THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT ON THE NEAR EAST

FOURTH QUARTER, 1939

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EGYPT

(Edfu). L’Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale and University of Warsaw

On the 1939 season, previously reported, see Chronique d’Égypte, No. 28 (July, 1939), pp. 267 f., and CR, July–August, 1939, pp. 374–80.

Hermopolis (Tuneh el-Gebel). Egyptian University

For a brief indication of the nature of the demotic papyrus dealing with relations between landowners and tenants discovered in 1938 (AJSL, LVI, No. 2 [April, 1939], 163) see Chronique d’Égypte, No. 28 (July, 1939), pp. 278 f.

Libyan Desert

R. F. Peel, “Rock-Paintings from the Libyan Desert (An Appendix to Dr. H. A. Winkler’s Rock-Drawings of Southern Upper Egypt II).” Antiquity, XIII, No. 52 (December, 1939), 389–402. These paintings were found in 1938 at Gilf Kebir.

(Madamūd). L’Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale

On the 1939 season as reported in AJSL, LVI, No. 4 (October, 1939), 425, see also CR, July–August, 1939, pp. 370–74, and Chronique d’Égypte, No. 28 (July, 1939), pp. 265–67.

(Sakkarah). Department of Antiquities

The communiqué on Emery’s discovery of a First Dynasty tomb (of Zer?) from which the report in AJSL, LVI, No. 4 (October, 1939), 426 f., was taken appears in full in Chronique d’Égypte, No. 28 (July, 1939), pp. 263–65.

Tanis (Ṣan el-Ḥagar). La Mission Française de Tanis

The discovery of the intact tomb of Psusennes I of the Twenty-first Dynasty has just been announced by Pierre Montet. The comparatively small chamber contained a huge pink granite sarcophagus within which was a mumiform black granite sarcophagus. Innermost was a silver mumiform coffin in the likeness of the king. The coffin and the silver covering of the mummy bore religious inscriptions. The body was very largely decomposed. On the right arm were ten gold bracelets and on the left were eleven, all bearing inscriptions from which it has already been learned that Psusennes’ mother was Queen Mutnezmet and that he had two uncles, Pi-an-kh-sh and
Paynozem. Numerous necklaces were found, mainly of gold chain or wire strung with scarabs. The mummy bore gold finger and toe stalls, and the chest was covered with large inscribed gold ornaments.

*New York Times*, February 29, 1940. Presumably this tomb is the one discovered at the end of the 1939 season but left unopened (*AJSL*, LVI, No. 3 [July, 1939], 314).

For further résumés of the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Dynasty discoveries previously reported see *Chronique d'Egypte*, No. 28 (July, 1939), pp. 276 f., and *CR*, May–June, 1939, pp. 237 f. Photographs of the reconstructed Sheshonk coffins appear in *ILN*, January 13, 1940, p. 34.

**Thebes (Deir el-Medîneh). L'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale**

The communiqué on which *AJSL*, LVI, No. 4 (October, 1939), 427 f., was based is published in full in *Chronique d'Egypte*, No. 28 (July, 1939), pp. 268–70. For more detail see *Chronique d'Egypte*, No. 28 (July, 1939), pp. 271–76.

**Thebes (Sheikh 'Abd el-Qurna). Metropolitan Museum of Art**

N. de G. Davies, “Research in the Theban Necropolis: 1938–1939,” *BMMA*, XXXIV, No. 12 (December, 1939), 280–84. This is a study of the reliefs in the tomb of Dow-er-en-heh, an official of Hataheput.

**Tuphium (Tôd). L'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale**

Pendant la saison 1939, le dromos [du temple de Montou] a été trouvé. Une portion a été dégagée. Un texte de Ptolémée IV fut la principale trouvaille. C'est un hymne contre les ennemis de Ra. Ils y sont déclarés également les ennemis de Montou et les ennemis du Roi ainsi que de son épouse la Reine Arsinoé III.

Les inscriptions relatives à Montou seront réunies prochainement dans le *Bulletin I.F.A.O*. Ce dieu fut astral dans les textes des Pyramides. A la XIe dynastie, il fut dieu suprême, patron de Thébaïde. Il est représenté sous forme hiéracocéphale et manifesté en taureau sacré vivant. C'est un principe de vie, auquel lui fut ajouté un principe guerrier au Nouvel Empire, tout d'abord dans des thèmes artistiques et littéraires, lorsque la primauté thébaine passa à Amon. Lorsqu'à la décadence thébaine et mononienne, le culte de Montou reprit l'importance qu'il avait au Moyen Empire, son rôle de dieu combattant fut maintenu et se mélanga, contre toute logique, à son véritable et primitif rôle de dieu générateur.


**(Wâdî Umm Sidrah)**

G. W. Murray, “*An Archaic Hut in Wâdî Umm Sidrah,*” *JEA*, XXV, Part I (June, 1939), 38 f. This early dynastic hut containing potsherds, ashes, and bone fragments was found in February, 1938, during the surveying of the Roman porphyry quarries at Gebel ed-Dukhân.

**ARABIA**

**(Hadhramaut). Lord Wakefield Expedition**

PALESTINE

Beth She'arim (Sheikh Abreiq). Jewish Palestine Exploration Society

For a continuation of the article referred to in AJSL, LVI, No. 4 (October, 1939), 428, see M. Schwabe, "A Graeco-Jewish Epigram from Beth She'arim (Cont.)," BJPES, VI, No. 4 (July–September, 1939), 159–77.

Jerusalem, Department of Antiquities

For an inscription in large floral Kufic writing found on the Aqsa mosque see S. A. S. Hussein, "Inscription of the Khalif El-Mustanṣir Billâh 458 A.H. (=A.D. 1065)," QDAP, IX, No. 1 (1939), 77–80 (illus.).

Lachish (Tell ed-Duweir). Wellcome-Marston Archaeological Research Expedition to the Near East

For the third article by L. H. Vincent reviewing the excavations, in which he speaks of the Hebrew occupation of Lachish occurring ca. 1250–1230 B.C., see RB, October, 1939, pp. 563–83. J. W. Jack, in the Expository Times, December, 1939, pp. 118 f., comments on the fact that the bones found in connection with the temple of ca. 1550 B.C. were the right forelegs of young animals, suggesting a Canaanite origin for the ritual of Lev. 7:32–34. See also Sir Arthur Keith, "The Men of Lachish," PEQ, January, 1940, pp. 7–12. A. Jirku, in ZAW, XVI, Heft 1/2 (1939), 152 f., thinks the site of Lachish may have been Tell el-Hasi, which is only 5 kilometers from Umm Lakis.

Megiddo (Tell el-Mutesellim). Oriental Institute, University of Chicago


Samaria


Tell Kurđâne

B. Maisler, "Tell Kurđâne (Aphek?) in the Plain of Acre," BJPES, VI, No. 4 (July–September, 1939), 151–58.

TRANSJORDAN

Survey of Eastern Palestine. American Schools of Oriental Research

During the past season the archeological survey of Transjordan was continued. One hundred new sites in South Gilead were visited, completing the survey from the Wadi Zerqa to the Gulf of Aqabah.


Ezion-Geber (Tell el-Kheleifeh). American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem


(Kilwah)

Marwa. Department of Antiquities

For a full discussion of a tomb and its painting and inscription, excavated by C. C. McCown in 1935 at Irbid, near Marwa, and now dated by him as belonging to the third or possibly the last quarter of the second century, see C. C. McCown, "A Painted Tomb at Marwa," *QDAF*, IX, No. 1 (1939), 1–30 (illus.).

(Teleilât Ghassûl). Pontifical Biblical Institute


SYRIA

For a report on Sir Aurel Stein's systematic survey of the ancient routes and ruins and of the eastern times of the Roman Empire, from the Euphrates to the valley of the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqabah, see *CR*, May–June, 1939, pp. 262–68.

Syrian Coast. Oriental Institute, University of Chicago


Antioch. Worcester Art Museum and Princeton University Expedition

Investigations have continued in the market place and shops. A near-by bath, two docks jutting out from the old harbor wall, the foundations of a Doric temple, and a fifth-century church were also examined.


Djebel Seis

In October, 1938, the Umayyad ruins at this site in the desert 100 kilometers southeast of Damascus was examined in detail by J. Sauvaget and H. Laoust. It was found to be a fortified position with an irrigation system depending on the winter rains. The castle may have been built by Al-Walid b. al-Malik, who, as caliph from 705 to 715, built the great mosque of Damascus.


Hamath (Hama). Ny Carlsberg Expedition

See *AJSL*, LV, No. 3 (July, 1938), 328; and *Revue archéologique syrienne*, V, No. 2 (1938), 66 f.

Mari (Tell el-Ḥarîrî). Mission Archéologique de Mari

For a note on the tablets found at Mari, especially with reference to their mention of the Benê-la-mi-na people north of Mari, see J. W. Jack, *Expository Times*, December, 1939, p. 119.

Palmyra

Henri Seyrig suggests that the striking similarity between the bronze Parthian statue found at Shami (*AJSL*, LVI, No. 1 [January, 1939], 110) and Palmyrene statuary is to be explained on the ground that the Palmyrenes imported their statues from Mesopotamia.

See *Syria*, XX, Fasc. 3 (1939), 177–83.

(Qaṣr el-Ḥeir el-Gharibi). Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres and Government of Syria

This site, dating from Roman and Palmyrene days, has been completely investigated. It consists of a barrage 9 miles away in the mountains, and in
the plain a castle and bath from the Umayyad period, a khan, a garden, and works for the collection and distribution of water, with an irrigation canal leading from the barrage.


**Ugarit** (Ras Shamra). *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*


**CYPRUS**

**Curium** (Kourion). *University Museum, University of Pennsylvania*

Excavations have been continued on the Bamboula. Many private dwellings from the fourteenth century have been found, built in blocks with common walls and usually having about six rooms. They were of sun-baked brick on a rubble foundation. Earlier levels were much disturbed, and only one sixteenth-century house was found. An extensive cemetery north of the acropolis was also excavated. The pottery of this period is said to be of very high quality, showing that Kourion was an important cultural center of the sixteenth and fifteenth centuries.

See *UMB*, VIII, No. 1 (January, 1940), 3–14 (illus.); also *AJSL*, LVI, No. 4 (October, 1939), 434.

(Vounous). *British School of Archaeology at Athens*


**TURKEY**

**Prehistoric Survey. American School of Prehistoric Research**


**Ankara**

Kurt Leuchs reports the finding of a Chellean fist-hatchet near the village of Ludumlu, 12 kilometers southwest of Ankara.

_Forschungen und Fortschritte*, XV, No. 31 (1939), 380.

**Arslan Tepe (Malatya). Institut Turque Archéologique Français de Stamboul and Société des Etudes Hittites**

See previous *AJSL* reports. See also Şevket Aziz Kansu, "Etude anthropologique d'ossements d'Arslantepê (Malatya)," and Louis Delaporte, "Tête de statue colossale provenant d'Arslantepê (Malatya)," *Revue hittite et asiatique*, V, Fasc. 35–36 (April–July, 1939), 77–86.
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Tarsus (Gözlü Kule). Bryn Mawr College, Archaeological Institute of America, and Fogg Museum of Harvard University


(Tell Achanā). British Museum

See previous AJSL report for 1939 excavations. Sir Leonard Woolley has two articles on the past season’s work with numerous illustrations in ILN, December 2, 1939, pp. 833–35, and ibid., December 9, 1939, pp. 867–69.

IRAQ

Seleucia (Tell ʿUmar)


Uruk (Warka). Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

See previous AJSL report for the last season’s work. See also Heinz Lenzen, “Eln Marmorkopf der Dschemdet Nasr-Zeit aus Uruk,” Zeitschrift für Assyriologie (N.F.), XI (XLV), Heft 2/3 (September, 1939), 85–87.

IRAN

Persepolis (Takht-i-Jamšīd). Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; University Museum, Philadelphia; Mrs. William Boyce Thompson Foundation; and Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

The Persepolis Expedition concluded its work in November, 1939, and returned the magnificent site and the Expedition quarters, the restored harem of Xerxes, to the Iranian authorities.

During the final season we excavated the southern part of the apadana of Darius and Xerxes and determined the plan of this important structure. An unexpected feature was a portico outside the southern inclosure of the apadana. Small double-bull capitals carried the roof of the portico. Several fragmentary animal sculptures in the round occurred in the southern section of the apadana. The majority of the rooms in this part of the audience hall have the appearance of storerooms.

The southwestern corner of the Persepolis terrace was also cleared. It proved to be occupied by a wing of Xerxes’ harem; but its rooms were filled with debris that had fallen from the residential palace of Xerxes, once towering above this section of the harem. There were many inscribed tori of Xerxes’ palace, designating the latter as “Tachara,” while it is called “Hadish” on the entrance stelae to the north.

In addition, many local architectural problems were solved by soundings all over the terrace. The weathered columns of the apadana were repaired with reinforced cement, and a part of the mud-brick walls of the treasury were cut to a preservable height and covered with a layer of mud plaster.

The find of the season was made at Naqsh-i-Rustam. Here in front of the royal Achaemenian tombs, near the base of the “Ka‘aba-i-Zardusht,” we found two more versions of a trilingual inscription of Shapur I, in Greek and
Parthian Pahlavi. The Sasanian version had been found three years ago. There was also a fourth inscription of the "Karter," high priest of Shapur, who served also under the successors of this king.

The complete excavation of the "Ka'aba of Zoroaster" revealed the beauty of this structure. Nobody ever suspected that it rises on a foundation of three terraces, of the same cream-colored marble as the main building. In appearance the "Ka'aba" now recalls the tomb of Cyrus at Pasargadæ.

Under considerable difficulties the Expedition transported its records to America and is now ready to prepare the final publications on its various activities in Iran.

Report by Erich F. Schmidt, Field Director of the Expedition. For a discussion of the materials recovered in earlier seasons from the prehistoric mounds at Tul-i-Bakun, near Persepolis, see D. E. McCown, "Village Artists of Prehistoric Iran," *Asia*, February, 1940, pp. 104–9.

(Siyalk). *Louve* and *Ministère de l'Education Nationale*  

*Susa. Délégation Archéologique Française*  

**INDIA**


**U.S.S.R.**

(Uzbek S.S.R.)

During 1939 the Uzbekistan Committee for the Study of Monuments of Material Culture (UZKOMSTARIS) organized six expeditions.

The Baisun Expedition completed excavation of Teshik-Tash cave, where the Neanderthal child was found associated with a Mousterian culture (see *AJA*, XLIII, No. 2 [1939], 331 f.). The upper platform yielded numerous animal bones, including those of a large carnivore not found previously at this site. Stone implements included scrapers, points, laminae, and discoidal nuclei. Of particular interest is a point retouched on the lower surface, closely related to those from Mousterian deposits in Palestine.

A second cave, near by, known as Amir Temir, yielded a cultural deposit similar to that of Teshik-Tash. From the stratigraphy and the character of the stone inventory it appeared that Amir Temir cave served both as a temporary refuge and as a place where raw materials for the manufacture of stone implements were obtained.

Several other near-by caves contained implements of more recent periods than those from Teshik-Tash. A series of quarry-like caves yielded numerous bones of animals, including carnivora, and human remains.
The Bokhara Expedition continued excavations begun during 1937 and 1938 in the sandy Kyzyl-Kum desert in the northwestern portion of the Bokhara oasis. During 1939 work was concentrated on a palace (fifth to seventh centuries A.D.) at Varakhsh, 35 kilometers northeast of Bokhara. The collection of stucco ornamental work, obtained by previous excavations and consisting of geometric and floral ornaments and reproductions in high relief of individuals, trees, birds, and fish, was supplemented by new stucco motifs and wall paintings. The latter were relatively well preserved, but the human faces and sometimes the bodies had been destroyed in ancient times, apparently by intent.

The painted wall of the Varakhsh palace was separated into two sections by a small, horizontal cornice. Although the upper portions were destroyed, it was possible to identify a horse, a tiger, a spotted deer, and a panther. On the lower part of the wall were depicted hunters, armed with bows and arrows and spears, riding on elephants, and fighting with lions, tigers, and fantastic winged animals. Each hunter was dressed in short trousers and a cape disclosing a nude torso.

One particularly impressive group portrayed a hunter armed with a long spear being attacked by an open-mouthed lion. One large figure dominating the entire composition had been almost entirely defaced. The preserved element included an arm and hand holding a spear. The arm was decorated by two bracelets, and a long scarf hung over it.

The Fergana Expedition continued exploration along the Sokh River from Sary Kurgan village to Palil, from Sokh to Okhna, and along the Shakhimardan River from Jordan to Vuadil, within the boundaries of Uzbekistan and Kirghizia. The expedition located four gorodische’s, where sherds of thin-walled, red engobe pottery and of late glazed ware were found on the surface. On the basis of these finds it was thought that the gorodische’s existed from the last centuries B.C. to the sixteenth or seventeenth century A.D. Six groups of tumuli represented two structural types; all, however, were constructed of local soil and encircled by boulders.

Two groups of petroglyphs were discovered. One, portraying bulls, was unusually realistic and was thought to belong to a very early period. The other, attributed to a relatively recent period, included horsemen with spears, a chariot, and mountain goats.

Five fortresses studied by the expedition were built of pisé brick. All had embrasures. These buildings belonged to the period of the Kokand Khanate.

Four groups of ancient mines and their adjacent smelting areas were located. Pottery remains indicated that the mines were worked between the tenth and twelfth centuries A.D.

The Samarkand Expedition explored the territory between Samarkand and Shakhrisab. A Stone Age site was excavated in Samarkand. The cultural strata contained several fireplaces with accumulations of animal bones, main-
ly those of horses and camels, and flakes, laminae, nuclei, and other stone implements. Upon preliminary examination this site was attributed to the end of the Paleolithic or the Mesolithic period.

Many groups of tumuli, various types of gorodishche's, and the remains of later settlements were recorded in the Kainarbulak and the Kara Tepe region. At several points in the river terraces, stone implements and animal bones were found. Eighteen caves and rock shelters were investigated in the Kainarbulak region, and geological sections and maps were prepared.

An expedition to supervise the construction of earthworks in connection with the digging of the Great Fergana Canal consisted of six archeologists and twenty-three collectors. The canal, 270 kilometers in length, traverses the southern plains of the Fergana region, which was as thickly populated in ancient times as it is today. The cultural stratum of some of the sections extended to 10 kilometers in length. The northeastern part of the canal was found to be particularly rich in archeological monuments. At some of the sections the ancient cultural strata and burials were found below the present water table. Many gorodishche's, selische's (unfortified settlements), and burials were found. Specimens of Greco-Indian minting, Bukhar Khudat coins, and many hitherto unknown types of coins were found. Several ancient industrial complexes were disclosed; of particular interest was a potter's shop and kiln attributed to the first centuries of our era. Remains of metal-working and accumulations of slag were found in feudal gorodishche's of the ninth to twelfth centuries. The oldest gorodishche's yielded coarse, thick-walled, handmade pottery and querns and pestles. The later complexes contained thin-walled, finely manufactured, wheelmade pottery and engobe ware, sometimes decorated with a scratched ornament of fir trees, roosters, or pheasants and sometimes polished. The majority of the inventory belonged to pre-Arabic periods, but some glazed pottery and other objects of the Middle Ages were found. Among isolated finds of particular interest were a large three-legged bronze cauldron of Scythian type, 0.64 meter in diameter and 0.56 meter in height; clay pot covers with handles in the form of animal heads; a clay, duck-shaped, washtub with a spout, to hang on the wall; fragments of bronze knives; and many large storage vessels (khuma), some being 1.5 meters in height.

Human skeletal material found here may determine the physical type or types of the ancient inhabitants of Fergana.

The Khorezm Expedition is still continuing field explorations (see Ars Islamica, V, Part II [1938], 233–71, and ibid., Vol VI, Part II).

Report by Henry Field, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, and Eugene Prostov, Iowa State College Library, Ames, Iowa. The information was received in Russian and translated by Eugene Prostov. The notes were sent to the Field Museum through VOKS by the director, Uzbekistanski Komitet po Okhrane I Izucheniju Pam'ятnikov Material'nof Kul'tury (Uzbekistan Committee for the Preservation and Study of Monuments of Material Culture), Tashkent.