

Report 2002

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NETWORK ORGANISATION AND ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS

WORK-PACKAGES

1. Work-package Mapping and Surveying the Mesopotamian Alluvial Plain

1.1. (RUG + KBIN) The GIS structure organized and developed in the research unit "Mesopotamian History" at the University of Ghent and the data it contains were copied into the new GIS package Arc-GIS, which is operational now at the network partner KBIN. Both GIS systems use the same data structure and projection system which will enhance future data sharing. The geographical area has been extended towards the Susiana Plain with additional imagery data. The Network partners ULg and KULeuven will contribute to this work-package with their basic survey data of the Khabur Region(Beydar and Chagar Bazar Surveys).

1.2. (RUG + KBIN) The cartographic data of the Mesopotamian Plain will be made gradually available on the internet in the form of a Scalable Vector Graphics file for each map sheet of 20 x 20 km. This form of publication (Web Mapping) stands for high resolution quality, a degree of interactivity and a cheap and efficient way of dissemination.

1.3. (KBIN + RUG) A database is being elaborated of all relevant literature in Endnote to exchange with all partners (ongoing process).

2. Work-package Archaeology in Context

2.1. Corpus of Mesopotamian Pottery

Work was focused on the Middle Euphrates Corpus and the relation of this material with the Babylonian production.

2.1.1. (ULg + RUG)

Middle Euphrates : Mari

While the pottery of the ?akkanakku and Lim periods (\pm 2130 - 1662 BC) was studied during previous stages of the project, we now approached the production of the Early Akkadian Period (\pm 22nd century BC) because there was a close relation between the Middle Euphrates and Babylonia at this time. In fact, Mari was destroyed by a king of Akkad but there is no agreement about the identity of that king : Sargon or Nar?m-Sîn?

A survey of the material and a detailed examination of the archaeological contexts showed that :

1. the pottery belongs to the Early Akkadian Period
2. it was found between two layers of destruction.

This situation suggested to check if the written sources confirm these observations. It now appears that Mari was destroyed partially or totally by both kings, Sargon and Naram-Sîn.

(ULg) Middle Euphrates : Amarna

Tell Amarna also was occupied during the Late Early Bronze and the Early Middle Bronze ages. A sequence of contemporaneous shapes from Mari and Amarna was established. It definitely helped to date the Amarna occupation more precisely.

2.2. (ULg + RUG) Popular Art: The Terra-Cotta Production

In the frame of the final publication of the artefacts found at Tell ed-D?r Nina Pons has been entrusted with the study of the terra-cotta human and animal figurines, masks, reliefs, chariots, and other models of furniture. She will deal with more than 300 items, all found in well controlled stratigraphic contexts from the second millennium BC.

3. Work-package Historical Geography

3.1. (RUG + KBIN) Ancient Rivers in the Mesopotamian Flood Plain

Stage 2 : The Palaeo-Network of Rivers in the Flood Plain

The reconstruction of the ancient Mesopotamian network of rivers was continued south of a line between the modern towns of Hillah and K?t al-?Am?rah.

According to various sources, the Euphrates channel known as the Abgal could be located south of Kish where it branched from the right bank of the Purattum (Kish Branch) and then flowed on toward Marad along the approximate line of the modern ?a?? al-Hillah. Another important channel attested since the Ur III period (20th cent. BC) - the Me-Enlila - is supposed to have run on a natural levee located between the Abgal, at some distance south of Kish, and the city of Nippur. This reconstruction allows a more precise location of the

districts of Kish, Kiritab, Kazallu, Api-'ak and Marad, all known from the 'Cadastre of Ur-Nammu'. It also allows to locate securely the western end of the so-called 'Amorite Wall' of ?u-Sîn not very far south of Kish or from the 'mouth' of the Abgal.

For the southeastern alluvium, more precisely for the areas along the main watercourses that ran through or near Nippur, Adab, Umma, Uruk and Larsa, the results of the study published by Piotr Steinkeller (Harvard University) were transferred to our map of the alluvial plain. The picture we now have of the network of the rivers between 2500 and 1500 BC is totally different from everything published before. This situation requires a new interpretation of the geopolitical situation during these ten centuries which belong to the most fascinating period of the Sumero-Akkadian history.

Stage 3 : The Northern Coastline of the Gulf and the Rivers in Susiana

There has been much controversy about the position of the northern coastline of the Gulf during the 8000 year-long occupation, or more, of the Mesopotamian alluvial plain. All sixth to third millennium sites and most of the second millennium settlements today lie more than 250km north-west from the head of the Gulf but geomorphological, archaeological and textual evidence all confirm that they were much closer to the sea when they were occupied. In a very recent article, Paul Sanlaville showed again that the maximum post-glacial rise in sea level pushed the headwaters of the Gulf as far inland as to the location of the modern towns of ?Am?rah and N??ir?yah at about 4300 BC. It ensues that ancient urban centers like al-?Ubaid, Eridu, Ur and Lagash were close to the sea at this time.

This situation provides a better background for the understanding of the spreading of Mesopotamian-like cultures along the shores of the Gulf and strongly increases the probability that contacts and trade were mainly expanded by boats since the late Ubaid period.

However, we do not know much about the rhythm of regression of the shoreline during the 3000 years which separate the late Ubaid Period from the time of Alexander the Great when the sea level was about one meter lower than nowadays. On the contrary, we know that the ancient fluvial network of lower H?zest?n was different at that time. Therefore, we started to map the remains of the old systems located south of Susa and Ahw?z. The first results corroborate the ancient sources and the data collected and interpreted some 25 years ago by M.J. Kirkby, University of Leeds.

4. Work-package Environmental Geoarchaeology of the Mesopotamian Plain

(RUG + KBIN) Treatment of the - non processed nor published - existing borehole data available at the Belgian Geological Survey carried out in and around the site of Tell ed D?r : drawing of the borelogs, correlation in cross-sections, interpretation and identification of natural and anthropogenic units. Supplemented by the archaeological identification and age determination.

5. Work-package Beyond the Mesopotamian Alluvial Plain

5.1. (KBIN + RUG) Collection and geo-referenced scanning of relevant maps of the Kharkeh and Karun riverbasins in order to establish a basic map (for future fieldwork) showing all possible geomorphological features.

5.2. (ULg) In 2002, the activities of the ULg team concerned mainly two sites in North Syria: Chagar Bazar and Tell Amarna. The excavations are going on at Chagar Bazar. The remains excavated this year are dating, in the Area F, to the Halaf period and, in the Area H, to the IIIrd millennium B.C., more precisely to the last part of the Early Dynastic period or Early Bronze III-IV. In the Area I, many cuneiform tablets were found in the remains of an Old Babylonian monumental building.

5.3. (KULeuven) Ongoing excavations and environmental research at Tell Beydar and Tell Tweini.

6. Work-package History and Chronology

6.1. (ULg) Archaeo-magnetism

The archeo-magnetic dating method is being tested from this year on at Chagar Bazar by Prof. J. Hus (Centre du Globe, Dourbes).

6.2. (ULg) Concerning the history of Upper Mesopotamia during the Old Babylonian period, D. Lacambre has closed a thesis which is deposited in December 2002.

6.3. (KULeuven) 14C

A new selection of 14 samples from seeds and charcoals was sent to the ORAU (Oxford University Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit) for 14C analysis. Radiocarbon dates obtained from samples sent in 2000, provided very useful cross-references to the chronological framework already established for Tell Beydar on both archaeological and epigraphic ground.

NETWORK ORGANISATION AND ACTIVITIES

1. The network services as discussed in the Call for Proposals, section I p. 8, ensured a regular contact between the partners :

1.1. (RUG + KBIN) Several working sessions were hold concerning :

- a. the interpretation of the archaeological data and their integration with the natural and anthropogenetic deposits in and around the site Tell ed D'r.
- b. Exchange of maps and aerial data.

1.2. Trainings (KBIN + RUG)

A fieldtraining was organised on mapping procedures, handaugering and description of cores (in Belgium).

1.3. International Contacts

12-13/10/2002. Boston : meeting of H. Gasche with J.A. Armstrong and D.A. Warburton. It was decided to supply the eclipse data to Dr. Fred Espinak (NASA) in order that he reexamines the different solar and lunar eclipses utilised by different scholars in their proposals about Mesopotamian Chronology (2nd millennium).

13-17/10/2002. Boston : meeting of H. Gasche with J.A. Armstrong on the Corpus of Mesopotamian Pottery. Checking of the Plates and description of the Groups.

17-21/10/2002. Chicago : meeting of H. Gasche with McGuire Gibson and Steven Cole about future cooperation in the topic : 'Reconstruction of the Ancient River Networks of the Mesopotamian Alluvial Plain'.

2. Dissemination

2.1. Communications

a) At the International Conference on The Tower of Babylon, Baghdad, April 2002, H. Gasche, M.Tanret and K. Verhoeven presented the research of the IAP. L. De Meyer held the summation.

b) At the 3rd ICAANE, Paris, April 2002, a panel illustrating the main pottery repertoires from Mari and Tell Amarna was presented by N. Pons. The manuscript of her contribution has been submitted for the proceedings which will be published in BAASOR.

2.2. Courses

2.3. Conferences, Workshops, Exhibitions

- a. International Conference, 21-22 November 2002, organised by K.U.Leuven, U.C. Louvain and Westfälische Wilhelms Universität Münster, at the Faculty of Arts, K.U.Leuven : Power and Architecture. Monumental Public Architecture in the Bronze Age Near East and the Aegean.
- b. International Workshop, 28 Februari 2002, organised by K.U.Leuven, at the Faculty of Arts : The Syro-Lebanese Coastal Plain. The Early Settlements.
- c. Interdisciplinary exhibition from 7 to 29 March 2002, organised by the Department of Oriental Studies and the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, at the Central Library of the K.U.Leuven : Van Nabada tot Gibala. Leuvense Opgravingen in Syrië.

3. Participations

- a. (KBIN) The Quaternary Research Association 7th and First International Palaeoenvironments Symposium, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- b. (KBIN) Course ArcView (ULg).

PUBLICATIONS

1. Publications of the Network-Partners

RUG

DE MEYER, L., 2002a : «Elamite likame risakki : "l'agrandisseur du royaume" ou "le grand du royaume" ? », Akkadica 123, 107.

DE MEYER, L., 2002b : Rec. de VEENHOF, K.R., 2001 : Geschichte des Alten Orients bis zur Zeit Alexanders des Großen (= GAT 11), Göttingen. Akkadica 123, 116-117.

- DE MEYER, L., 2002c : Rec. de TANRET, M., 2002 : Per aspera ad astra. L'apprentissage du cunéiforme à Sippar-Amnanum pendant la période paléobabylonienne tardive (= MHET 1/2), *Gent. Akkadica* 123, 199.
- GASCHE, H., 2002a : Rec. de MULLER, B. (éd. avec D. Vaillancourt), 2001 : «Maquettes architecturales» de l'antiquité. Regards croisés (Proche-Orient, Egypte, Chypre, bassin égéen et Grèce, du Néolithique à l'époque hellénistique). Actes du Colloque de Strasbourg. 3-5 décembre 1998 (= TPOG 17), Paris. *Akkadica* 123, 115-116.
- GASCHE, H., 2002b : «Une résidence parthe dans le quartier nord de la Ville Royale de Suse», *Akkadica* 123, 183-189
- GASCHE, H., 2002c : Rec. de BRIANT, P. (éd.), 2002 : Politique et contrôle de l'eau dans le Moyen-Orient ancien. Dossier publié dans *Annales. Histoire, Sciences sociales* 57/3, 515-663. *Akkadica* 123, 191-194.
- GASCHE, H., 2002d : Rec. de JOANNES, F., 2002 : La Mésopotamie au 1er millénaire avant J.-C., Paris. *Akkadica* 123, 196-197.
- STEVE, M.-J., VALLAT, F., GASCHE, H., 2002 : «Suse (début)», *DB Suppl.* 73, col. 359-511.
- TANRET, M., 2002 : Per aspera ad astra. L'apprentissage du cunéiforme à Sippar-Amnanum pendant la période paléobabylonienne tardive (= MHET 1/2), *Gent.*
- VALLAT, F., 2002 : «La Dame faite prisonnière à Babylone», *Akkadica* 123, 137-144.
- VALLAT, F., 2002 : Rec. de WATERS, M.W., 2000 : A Survey of Neo-Elamite History (= SAAS 1/2), Helsinki. *OLZ* 97, 372-376.
- TANRET, M., (in print) : «Verba volant, scripta non manent», *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale*, Paris 2000.
- TANRET, M., (in print) : «What a difference a day made ... On Old Babylonian Month lengths», *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*.
- TANRET, M., DE GRAEF, K., (in print) : «Puzzling with numbers, The Late Old Babylonian Si.Bi clause», *Archiv für Orientforschung*.

ULg

- MCMAHON, A., TUNCA, Ö., BAGDO, A.M., 2001 : «New Excavations at Chagar Bazar, 1999-2000», *Iraq* 63, 201-222.
- LACAMBRE, D., 2002 : «NIGGALLUM : lecture akkadienne du mois SHE.KIN.KU dans le calendrier dit de 'Samsî-Addu'», CHARPIN, D., DURAND, J.-M., (Eds.), *Recueil d'études à la mémoire d'André Parrot (Florilegium Marianum = Mémoires de N.A.B.U. 7)*, Paris, 505-511.
- PONS, N., 2002a : «Floraison de l'art populaire : les terres cuites paléo-babyloniennes de Tell ed-D?r», *Akkadica* 123, 189.
- PONS, N., 2002b : Rec. de CILINGIRO'LU, A., SALVINI, M., (éd.), 2001 : Ayanis 1. Ten Years' Excavations at Rusahinili Eiduru-kai 1989-1998 (= DA 6), Roma. *Akkadica* 123, 194-196.
- TUNCA, Ö., LACAMBRE, D., 2002 : «Note préliminaire sur les nouvelles découvertes épigraphiques de Chagar Bazar», CHARPIN, D., DURAND, J.-M., (Eds.), *Recueil d'études à la mémoire d'André Parrot (Florilegium Marianum = Mémoires de N.A.B.U. 7)*, Paris, 545-546.
- TUNCA, Ö., MOLIST, M., (Eds.), avec la collaboration de CRUELLES, W., 2003 : Tell Amarna (Syrie) I. La période de Halaf (*Mémoires de l'APHAO* 3), Liège.
- TUNCA, Ö., BAGDO, A.M., (in print) : «Chagar Bazar. Rapport préliminaire sur la 2e campagne de fouille (2000). Chantiers D E H I K», *Chroniques archéologiques de Syrie* 2000.

TUNCA, Ö., BAGDO, A.M., (in print) : «Chagar Bazar. Rapport sur la 3e campagne de fouille (2001). Chantiers F H I», Chroniques archéologiques de Syrie 2001.

KUleuven

GODDEERIS, A., 2002 : Economy and Society in Northern Babylonia in the Early Old Babylonian Period, *Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta* 109, Leuven.

al MAQDISSI, M., VAN LERBERGHE, K., 2002 : Tell Tweini. Quatre campagnes de fouilles Syro-Belges (1999-2002), Lattakia.

BROEKMANS, T., ADRIAENS, A., VAN LERBERGHE, K., 2002 : «Nabada Potters : Masters in Clay Preparation or Just Plain Clay Importers ?», *Modern Trends in Scientific Studies on Ancient Ceramics*, Athens 1999, BAR International Series 1011, 343-349.

DEBRUYNE, M., 2002 : «Tell Beydar : Architecture on the Acropolis, Burial Customs in the Third Millennium and Environmental Research», *Proceedings of the first ICAANE at Rome 1998*, Roma.

GODDEERIS, A., 2002 : «An adoption document from the Kisurra collection in the British Museum», C. WUNSCH, C. (Ed.), *Mining the Archives*, Festschrift Chr. Walker (= *Babylonische Archive I*), Dresden, 93-98.

VAN LERBERGHE, K., HAIDAR, J., 2002 : «Gibala 2000-2001», *Chronique Archéologique en Syrie* 3, 40-44.

VANSTEENHUYSE, K.I., al MAQDISSI, M., VAN LERBERGHE, K., 2002 : «Bronze and Iron Age Ceramics from Tell Tweini (Syria) : Some Preliminary Results», *Orient Express*, Paris, 39-44.

BOIY T., (in print) : «Gabalala. Jebleh during the Hellenistic and Roman Periods», *Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica* 31.

BOIY T., (in preparation) : «RIAA2 293 300. Hellenistic Legal Documents from Uruk in the "Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis" Brussels», *Akkadica*.

BROEKMANS, T., ADRIAENS, A.M., (in print) : «New Insights into North Mesopotamian 'Metallic Ware'», *Archaeometry*.

DEBRUYNE, M., VANDER STEDE, V., (in print) : «Canals and Drains. Sewers in the Palatial Complex at Beydar», *Proceedings of the 2e ICAANE at Copenhagen 2000*.

DE RYCK, I., ADRIAENS, A., DEBRUYNE, M., ADAMS, F., (in print) : «Microanalytical characterization of Ancient Syrian Bronze artefacts originating from Tell Beydar», *Archaeological Science 2001*, *Proceedings of New directions in Archaeological Science*, 29 august 01 september 2001, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

VANSTEENHUYSE, K.I., VAN LERBERGHE, K., al MAQDISSI, M., (in print) : «Ceramics and Settlement Pattern at Tell Tweini. First Results», *Orient Express*, 2002.

2. Co-publications of the Network-Partners

(RUG - ULg)

DE MEYER, L., PONS, N., 2002 : «Proposition sur les destructions de Mari à l'époque d'Agadé», *Akkadica* 123, 131-135.

(RUG - University of Chicago)

GASCHE, H., TANRET, M., COLE, S.W., VERHOEVEN, K., 2002 : «Fleuves du temps et de la vie. Permanence et instabilité du réseau fluvial babylonien entre 2500 et 1500 avant

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notre ère» in BRIANT, P. (éd.), Politique et contrôle de l'eau dans le Moyen-Orient ancien.
Dossier publié dans annales. Histoire, Sciences sociales 57/3, 531-544.