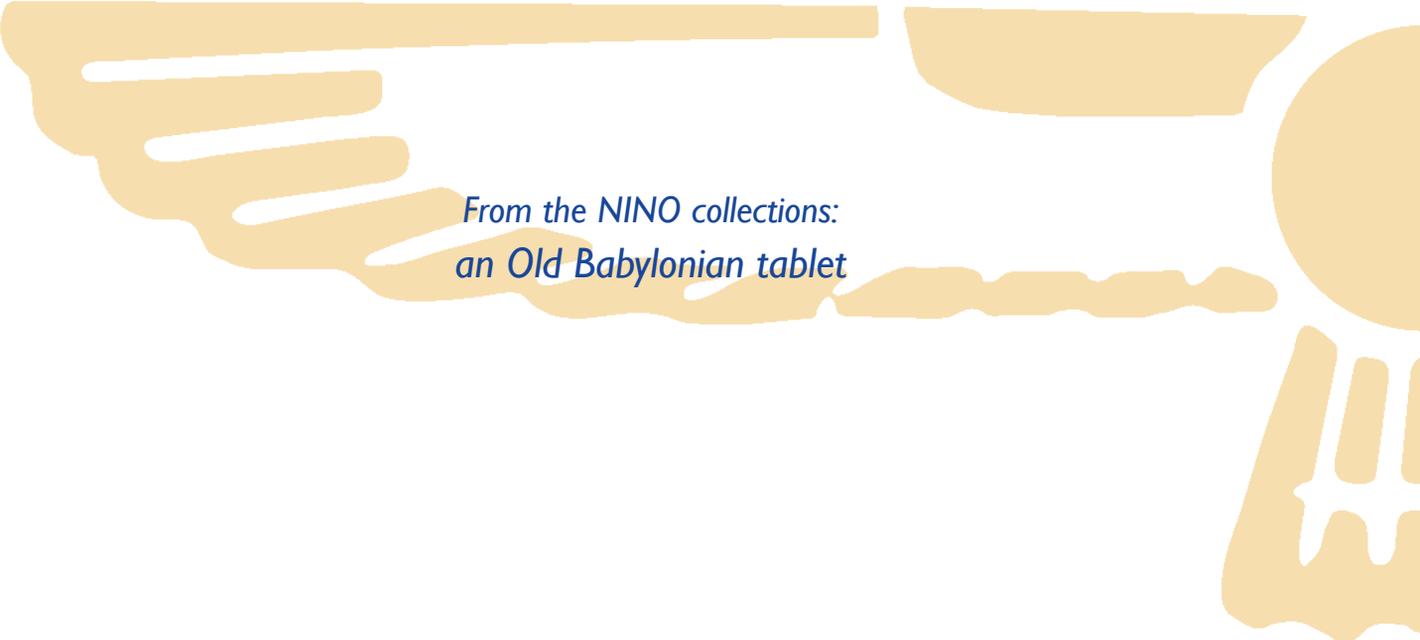
antiquities market. One single text found its way to Leiden through acquisitions done in the 1930s. This is an indication that parts of Dadâ's archive may still lie undiscovered in collections around the world. Almost all of the Dadâ texts are very well conserved, which points towards a common problem with looted texts. Damaged tablets are unfortunately deemed worthless by the illicit diggers and are thrown away; only the undamaged ones find their way onto the market. We can safely conclude that Dadâ's archive must have contained more texts than we now believe. A full edition and study of all known Dadâ texts has been done by the noted French Assyriologist Prof. Dominique Charpin.

The so-called shepherd, Ili-awilim son of Arhati (on the seal: Arhi[ti]), did probably not herd the animals himself. These "shepherds" are usually entrepreneurial middle-men, who subcontracted the actual work to "junior-shepherds". In doing this they hoped to profit

The Old Babylonian Period (ca. 2000-1600 BC)

Mesopotamian history is long and diverse, but one period stands out because of its large diversity in textual material: the so-called Old Babylonian period.

This period was marked by the existence of many small kingdoms led by men of Amorite origin. Sometimes one king managed to outwit his rivals and establish a larger domain; one such example is Hammurabi of Babylon.



From the NINO collections:
an Old Babylonian tablet

from the difference between the junior-shepherd's (low) wages and the actual remuneration flowing from the herding contract. LB 960 does not specify what or how much Ilî-awīlim could expect. Luckily, we can deduce this information from other sources. The shepherds kept the flocks for almost a year and during this time young animals were born. It was common for the shepherd to keep a certain amount of newborn animals for himself. In addition to this he could receive an amount of barley as his wages, or a share in the animals' products such as wool. The law collection of Hammurabi (§ 261) specifies that a shepherd should earn 8 "gur" of barley (ca. 2400 liters) per year.

Each herding contract usually ends with some clauses defining the terms of contract and liability. LB 960 has only one clause in lines 12-14: it states that Ilî-awīlim is responsible to replace any lost or stray animals, as well as animals suffering from a condition called *pissatum*. This is a common stipulation, even though the exact meaning of *pissatum* remains unclear, it has been translated with "mange" (a skin disease), crippledness or lameness. Some other habitual clauses are missing, like the number of births or natural deaths that the owner expected from his flock. Some sources attest to a proportion of 80 ewes bearing 100 lambs and a natural loss

of 15% animals. To prevent the shepherd from selling or killing animals himself, he had to present the dead animals' skins as proof. If the flock has less births or more deaths, the shepherd could be forced to compensate for the difference. However, mitigating circumstances, like a lion's attack or "the hand of God" (massive disease), were acceptable.

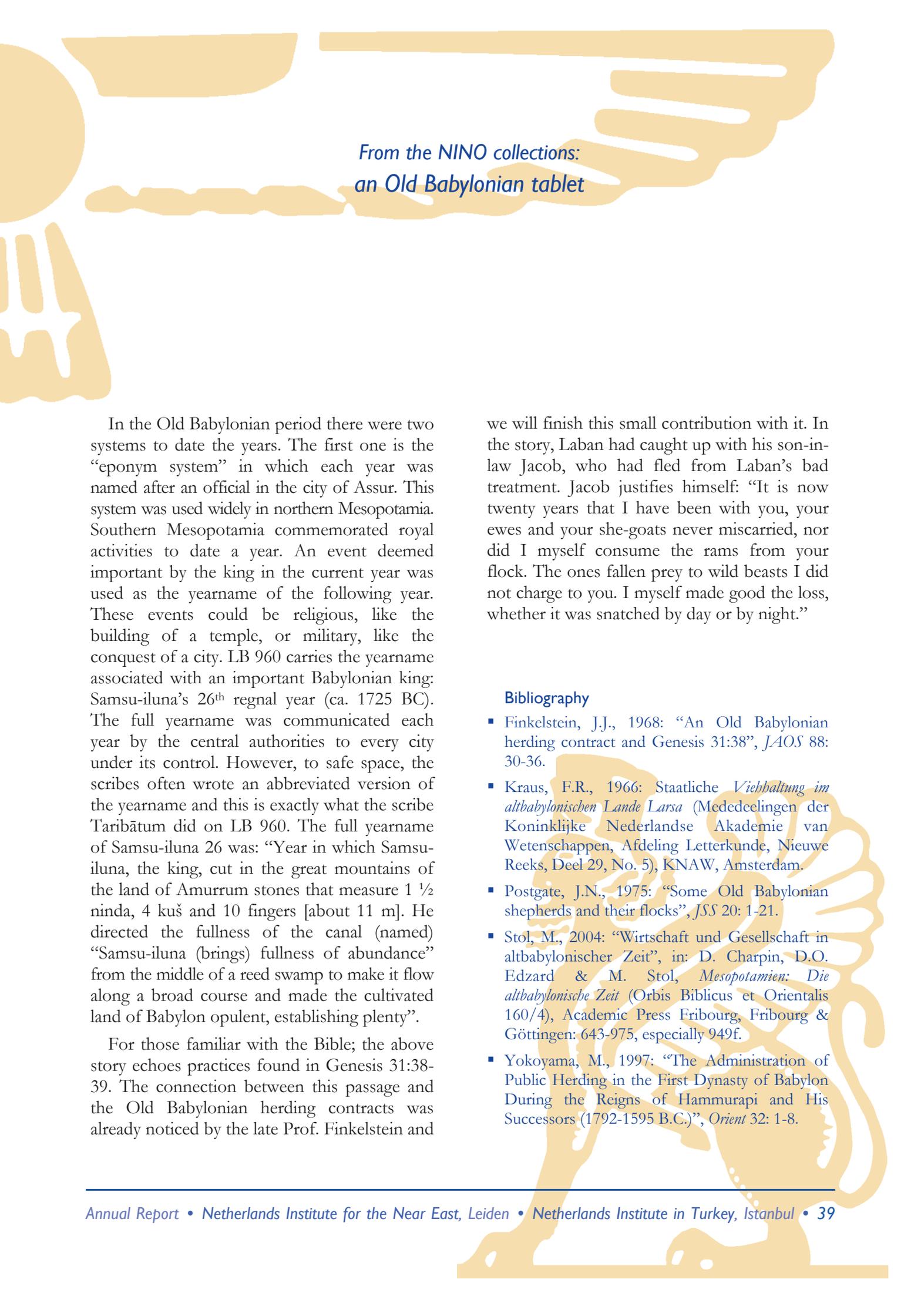
The shepherd Ilî-awīlim "signed" the tablet with his cylinder seal. On LB 960, only his seal was rolled over the wet clay of the tablet to confirm his responsibilities vis-à-vis Dadâ. The two witnesses (lines 15-16), Ubarum and the scribe Taribātum did not seal. Often, a special amount of space was reserved on the tablet for these seal impressions; in this case between the list of witnesses and the date of the contract. In addition to this, the seal was often impressed on other uninscribed parts of the tablet, like the sides.

As noted before, a herding contract was valid for almost a year. It was concluded after the plucking (not: shearing) of the animals in spring time, months XII and I according to the Mesopotamian calendar (March-May). The date of LB 960 confirms this: month XII, the 30th day (line 17). The shepherds were expected to return around the eleventh month (January-February) to settle the accounts and hand over the flocks for plucking.

Cylinder seals

Small personal items, often made of semi-precious stone, carved with a unique design and/or name to identify the owner. They were rolled over the wet clay.

As a rule in Old Babylonian contracts, it was the person who entered into an obligation or gave something up that sealed the document: a debtor or seller of a house, for example. Witnesses to important transactions could also seal a document confirming their presence.



From the NINO collections: an Old Babylonian tablet

In the Old Babylonian period there were two systems to date the years. The first one is the “eponym system” in which each year was named after an official in the city of Assur. This system was used widely in northern Mesopotamia. Southern Mesopotamia commemorated royal activities to date a year. An event deemed important by the king in the current year was used as the yearname of the following year. These events could be religious, like the building of a temple, or military, like the conquest of a city. LB 960 carries the yearname associated with an important Babylonian king: Samsu-iluna’s 26th regnal year (ca. 1725 BC). The full yearname was communicated each year by the central authorities to every city under its control. However, to save space, the scribes often wrote an abbreviated version of the yearname and this is exactly what the scribe Taribātum did on LB 960. The full yearname of Samsu-iluna 26 was: “Year in which Samsu-iluna, the king, cut in the great mountains of the land of Amurru stones that measure 1 ½ ninda, 4 kuš and 10 fingers [about 11 m]. He directed the fullness of the canal (named) “Samsu-iluna (brings) fullness of abundance” from the middle of a reed swamp to make it flow along a broad course and made the cultivated land of Babylon opulent, establishing plenty”.

For those familiar with the Bible; the above story echoes practices found in Genesis 31:38-39. The connection between this passage and the Old Babylonian herding contracts was already noticed by the late Prof. Finkelstein and

we will finish this small contribution with it. In the story, Laban had caught up with his son-in-law Jacob, who had fled from Laban’s bad treatment. Jacob justifies himself: “It is now twenty years that I have been with you, your ewes and your she-goats never miscarried, nor did I myself consume the rams from your flock. The ones fallen prey to wild beasts I did not charge to you. I myself made good the loss, whether it was snatched by day or by night.”

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NINO activities

Jesper Eidem

General Director NINO and NIT

Introduction

For NINO one of the real highlights of 2011 was the tenth public lecture in honour of Prof. Klaas Veenhof, as usual held in November in the Taffeh Hall of the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. This year's lecturer was Prof. Klaus Schmidt, who gave a lively account of his excavations at the now world famous site of Göbekli Tepe in southeast Turkey (see below, p. 49).

With a slight risk of immodesty it is fair to say that another 2011 highlight was the appearance of my own book *The Royal Archives from Tell Leilan* as PIHANS 117 (see p. 53).

This major work was stuck "in press" elsewhere for several years, but could finally, with the cooperation of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria, be published by NINO – as one of its largest and most expensive books to date.

We were sorry to say goodbye, at the end of June, to Dr Tasha Vorderstrasse, a much appreciated NINO Research Fellow and very active member of the editorial board of our journal *ANATOLICA*. Tasha has moved to Chicago, and therefore resigned her fellowship, but we are pleased still to have her on board in *ANATOLICA*. We wish her all the best!

Lecture 27 January



Staff

Staff members of NINO during 2011:

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).

During the latter's absence, Ms L.E. van der Peut, MA student of Assyriology, worked on *Bibliotheca Orientalis* and some secretarial tasks.

Activities and publications by staff members and research fellows

Dr J. Eidem, Director

A journey to Egypt in late January included visits to Cairo, Saqqara, and Tanis, and was aided and facilitated by the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo. 21-23 February he organized, in cooperation with Dr Diederik Meijer, an international meeting in Leiden, "The Euphrates Connection", within the framework of the ERC-funded project ARCANE ("Associated Regional Chronologies of the Ancient Near East", www.arcane.uni-tuebingen.de). In June he gave a lecture in

Leiden in the workshop “The City of Idu in its Transtigridian Environment” (organized by Prof. Wilfred van Soldt). In July he participated in the 57th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Rome, where he chaired a session.

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.

Publications include:

- *The royal archives from Tell Leilan. Old Babylonian Letters and Treaties from the Lower Town Palace East* (PIHANS 117). NINO, Leiden; LII, 625, 50 pp.
- “An Unusual Middle Bronze Age Seal from Syria”, in: B.S. Düring et al., *Correlates of Complexity. Essays in Archaeology and Assyriology Dedicated to Diederik J.W. Meijer in Honour of his 65th Birthday* (PIHANS 116). NINO, Leiden: 87-95.
- “The Towers of Shemshara”, in: G. Barjamovic et al. (eds.), *Akkade is King. A collection of papers by friends and colleagues presented to Aage Westenholz on the occasion of his 70th birthday 15th of May 2009* (PIHANS 118). NINO, Leiden: 79-91.

Lecture 17 February



Prof. Dr J.F. Borghouts, Research Fellow

Prof. Borghouts acted as promotor to Mr Leo Roeten, who obtained a PhD on 23 March; Dr R. van Walsem acted as co-promotor. The thesis was titled “The certainty of change: a research into the interactions of the decoration on the western walls of the cult chapels of the mastabas at Giza during the Old Kingdom”. Borghouts continued supervising the PhD research of Mrs Clara ten Hacken (on an Arabic text written in a Coptic cultural environment) and of Mrs Viviana Massa (on Demotic temple oaths). He also acted as a member of the dissertation committee of Mr Sasha Verma, who obtained a PhD on 22 June with a thesis titled “The significance of identity, individuality and ideology in Old Kingdom elite tomb iconography”.

The rest of the year was entirely devoted to work on a Reference Grammar of Middle Egyptian (to appear in Brill’s *Handbuch der Orientalistik*), which will take another few years.

Borghouts feels that the support of NINO, its director and other personnel, and especially its eminent research library have been absolutely essential and stimulating for his work. He emphasizes that immediate accessibility of publications is a basic requirement for productive work in fields like Assyriology, Egyptology and other oriental studies. He expresses his hope that NINO will

NINO activities

continue to fulfill this requisite in the future as it has successfully done thus far.

Publication:

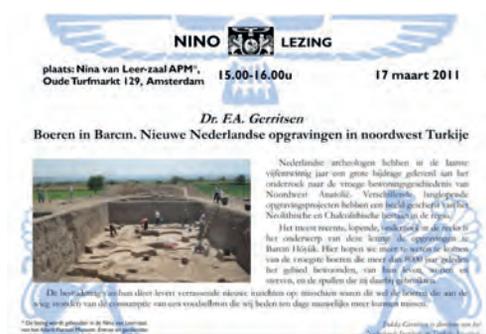
- “Egyptische magische teksten”, *Phoenix* 57 1-2, 18-35.

Dr W.F.M. Henkelman,
Research Fellow

In 2011 Dr Henkelman finished a first reading of about 3000 Elamite clay tablets at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. The tablets, found in Persepolis (Iran) in 1933, are on loan in Chicago and are currently under legal threat. The aim of the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project is to publish the entire corpus as soon as possible. The tablets read by Henkelman were earlier worked on by Hallock and are now being prepared for publication.

Henkelman taught various courses as lecturer at VU University, Amsterdam; the classes included a reading of the Bisotun inscription. In Istanbul, he presented a well-attended international master class about the Persian Empire at the Netherlands Institute (NII); he also offered a series of eight lectures and classes at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, all

Lecture 17 March



relating to Elamite and the Persepolis archives.

Henkelman co-organized a day of lectures in Amsterdam about 'Alexander en Darius' under the aegis of the Zenobia Foundation, the proceedings of which are

to appear within the next months.

Publications include:

- “Parnakka’s Feast: šip in Pārsa and Elam”, in: J. Álvarez-Mon & M.B. Garrison (eds.), *Elam and Persia*. Eisenbrauns, Winona Lake: 89-166.
- “Cyrus the Persian and Darius the Elamite: a Case of Mistaken Identity”, in: R. Rollinger, B. Truschnegg & R. Bichler (eds.), *Herodot und das Persische Weltreich. Herodotus and the Persian Empire* (Classica et Orientalia 3). Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden: 577-634.
- with A. Kuhrt, R. Rollinger and J. Wieshöfer, “Herodotus and Babylon Reconsidered”, in: R. Rollinger, B. Truschnegg & R. Bichler (eds.), *Herodot und das Persische Weltreich. Herodotus and the Persian Empire* (Classica et Orientalia 3). Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden: 449-470.
- “Élien de Préneste”, in: D. Lenfant (ed.), *Les Perses vus par les Grecs. Lire les sources*

Lecture 31 April

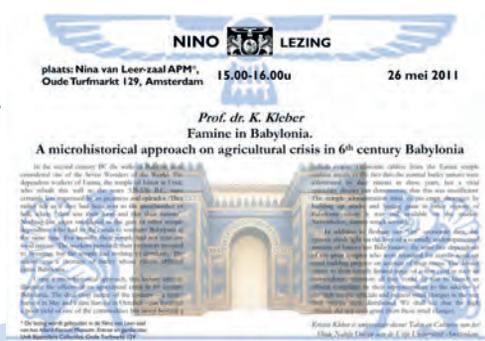


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classiques sur l'empire achéménide. Armand Colin, Paris: 159-184.

- “Der Grabhügel”, in: J. Wiesehöfer, R. Rollinger & G. Lanfranchi (eds.), *Ktesias' Welt* (Classica et Orientalia 1). Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden: 111-39.
- “Of Tapyroi and tablets, states and tribes: the historical geography of pastoralism in the Achaemenid heartland in Greek and Elamite sources”, *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies* 54.2: 1-16.

Lecture 26 May



Dr A. Mouton, Visiting Research Fellow

Dr Mouton (CNRS Strasbourg) progressed on the four different scientific research projects she is currently engaged in.

She is supervising a four-year international research project on individual rites of passage in the Ancient Near East (ViGMA Project). This project is funded by the French National Agency for Research (Agence Nationale de la Recherche). A three-day international conference was held in Strasbourg in November. The volume resulting both from this conference and from the three year collaborations of the ViGMA members will be published in the PIHANS series.

An international conference on Luwian

Identities – an extension of the “Luwian Religion” Project (see NINO/NIT Annual Report 2010) – was organized by A. Mouton and Prof. I. Rutherford at Reading University in June. The proceedings will be published by Brill.

Mouton is preparing 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).

She is preparing French translations of Hittite religious texts for the *Littératures Anciennes du Proche-Orient* series (LAPO,

Le Cerf, Paris). A contract was signed between Le Cerf and A. Mouton for a first volume of 450 pages of translations and introductions, aimed both to the wide public and the academic readership.

Dr J.J. Roodenberg, Research Fellow

Dr Roodenberg was awarded a senior fellowship by the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (RCAC) of the Koç University at Istanbul for the period of February to June. During these months he was offered the opportunity to carry out an analysis of change in ancient farming economy, in particular with regard to Neolithic communities in the Eastern Marmara region

NINO activities

that were investigated under his responsibility during the last decade. A selection of different research categories – e.g. exploitation of natural resources, crop cultivation and animal breeding, dwelling constructions, storage capacity, population growth and village expansion – have been set as parameters along a six hundred years long time scale of village history. It was revealed that change of subsistence strategies was a constant factor. After completion of this study the results have been submitted for publication. During the research period in Beyoğlu-Istanbul the library of the Netherlands Institute in Turkey, located in the Koç building, proved to be an invaluable instrument.

Part of the fellowship was spent editing a new publication series on investigations of the Early Neolithic site of Yabalkovo in Bulgaria. Carried out by K. Leshtakov and his team (Sv. Kliment Okhridski University, Sofia) in the framework of a salvage operation along the plotted motorway under construction from Plovdiv to the Turkish border, these large scale excavations have thrown new light on early farming settlement in the southeastern Balkans. It is believed that a swift dissemination of these results through publication for international use is essential for ongoing research into the

spread of early agriculture from Anatolia to Europe. This task, including assessment of manuscripts and negotiations with the publishing house, led him to travel to Bulgaria several times.

As editor-in-chief of the annuary *ANATOLICA* he published – in close cooperation with the editorial staff – issue 37, 2011.

Publications:

■ “İlpinar: A Neolithic settlement in the eastern Marmara region”, in: S. Steadman, G. McMahon (eds.), *The Oxford Dictionary of Anatolian Archaeology*. Oxford University Press, Oxford/New York: 950-967.

- with S. Alpaslan Roodenberg, “Early farming communities in the Eastern Marmara: İlpinar and Menteşe”, in: M. Özdoğan and N. Başgelen (eds.), *The Neolithic in Turkey, New Excavations & New Research*. Archaeology and Art Publications, Istanbul (in press).
- Book review of A. Sagona and P. Zimansky, *Ancient Turkey* (Routledge World Archaeology Series, 1). Routledge, London & New York, 2009, in *BiOr* LXVII 5/6, 568-71.

Prof. Dr J. de Roos, Research Fellow

Prof. De Roos spent most research time, this year as last, focused on the large project

Lecture 13 October



NINO activities

“Treated Passages from Hittite Texts”, which hopefully will reach completion at the end of 2012.

His assistant, Ms Kyra van der Meulen, was unable to continue working on the project as she won a PhD position in Egyptology. Her successor, Ms Carola Bronkhorst, has now begun to familiarize herself with Hittite literature.

In January, at the invitation of De Roos and with support from Leiden University’s Assyriology department, Dr Y. Jian Ping from Beijing (Academy of Sciences) was able to spend research time in Leiden. It is the third time that he has found his way to NINO.

In March the annual Hittite Convention met in Amsterdam. The Dutch participants included Prof. Dr Joost Hazenbos from Munich.

At the beginning of the year the Italian Hittitologist Dr M. Cammarosano visited NINO, primarily because of the excellent library.

In September the triennial Hittitology Congress was organized by colleagues in Warsaw. Book orders were collected for NINO by means of brochures and several inspection copies of books on Hittitology.

De Roos is editor of *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, which received a record number of books on

Hittitology for review. However, it seems to become increasingly difficult to receive the reviews on time. The declining number of Hittitology research positions worldwide is beginning to take its toll.

Prof. Dr M. Stol, Research Fellow

Prof. Stol completed the manuscript of his book *Vrouwen van Babylon* and saw it through the press. He wrote several articles for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, particularly that on bitumen in Mesopotamia (“Teer”).

A month’s time was spent on peer reviewing. He revised manuscripts of some young scholars abroad, and gave guidance to Dutch students working on dissertations.

Stol taught a weekly class on Old Babylonian texts at Leiden University.

In Oegstgeest, he delivered a funeral oration in memory of the late Professor R. Borger (17 February).

Publications:

- *Vrouwen van Babylon. Prinsessen, priesteressen, prostituees in de bakermat van de cultuur.* Uitgeverij Kok, Utrecht; 480 pp.
- lemmata “Sin-iddinam”, “Sklave, Sklaverei. B. Altbabylonisch”, “Spaten. A. Philologisch”, and “Speichel”, in *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* XII.

Lecture 27 October



NINO activities

- “An Old Babylonian List of Objects”, in: L. Vacín (ed.), *U4DU11-GA-NI SA MU-NI-IB-DU11. Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Memory of Blabolav Hruška*. Dresden, ISLET-Verlag: 247-252.

Lecture 18 November



Dr P. Del Vesco, Visiting Research Fellow

Dr Del Vesco continued his collaboration with the Qala'at Halwanji archaeological project working at the digitization of the excavation plans and of a wide selection of the pottery drawings, arranging them in plates according to the principal types represented in the Syrian site. He developed a G.I.S. platform for the management and the analysis of the data collected during the surface prospection of the same site.

On 17 February he delivered a lecture on Archaeology of Private Religion in Egypt in the National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden.

While advancing with his research on Egyptian archaeology and religion, he also performed editorial and secretarial tasks for *Bibliotheca Orientalis*.

He devoted much time to the implementation of the project of 3D scanning and modelling of archaeological artefacts, testing the

system on a wide range of materials and shapes, and creating 3D digital models of cuneiform tablets, bronze objects, terracotta figurines, faience shabtis, wooden fragments, etc. from the NINO collections (two digital models were embedded in the pdf version of the NINO/NIT Annual Report 2010).

In May he offered training and technical support to a member of the NIT excavations at Barcin Höyük for the use of the 3D scanner at the site.

In November he took part as field director in the University of Pisa excavation at Dra Abu el-Naga, on the West Bank of Luxor, Egypt (see this issue, pp. 29-35).

Dr T.K. Vorderstrasse, Research Fellow

Dr Vorderstrasse worked as a Research Fellow at the NINO in 2011 until June, when she moved to Chicago. In March of 2011 she visited London on a research trip to work on various projects. In preparation for a conference in September 2011, she examined the Qasr Ibrim archive at the British Museum for evidence of coins in Nubia. While at the British Museum, she

Lecture 15 December



NINO activities

also visited the archives in the Egyptian Section to do research on different collectors of papyri and ostraca and viewed Coptic papyri from one of these collectors in the British Museum and the British Library. Her work on Major William J. Myers's collection of ceramics and tiles continued with further research on material at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery at Stoke-on-Trent. In addition to this research trip, in April, she attended the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) annual meeting in Chicago and presented the paper, "Archaeology of Alexandria: The Excavations of Alan Wace in 1947-1948."

Lectures

Monthly lectures were held with the kind cooperation of the National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden, in the museum's lecture rooms. Two lectures were held at the Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam. Aimed at a broad audience and held in the afternoon, they drew a public of 15 to 60 people. The Veenhof Lecture was held in the evening of Friday 18 November by Klaus Schmidt, member of the German Archaeological Institute, Orient Department, and adjunct Professor at the Institute for Prehistoric Archaeology of the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. As in

previous years, the lecture was hosted by the National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden, and took place in the museum's Taffeh Hall.

Lecture series 2010-2011

January 27: C. Greco (National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden), Een vergeten monument in Thebe: het graf van Ramose, schatmeester van koning Taharqa (IT 132).

February 17: P. Del Vesco (NINO Research Fellow), Archaeology of Private Religion in Egypt. Votive Beds and Chantresses of Amun.

March 17 (APM Amsterdam): F.A. Gerritsen (NIT), Boeren in Barcin. Nieuwe Nederlandse opgravingen in noordwest Turkije.

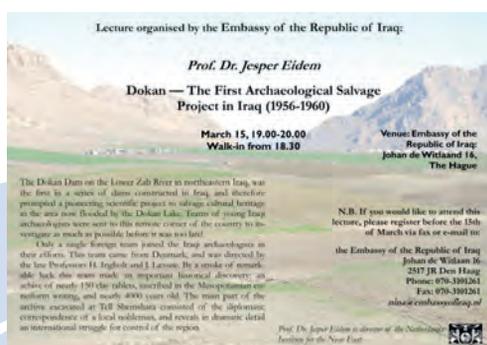
April 21: A.A. Seyed-Gohrab (Leiden University), "Het verleden in dienst van het heden": de constructie van de Perzische identiteit in de 20^e eeuw.

May 19 (APM Amsterdam): K. Kleber (VU Amsterdam), Neo-Babylonian archival texts.

Lecture series 2011-2012

October 13: Geoff Emberling (University of Michigan), The Supernatural in the Art of the First Mesopotamian Cities.

October 27: Jorrit Kelder (UvA/APM), De



NINO activities

politieke structuur van Myceens Griekenland.

November 18, Veenhof Lecture: Klaus Schmidt (DAI/University of Erlangen-Nürnberg), Göbekli Tepe, a Neolithic Sanctuary in Upper Mesopotamia.

December 15: Wilfred van Soldt (Leiden University), Het tweede seizoen in Satu Qala in Iraaks Koerdistan: nieuwe archeologische en historische data.

Library

The NINO library is an academic research library, open for the public but mostly used by researchers and students from Leiden University and other universities in the Netherlands and abroad. In 2011 about 11.000 visitors registered in the guestbook. The library is open on weekdays from 9 AM-5 PM.

The collection consists of monographs and periodicals, all catalogued except a small collection of special old printed books. The online catalogue is available through <http://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl>, under the subcategory "Leiden collections". Visitors can consult this catalogue on two computers in the library; the remaining card catalogue is updated until 2010.

The main fields of interest are Egyptology, Assyriology, the Near East in general, the

Middle East, including Turkey and Iran, and Hebraica and archeological reports from the Levant area (the "Scholten" collection).

The library includes further special collections on travel literature and country descriptions and it hosts an impressive collection of dynamic and static periodicals for all the categories available in the collection. Beside publications in western languages there are many publications in Hebrew, Arabic, Persian and Turkish and several other non-western languages.

In 2011 the number of catalogued titles was about 40.000; the number of volumes present is understandably much higher. The largest categories in the library are Egyptology, closely followed by Assyriology, and the Near and Middle East. In 2011 540 new books were acquired as well as 269 issues of periodicals.

Acquisition is mainly restricted to the fields of Egyptology and Assyriology. The acquisition policy is based on publishers' catalogues, reviews of new publications as well as advice from NINO fellows and other specialists of Near Eastern studies. Occasional gifts and donations are accepted if appropriate for the collection.



The poster for the NINO 2011-2012 lecture cycle features a green background with a stylized bird or dragon motif. It contains a table of dates, speakers, and topics, along with introductory text in Dutch and English.

datum	spreker	onderwerp
13 oktober	Kees Broekmans	The Supremacy in the Age of the First Mesopotamian Cities
27 oktober	Janet Ebeling	De geschiedenis van de Mesopotamische Civilisatie
31 oktober	Klaus Schmidt	Yarabof-Letting G-10-1, 1 Neolithic Sanctuary in Upper Mesopotamia
13 november	Wilfred van Soldt	Two Seasons in Satu Qala, Iraq: Excavations and Archaeological Data
20 november	Brian Chittick	The Excavation of the Temple of the Moon at the Temple of the Moon
27 november	Frankfort	Excavations at the Temple of the Moon at the Temple of the Moon
4 december	Jasper Ebeling	Excavations at the Temple of the Moon at the Temple of the Moon
11 december	Daniel Potts	Excavations at the Temple of the Moon at the Temple of the Moon
18 december	Ulfarson	Excavations at the Temple of the Moon at the Temple of the Moon

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 on *Ecology and trade in the Near East* (BA3 2010-11) and *Environmental History of Near East* (MA/RMA 2010-11 and 2011-12) and supervised three MA theses:

- C. van Doorn: Jordan Valley Blues. The Tell Dayr Alla Phase VII Botanical record and its potential for the study of Iron Age agricultural practices;
- R. Ormeling: Modelling Labour in Ancient Egypt. The First Dynasty Mud Brick Fortress at Elephantine;
- V. Meijer: Een kwantificeerbaar verleden. Archeobotanisch onderzoek naar de relatie tussen architectuur en graanakkers in Refuse Layers from Graeco-Roman Karanis (Egypt). Optimising the interpretation of plant remains from mixed deposits.

He supervises the archaeobotanical PhD research of F. Fantone, as part of the research project 'Reconstructing Hegemonic Practices of the Middle Assyrian Empire at the Late Bronze Age Fortified Estate of Tell Sabi Abyad, Syria', aiming at reconstructing agricultural changes, irrigation and intensification in this period.

He is co-director of the archaeological team working in al-Fayum, Egypt, and conducted archaeobotanical research at other sites in Egypt (Umm Mawagir-Kharga Oasis, Kurkur, Mo'alla Survey Project, Saqqara, Siwa Oasis, Hierakonpolis-Nekhen) and Turkey (Barcın Höyük, Tepecik-Çiftlik, Güvercinkayası).

He prepared *The Digital Atlas of Economic Plants in Archaeology*, and *Manual of Plant Palaeoecology*, two extensive reference works appearing in 2012.

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.

Achaemenid History

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

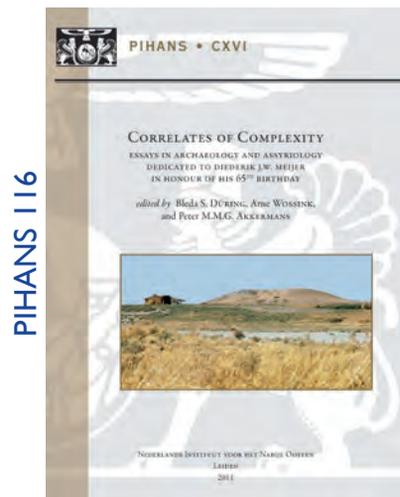
Bibliotheca Orientalis

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

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).

The following NINO publications appeared in 2011:



Bleda S. Düring, Arne Wossink, and Peter M.M.G. Akkermans – *Correlates of Complexity. Essays in Archaeology and Assyriology Dedicated to Diederik J.W. Meijer in Honour of his 65th Birthday* (**PIHANS 116**). [27 cm, softcover; XIV, 268 pp.]. ISBN: 978-90-6258-327-0. € 58,—.

Correlates of Complexity is a tribute to Diederik J.W. Meijer as a scholar, archaeologist, and friend, by an international group of scholars from Britain, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Syria, Turkey, and the USA, on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

The contributions range from the Neolithic to the Iron Age, with articles on cylinder seals, architecture, nomadism, art, Old Assyrian and Ugaritic texts, economic and cultural history, and include case studies from Armenia, Greece, Turkey, Syria, and Palestine.

A general aspect, reflected in several papers, concerns the rise and articulation of complex societies in the ancient Near East, a topic which has been at the centre of Meijer's research interests throughout his career. Another prominent aspect addressed in this volume is the modern relevance of the ancient Near East. Several papers deal with the social reworking of data on the ancient Near East, its relevance for modern economic theory, and heritage management.

Researchers and students of the ancient Near East will find much of interest in the collection of essays by an international group of both junior and established scholars.

Publications

Periodicals

***Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXVIII**

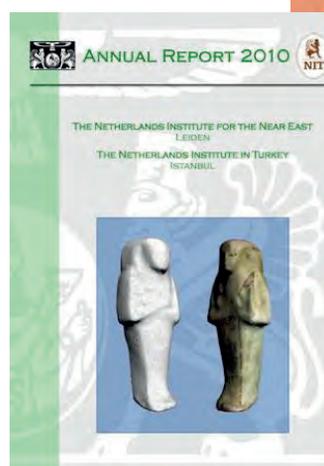
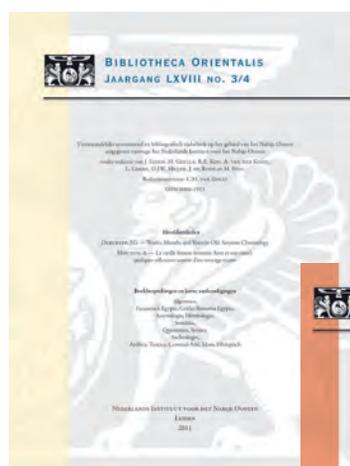
(638 columns, published in three fascicles) contained seven articles, and reviews of ca. 135 books in the fields of Egyptology, Assyriology, Near Eastern Archaeology, Semitica, Hebrew and Old Testament Studies, Arabic, Turkish, Islam and related studies.

A new section titled “Actueel” was added to provide scholars in the various disciplines of (Ancient) Near Eastern Studies with an outlet for fast, summary publication of important new insights, new data, new discoveries etc. (ISSN 0006-1913; € 140,-)

***ANATOLICA* Volume XXXVII**

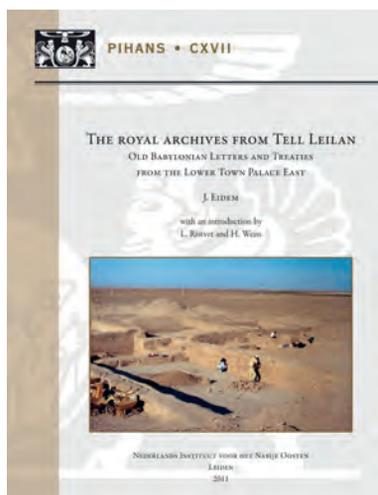
contained six articles on archaeology in Anatolia and neighbouring regions, two articles on Hittitology and one article on Roman military history in Asia Minor; a total of 274 pages. (ISSN 0066-1554; € 60,-)

J. Eidem, C.H. van Zoest et al. – **Annual Report** NINO and NIT 2010. (68 pp.) Available both in print, and as a free pdf download from www.nino-leiden.nl (including a 3D model of a shabti in the Böhl Collection).



Publications

PIHANS 117

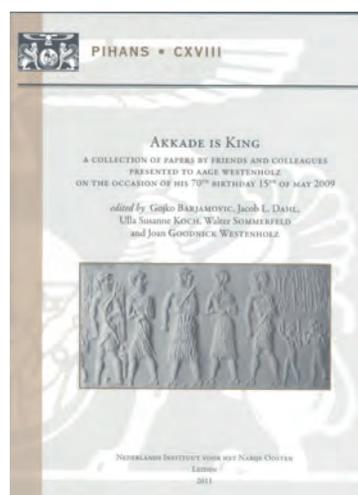


Jesper Eidem – The royal archives from Tell Leilan. Old Babylonian Letters and Treaties from the Lower Town Palace East (**PIHANS 117**). [27 cm, hardcover; LII, 625, 50 pp.]. ISBN: 978-90-6258-328-7. € 125,-.

This volume presents the royal letters and treaties excavated in 1987 at Tell Leilan (Syria) by archaeologists from Yale University. The ca. 200 letters and a handful of political treaties, all written in cuneiform on clay tablets formed part of the archives of kings Mutija and Till-Abnû, who ruled at Tell Leilan, ancient Shehna/Shubat-Enlil, ca. 1750-40 BC. Comprehensive introductory sections review the evidence in its archaeological and historical contexts, and are followed by the complete scholarly edition of the texts. Facsimile drawings and photos of the original tablets are presented both in print and on cd-rom. NINO is proud to publish this important work in cooperation with the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic.

With *Archaeological Introduction* by Lauren Ristvet and Harvey Weiss.

PIHANS 118



Gojko Barjamovic, Jacob L. Dahl, Ulla Susanne Koch, Walter Sommerfeld, and Joan Goodnick Westenholz (eds.) – Akkade is King. A collection of papers by friends and colleagues presented to Aage Westenholz on the occasion of his 70th birthday 15th of May 2009 (**PIHANS 118**). [27 cm, softcover; VIII, 332 pp.]. ISBN: 978-90-6258-329-4. € 60,-.

In the volume *Akkade is King*, friends, colleagues and former students celebrate the scholarly achievements of Aage Westenholz on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Contributions cover a wide range of topics within the field of Ancient Near Eastern Studies, including Semitic linguistics and grammar, archaeology and art history, administration and bureaucracy, Sumerian and Akkadian literature, political history, trade and economy through the first three millennia of recorded history.



NIT activities

Fokke Gerritsen

Local Director NIT

Introduction

The mission of the Netherlands Institute in Turkey is twofold: to foster scholarly research on the history and heritage of Turkey, and to promote and support cooperation between Dutch and Turkish academia in these fields. In 2011 the institute carried out a busy programme of symposiums, workshops, courses and research activities to work towards these goals. An exciting new element in the programme was an intensive multi-disciplinary summer school for BA students on Constantinople/Istanbul in past and present. In addition, significant steps were made in 2011 to conduct and support heritage-related research through two new initiatives. The first is the start of an urban heritage project centred on past and current developments in a small historic neighbourhood near the institute's premises. The second is a digitization project of photos documenting the Ottoman architectural heritage on the Balkans. In addition research was supported by a modest fellowship programme enabling young researchers to spend time at the NIT.

Staff

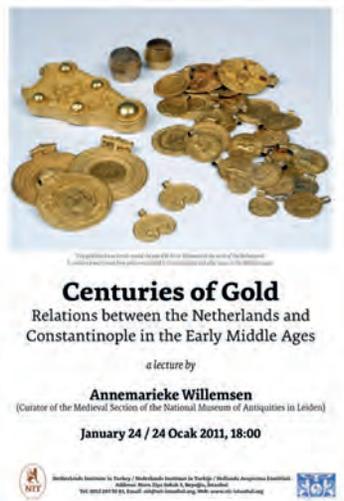
The positions of Fokke Gerritsen (director, 0.9 fte), Ayşe Dilsiz (assistant, 1.0 fte), Funda Demir (Study in Holland Desk in Turkey

coordinator, 0.5 fte) and Gülten Yıldız (librarian, 1.0 fte) remained unchanged in 2011. The position of Charlie Smid (museum and heritage studies) was reduced to a 0.1 fte appointment at her request, working from the Netherlands.

In April 2011, Karin Schuitema joined the NIT staff (0.8 fte) as staff member for heritage studies. She will develop research and educational activities and contribute to the day-to-day running of the institute.

In July and August, Logan Sparks held a temporary position at the NIT, to develop a lecture series (autumn 2011) and a short course on the study of religion in society (spring 2012).

Lecture 24 January



Research projects and publications

Conducting and fostering scholarly research on the history and heritage of Turkey and the Near East is part of the core activities of the Netherlands Institute in Turkey. By providing guestroom and library facilities, as well as local support and advice, the NIT continued to assist numerous junior and senior researchers with their work in Istanbul and elsewhere in Turkey. Topics addressed in 2011 ranged from prehistoric chipped stone artefacts to exchanges between the early medieval Low Countries and Byzantine Constantinople, from 15th century Ottoman intellectual traditions to

NIT activities

contemporary art galleries, and from the royal inscriptions of the Persian king Darius the Great to 19th century diplomatic history.

In addition, the staff of the NIT carries out its own research and documentation projects. Besides the long-term archaeological research project centred on the site of Barcın Höyük, two new NIT run projects were begun in 2011.

Barcın Höyük Excavations

For a report on the first results of the 2011 season of excavations at Barcın Höyük, see this issue, pp. 3-9. As in other years, archaeology students (BA, MA and PhD level) from Turkey, the Netherlands and other countries joined the project to train their excavation, documentation and artefact processing skills. Six pupils from a high school in Istanbul participated for a week or longer to gain their first experience of excavation life.

In the autumn of 2011 Elisha van den Bos began a four-year PhD research project entitled “Living Neolithization. Micro histories and grand narrative in Neolithic Anatolia and Southeast Europe (c. 7000-5000 BC)” at VU University Amsterdam (advisors Fokke Gerritsen and Douwe Yntema). She will use data from Barcın Höyük and excavations in Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria to study Neolithisation processes at local as well as (inter-)regional levels.

During the excavation season, Dutch photographer Rénie van der Putte made a series of photos documenting the work on the site and in the dig house. These will be used for a photo exhibition on the excavations that will be shown at the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden in the autumn of 2012. The exhibition will be part of the Dutch-Turkish celebrations of 400 years of diplomatic ties.

Several publications by team members appeared in print, and presentations and lectures about the project findings were given in Amsterdam, Izmir, Malatya, and Istanbul.

Publications on Barcın Höyük that appeared in 2011:

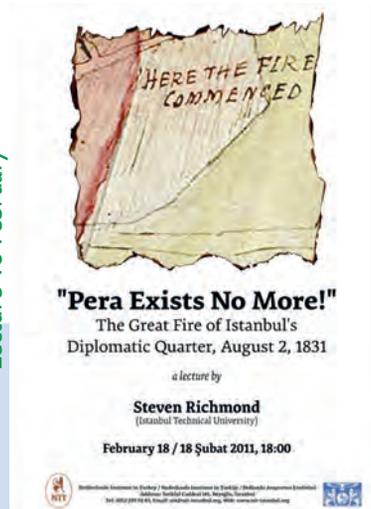
■ Gerritsen, F.A., and R. Özbal: “Anadolu’da sütün tarihöncesi.

Neolitik Barcın Höyük”, *Aktüel Arkeoloji Dergisi* 24: 40-41.

■ Jacobi, M.: “Chemistry unlocks ancient secrets. Cutting edge analytical methods decipher clues based in age-old artifacts”, *Chemical and Engineering News* Volume 89, Issue 10: 44-47.

■ Özbal, H., A. Türkecul Bıyık, L. Thissen, T. Doğan, F. Gerritsen and R. Özbal: Sütçülerin Öncüleri: Barcın Höyük Keramiklerinde Süt Kalıntıları, 26. *Arkeometri Sonuçları Toplantısı*, 307-317.

■ Özbal, R., and F.A. Gerritsen: 2009 yılı



Lecture 18 February

NIT activities

Barcın Höyük Kazıları, 31. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı, Vol. 2, 198-208.

- Thissen, L., H. Özbal, A. Türkekul-Bıyık, F. Gerritsen and R. Özbal, 2010: “The land of milk? Approaching dietary preferences of Late Neolithic communities in NW Anatolia”, *Leiden Journal of Pottery Studies* 26: 157-172.

Lecture 28 March



How the double Dutch hyacinth conquered the Ottoman Empire

a lecture by
Hans Theunissen
(Leiden University)

March 28 / 28 Mart 2011, 18:00



Tophane Project

The historic neighbourhood of Tophane, situated on the lower slopes of the hills rising up from the Bosphorus to Galata and Istiklal street where the NIT is located, witnesses in small many of the urban transformations that currently take place on a metropolitan scale throughout Istanbul.

Staff member for heritage studies Karin Schuitema has begun a project that will document and investigate the cultural heritage of the neighbourhood and how this is affected by urban transformation processes. The former industrial and port area encompasses interesting architectural heritage as well as remains of earlier phases of urban and social change, but the project will also document the memories of the

Tophane neighbourhood



current inhabitants and their ideas about their own (changing) neighbourhood. The aim of the project is not only to create a Tophane neighbourhood ‘biography’, but also to build a framework that can incorporate research and educational activities by Dutch and Turkish historians, urban geographers, architects, social scientists and other disciplines.

Ottoman Architecture in the Balkans digitization project

In September 2011 the NIT has launched a project for the digitization and publication of the photographic archive of Machiel Kiel. A former director of the NIT, Kiel is a renowned Dutch scholar intrinsically connected with the study of Ottoman architectural monuments in the Balkan countries, which he pioneered.

The archive represents an invaluable source for researchers of this heritage. Created for the most part between the 1960s and 90s, it also contains visual documentation of many monuments that have not survived, or have been significantly altered during the second half of the twentieth century.

NIT activities

survey on Ottoman intellectual traditions.

Sjoerd Jeroen Moenandar (Arts, Culture and Media, Groningen University) worked on completing his PhD dissertation on the representation of Muslim and non-Muslim encounters in Dutch literature (1990-2005).

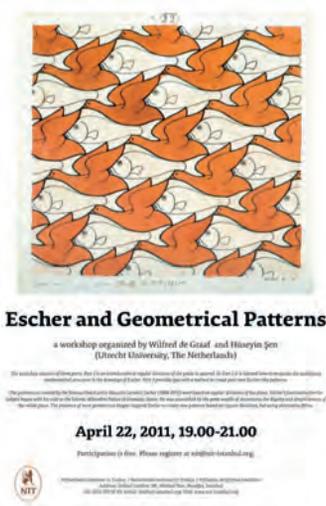
Reinier Meijering (Ancient History, Utrecht University) used his time in Istanbul for research for his Research Master's thesis on Miletus, Athens and the Achaemenid Empire, 499-387 BCE.

Communication Studies PhD student Rolien Hoyng (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) conducted field work for her dissertation on networking practices in the context of struggles over urban sociality, sovereignty, and political venues.

Academic meetings

April 14: **Studying the Arts in Society. New Developments in Research and Training.** A workshop organized together with Groningen University's Art, Culture and Media Department. The aim of the meeting was to bring together Groningen faculty members with Turkish colleagues, to exchange

Workshop 22 April



views and experiences of teaching and curriculum building.

June 6: **Cultural Interaction: Local Communities between North Mesopotamia and Anatolia in the Sixth Millennium BC.** An archaeological symposium organized with Koç University's Department of Archaeology and the History of Art. Many of the speakers, from Turkey, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and the US collaborate in a project to publish the results of

the 2001 excavations at Tell Kurdu in Hatay.

October 6-9: **Expert meeting Bisotun inscription publication group.** The NIT hosted a meeting for an international group of scholars involved in the publication of a set of Achaemenid inscriptions and reliefs on a rock face at Bisotun in Iran, convened by Wouter Henkelman.

October 27: **Roads, Routes and Heritage. Crossing space and time.** This workshop brought together people from universities and cultural organizations to discuss sustainable heritage preservation and tourism, inter-cultural dialogue and hiking trails. Many of the participants were personally involved in developing long-distance hiking trails with a

Lecture 17 May



NIT activities

culture-historical theme, including the Via Egnatia from Albania to Constantinople, the Roman road passing through Tongres (Belgium), Maastricht (Netherlands) to Aachen (Germany), and the route taken by traveller/writer Evliya Çelebi through northwest Anatolia on his way to Mecca in 1671.

November 24-25: Sidewalk Heritage. The biography of streets: historical, architectural, social and heritage perspectives. This symposium marked the start of a long-term project directed by the NIT that will bottom up look at urban heritage issues, from the sidewalk, so to speak. Several theoretical perspectives, approaches and case studies in Turkey and the Netherlands were compared and discussed.

Symposium 6 June



Lectures

The following lectures were held at the NIT in 2011:

January 24: Annemarieke Willemsen (National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden), Centuries of Gold. Relations between the Netherlands and Constantinople in the Early Middle Ages.

February 18: Steven Richmond (Istanbul Technical University), “Pera Exists No More!” The Great Fire of Istanbul’s Diplomatic Quarter, August 2, 1831.

March 28: Hans Theunissen (Leiden University), How the double Dutch Hyacinth conquered the Ottoman Empire.

May 17: Logan Sparks (Tilburg University), Ancient Ephesus and Modern Mixed Pilgrimage: An Exploration of Turkish Rituals in Context.

Four lectures were held in the autumn as part of a lecture series organized by Logan Sparks on Ritual Space and Sound. Interlinked Sacralities in Turkey and its Historical Environs:

October 20: Oruç Güvenç (Tumata Institute, Istanbul), From Turkic Shamanism and Sufism to the Modern Practice of Music and Movement Therapy.

November 3: Karen Şarhon (Ottoman Sephardic Research Institute, Istanbul), Maftirim and the Sephardic Musical Tradition in Turkey.

November 17: Maria Coroucli (École Française d’Athènes) Aya Giorgi, Hidrellez and the Tradition of Shared Sacred Places in the Mediterranean.

December 3: Rabia Harmanşah (University of Pittsburgh), Shared Spaces, Contested Memories in Northern Cyprus.

NIT activities

Educational activities

June 8-18: Summer course: **Constantinople. History and heritage of Istanbul.** The summer course organized by the NIT offered students from Dutch universities, from various disciplines such as (art and architectural) history, archaeology and geography, the opportunity to become acquainted with Istanbul.

During the ten-day course the students learned about the city's rich history, its heritage, social contexts and changes, modern-day architecture, film industry and politics. This was done through various lectures held by scholars connected to Turkish as well as Dutch universities. Each day specific neighbourhoods of the city were visited, guided by a researcher on that specific topic, varying from the Byzantine centre to urban renewal plans by the government in the so-called 'slums' of Istanbul, and skyscrapers as new icons of a commercialised and global modern-day Istanbul.

Each student was assigned a specific topic on Istanbul at the start of the course. These case-

Summer course 8-18 June



Constantinople History and Heritage in Istanbul

multi-disciplinaire BA cursus
Nederlands Instituut in Turkije
8-18 juni 2011 in Istanbul
Deadline aanmelding: 25 maart 2011

Oorspronkelijk

Maak kennis met de eeuwenoude geschiedenis van Constantinopel (Constantinople) en ontdek de huidige stad met een unieke combinatie van oude en nieuwe architectuur.

Interdisciplinair
De cursus biedt een unieke combinatie van geschiedenis, kunst, literatuur, geografie, archeologie en andere disciplines.

Erkend en onderscheiden
De cursus wordt gegeven door de beste academici van de Nederlandse universiteiten.

Meer informatie en aanmelding
Ga naar www.nit-istanbul.org

Voor wie

De cursus is bedoeld voor studenten van Nederlandse universiteiten die een BA of BSc willen behalen of een BA of BSc willen aanvullen.

Bevoren
De cursus wordt gegeven door de beste academici van de Nederlandse universiteiten.

Studietoelaten
De cursus wordt gegeven door de beste academici van de Nederlandse universiteiten.

Meer informatie en aanmelding
Ga naar www.nit-istanbul.org

studies varied from the heritage issues coming along with the reconstruction of the Byzantine landwalls to the renewal and heritage issues in the 'slum' of Tarlabaşı. The participants thus obtained a better understanding of certain social and historical urban developments, of what is regarded as heritage in Istanbul, and how inhabitants and the government deal with it.

At the conclusion of the summer course, the students presented their ideas, thoughts, discussions of their subjects in relation to the broader understanding of the city and its heritage that they had obtained, in a presentation and an essay.

Masterclass 22-24 September



NIT Masterclass with Dr. Wouter Henkelman (VU Amsterdam) **The Persian Empire: New Perspectives from Persepolis**

An intensive three-day course on the Persian Empire (c. 550-330 BCE): economy and imperial iconography, demography and infrastructure, bureaucracy and royal feasting

September 22-24 (Thu-Sat), 2011

Deadline for applications: September 12, 2011

For more information, please visit www.nit-istanbul.org

April 22: Workshop: **Escher and Geometrical Patterns.** In this workshop taught by Hüseyin Şen and Wilfred de Graaf of Utrecht University, the participants learned how to recognize the geometrical principles behind M.C. Escher's famous artworks. Escher was inspired by examples of Islamic geometric art that he observed in Granada in the south of Spain.

NIT activities

September 22-24: Master class with Dr Wouter Henkelman (VU Amsterdam): **The Persian Empire: New Perspectives from Persepolis.** Fifteen students from no less than nine different countries followed an intensive course discussing the current state of research on the Persian Empire, its organizational structures, administrative practices, imperial ideology and rituals.

Wouter Henkelman is member of the research team in charge of publishing the Persepolis Archive.

In addition, the NIT hosted several student groups at the institute and accompanied them on excursions in Istanbul: Descartes College Utrecht University, Nijmegen University psychology student organization, Leiden University Turkish Studies, Johan de Witt Gymnasium, and Utrecht University Art History.

Workshop 27 October



Fortification

of study in Holland.

In addition to answering several hundred individual queries by mail and phone, she represented Dutch universities at several education fairs, and worked as a successful 'match-maker' between Dutch and Turkish universities at the annual conference of the European Association for International Education (EAIE).

Symposium 24-25 November



Study in Holland Desk in Turkey

The Study in Holland Desk in Turkey combines the efforts of the NIT and its partner institution NIHA in Ankara to promote Dutch Higher Education. Its coordinator Funda Demir is employed by both institutions, and she works together with the Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education, Nuffic, to inform Turkish students about the possibilities

NIT activities

Library

The library was visited by about 1100 external visitors, from Turkey, the Netherlands and many other countries, not counting the NIT and RCAC fellows that use the library on a daily or weekly basis. In addition, the library provided a study and work environment for numerous participants of NIT courses and workshops.

The collections grew by ca. 300 volumes (monographs and journal issues) through acquisitions, donations and exchanges. In addition to the established collection areas of archaeology and ancient Anatolian and Near Eastern Studies, a relatively new focus area for acquisitions concerns work on the history and heritage of Istanbul.

Guestrooms

The three guestrooms of the NIT were occupied for a total of 757 nights by fellows, short stays by researchers, and participants and speakers at academic meetings organized by the NIT.

Lecture series Autumn 2011



Ritual Space and Sound Interlinked Sacralities in Turkey and its Historical Environs

Netherlands Institute in Turkey Lecture Series
Autumn 2011

Through a variety of settings, this series will explore in a series of thematic events, how the historical and religious diversity of Turkey fits into the wider context of the Turkish world and the former Ottoman empire, and its evolution of ritual practices, particularly in a popularized form. The talks in the series open from classical to contemporary periods, with some emphasizing the diversity of phenomena and others making more analytical approaches to sacred landscapes and landscapes of this diversity-rich region.

Oruç Güvenc (Yusuf Institute) October 20, Thursday, 18:00
From Turkey, Semaizm and Dajlam to the Modern Practice of Sema and Movement Therapy

Karen Saeban (Ottoman Sephardic Research Institute) November 3, Thursday, 18:00
Religion and The Sephardic Musical Tradition in Turkey

Maria Carmeli (Ecole Française d'Archéologie) November 12, Thursday, 18:00
Asa Giorgi, Heliotes and the Tradition of Shared Sacred Places in the Mediterranean

Rabia Harmanşah (University of Pittsburgh) December 3, Saturday, 16:00
Shared Spaces, Contested Memories in Northern Cyprus

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 June and December 2011.

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, August, and November 2011. 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 April 2011.

Curatorium of the Chair of Ecology and Palaeo-ecology 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 June 2011.



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Annual Report NINO and NIT 2011

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



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