24. KAZI SONUÇLARI TOPLANTISI
1. CİLT

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The fifth season of archaeological work at Ziyaret Tepe in the Diyarbakir Province was undertaken in July through September of 2001 (for previous reports see, Matney 1998; Matney and Somers 1999; Matney and Bauer 2000; Matney, Roaf, MacGinnis and McDonald, in press). The 2001 field season at Ziyaret Tepe was co-sponsored by the Universities of Akron, Munich, Cambridge and Helsinki. Timothy Matney (University of Akron) served as the overall project director and the senior field directors were Michael Roaf (University of Munich) and John MacGinnis (McDonald Institute, Cambridge University). Our project this year was funded in part by the American Research Institute in Turkey, the National Science Foundation, the University of Akron, the Wainwright Fund of Oxford, the British Institute of Archaeology in Iraq and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. We would like to acknowledge the assistance of Nacdet Inal, director of the Diyarbakir Museum and his archaeological assistant Nevin Soyukaya. Numan Tuna and Jale Velibeyoglu of TAÇDAM also provided logistic support for the archaeological projects in the Ilisu Dam Salvage Area and we are indebted to them for this help. Our government representative was Yaşar Yılmaz from the Konya Museum.

Project Overview and Objectives

Ziyaret Tepe is a large multi-period mounded site located on the south bank of the Tigris River twenty kilometers west of the confluence of the Tigris and Batman Rivers in the Diyarbakir Province (Fig. 1). Ziyaret Tepe is one of the largest ancient sites in the Upper Tigris river valley and has a long occupational sequence spanning the late Neolithic through the late Assyrian periods, with some Roman and Islamic materials found over limited portions of the site (Matney 1998). Historical documentation and settlement surveys attest to the importance of Ziyaret Tepe (Algaze et al. 1991). The topography of Ziyaret Tepe consists of two basic morphological units: a High Mound and a surrounding Lower Town (Fig. 2). The High Mound is located at the northern edge of the site and rises twenty-two meters above the surrounding agricultural fields and is approximately three hectares in extent. The High Mound is cut by a deep ravine on its northern edge, marking the location of a city gateway. Surrounding the High Mound is an extensive Lower Town, spreading out for thirty hectares to the west, south and east. The Lower Town is mostly flat agricultural fields broken by a deep wadi on the...
west and a small rise on the east, both denoting the limits of the ancient city during its urban maximum in the Late Assyrian period.

A complete surface survey in 1997 and a deep stratigraphic step trench (Operation E) cut on the eastern edge of the High Mound in 2000 and 2001 have revealed a nearly continuous occupational sequence. From surface survey, we have evidence of late Neolithic or early Chalcolithic sherds at the bottom of the High Mound. Subsequently there was a small Early Bronze Age mound, now deeply buried, in the eastern sector of the Lower Town excavated in 2000 in Operation D (Matney, Roaf, MacGinnis and McDonald, in press). The sequence in Operation E, described briefly below, shows nearly continuous occupation from the late third millennium B.C. through the mid-1st millennium B.C., including early 2nd millennium B.C., Mittani, Middle Assyrian, indigenous Early Iron Age and Late Assyrian periods. Sporadic Roman remains were found in the Lower Town during the 1997 survey, including Roman roof tiles and strap handles. Finally, extensive pitting from the later periods on the High Mound have significantly disturbed the earlier architectural remains. During this long sequence, Ziyaret Tepe was either a small village or a merely a few scattered homesteads except during a brief urban expansion under the Assyrians in the Late Bronze and Iron Ages. Excavation in the Lower Town in Operation D (2000) and Operation G (2001) confirmed the existence of large public and private buildings dating to the Late Assyrian period, when the site occupied its full thirty-two hectares. This observation is strengthened by the results of subsurface geophysical survey in 1998 and 1999 (Matney and Bauer 2000; Matney and Somers 1999). Historical documents, extensively reviewed elsewhere (see Grayson 1991; Karg 1999; Lanfranchi and Parpola 1990; Parker 1998; Parpola 1987; Radner and Schachner 2000), suggest that this Late Assyrian urban occupation was built upon earlier foundations established by the Middle Assyrian kings. In particular, Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 B.C.) notes how in 882 B.C. he rebuilt the city wall at Ziyaret Tepe originally constructed by his predecessor Shalmaneser I (1263-1234 B.C.), erected a palace, placed a statue of himself in the city, resettled Assyrian citizens in Tushhan and received tribute there from nearby rulers (Grayson 1991; Karg 1999). In this context, Ziyaret Tepe served as a regional capital during the late Assyrian period marking the northern border of the empire along the Tigris River.

The goals of the 2001 field season are part of the long-term objectives of the Ziyaret Tepe archaeological project. As noted in earlier publications, these goals are: (1) to record the basic occupational and ceramic sequence for the Upper Tigris River Valley; (2) to study city planning during the city's urban phase during the Middle and Late Assyrian periods; (3) to assess the environmental impact of the Assyrian urbanization process; (4) to document the nature of relations between the imperial Assyrian forces and the indigenous Anatolian populations of the Late Bronze and Iron Ages.

**Excavations in the 2001 Field Season**

Excavation in 2001 was conducted in five areas of Ziyaret Tepe (Operations A, E, F, G and I). Two of these were minor soundings (Operations F and I) which are still awaiting preliminary analysis and will not be discussed further here. Two of the principal soundings (Operations A and E) are located on the High Mound; the third (Operation D) is located in the southern sector of the Lower Town. The results of excavations in each of these three operations will be discussed briefly below.

**Operation A**

Operation A is located at the eastern edge of the High Mound. Here a total area of 450 m² of a Late Assyrian public building has been excavated. The architecture is poorly preserved due to extensive later pitting and site erosion making the architectural sequence of walls, floors and associated deposits difficult to reconstruct. Overall stratigraphy suggests that entire area was leveled in the Late Assyrian period in pre-
paration for the construction of a huge mudbrick platform which has been reached in places across the entire operation (Phase A). Subsequently, a large public building was built on top of the mudbrick platform and represents the principal Late Assyrian occupation of Operation A (Phase B). During the latest phase of the building's life, the southern half of Operation A was covered by an extensive baked brick pavement (Phase C). This pavement sealed a number of important, possibly ritual, deposits dating to the end of Phase B. After the Phase C building fell out of use, the area of Operation A appears to have been utilized sporadically, seen principally in post-Assyrian burials and pits cut into the earlier building (Phase D). In this brief report, I will limit discussion to the main Phase B building in Operation A.

The Phase B building itself is not well preserved due to extensive later pitting and erosion. The basic plan of the building recovered thus far in its early phase consists of a courtyard or open space surrounded on at least two sides by a series of flanking rooms (Fig. 3). There were two floor levels associated with the early phase plan and some floors were plastered or made of small pebbles. Similarly traces of white wall plaster survived on the lowest brick courses in the building, although very little remained intact. Clear doorways are not preserved and the floors, in many cases, are badly disturbed across the excavated area. As a result, this occupational phase of the building has provided very little in terms of well stratified ceramics although those found in primary context are consistent with a date in the Late Iron Age on stylistic grounds.

The most notable feature of the Phase B occupation recovered thus far was a pebbled courtyard (A-0517 and A-0249) containing two unusual deposits associated with the end of this occupational phase. The first of these deposits was a group of large stones arranged in a rough square (A-0251) forming a sort of box. The stones were laid on top of the pebbled courtyard (A-0249) and were sealed by the baked brick pavement of Phase C. Inside the stone box were a collection of disarticulated animal bones, mostly goat and sheep and fragments of a highly polished painted pottery vessel (ZT 6851) not otherwise attested at Ziyaret Tepe. This vessel is most likely imported having parallels with the eastern Mediterranean, perhaps Cyprus, as the painted concentric circles or 'targets' found on the polychrome sherds occur on Cypriot pottery vessels. The presence of this exotic ware in a small sealed feature suggested to us that it may have been part of a votive deposit placed at the time the pebbled courtyard was sealed by the baked brick pavement. Also sealed by the later pavement were two rectangular features (A-0242 and A-0252) with semicircular depressions on either end. Each is 3.70 m. long and between 1.00 m. and 1.20 m. wide and are preserved to a depth of about 0.60 m. (Fig. 4). They were cut through the floor of the Phase B building and into the underlying mudbrick platform. Their walls were plastered, burnt and the lower parts of both features were filled with ash and slag, probably derived from copper-bronze working, suggesting that they were kilns or metal-working facilities. In addition to copious amounts of slag, a significant number of metal objects and fragments were recovered, including the remains of thirteen complete (although damaged) bronze vessels, three bronze rings bound with wire (possibly handles), fragments of finely carved burnt ivory, broken Fine Ware pottery vessels and two stone vessels, one intact and one in fragments. It is tempting to posit that these objects, like those from A-0251 were part of a votive offering associated with the construction of the baked brick pavement. The exceptionally fine pottery is very similar to Late Assyrian pottery from Nimrud (see Matney, Roaf, MacGinnis and McDonald, in press).

Within the limited area excavated thus far, it is not possible to determine with any certainty the function of the Assyrian public building. Its size, the thickness of its walls and the extensive baked brick pavement testify to its importance, as does its location at the eastern edge of the acropolis overlooking the extensive lower town. To date, we have no evidence for a destruction layer in the building and the paucity of in situ finds argues for a gradual abandonment.
**Operation E**

Excavations on the high mound along the eastern edge of the tell in Operation E directed by Michael Roaf have produced the best stratigraphic sequence from Ziyaret Tepe, revealing a succession of occupation layers from the Middle Bronze Age (c. 2000 B.C.) to the Late Assyrian period (c. 700 B.C.). Although there are some gaps in the sequence, these do not appear to have been of long duration. Operation E consists of a 5 m.-wide step trench running from the top of the mound to a point approximately one-third of the way down the slope of the tell, a horizontal distance of nearly 25 m. In order to facilitate the description of the excavation, the sequence has been divided into six steps numbered from the top (1 being the latest; 6 being the earliest). These steps are the result of how the trench was excavated and, although roughly in chronological order, do not represent significant stages in the settlement history at Ziyaret Tepe (Fig. 5).

The earliest levels (Step 6) excavated so far are represented by a series of external surfaces. The dating of these layers is difficult as only a small area has been excavated and not many sherds were recovered, but the presence of a number of Dark-Rimmed Orange Ware Bowls suggests a date towards the end of the third millennium B.C. (or later if these are residual sherds), since this type of pottery is dated to the latter centuries of the third millennium B.C. at Tel Brak. In Step 6 we found the remains of a single period building, which was destroyed in a fire of exceptional vehemence that turned the collapsed roof debris into a kaleidoscope of bright reds, yellows, and oranges. The small part of the Brightly Burned Building that has so far been excavated includes a mud-brick wall built on a foundation of river cobbles (E-079 and E-080) and part of a paved street or alley (E-311) running alongside the wall. On the west side of the wall parts of two rooms have been excavated; the northern one is quite narrow (c. 1.1 m. wide) while the southern is more than 2.5 m. wide. Both rooms were filled with extremely highly fired debris. Much of this debris is derived from the burnt roof of the building and impressions of timber beams were preserved in baked plaster from the roof. Unusually, large potsherds were incorporated into the upper layer of the roof plaster. Amongst the debris were also several complete pots and the remains of large heavily straw tempered clay containers probably originally unbaked or lightly fired which were subsequently baked in the fire. These vessels may have been stored on the roof and collapsed into the room. The date of the Brightly Burned Building cannot yet be firmly established. It is clearly later than the lower lying levels containing late third millennium B.C. ceramics and earlier than the layers above which contain pottery which has parallels with Mittani period assemblages in Syria and northern Iraq. A date in the first half of the second millennium would seem to be most likely. Before we can be more precise about the date we need a larger sample of pottery, but we may note that in this building sherds of Red-Brown Wash Ware were identified. Some of those excavating in the Ilisu Dam area consider it to be diagnostic of the first half of the second millennium B.C. (Matney, Roaf, MacGinnis and McDonald, in press).

Steps 4 and 3 consist of a series of surfaces, walls and features possibly dating to the Mittani period. A Nuzi Ware sherd came from these layers and amongst the pottery were other typical Mittani types (e.g., tall carinated beakers), but the ceramic sample is small and largely consists of redeposited sherds and so this dating must be considered provisional. This sequence has been discussed elsewhere in detail and will not be repeated here (see Roaf in Matney, Roaf, MacGinnis and McDonald, in press). The overall interpretation of the deposits is that they represent a series of small buildings, possibly houses, or external surfaces with mudbrick architecture and pebble, or pebble-and-sherd, surfaces. Step 2 is marked by a pebble surface, which sloped down from east to west, ran over the top of the fill layers which had accumulated after the abandonment of the previous architecture. In the side of a large later pit (E-032), it could be seen that this pebble surface ran up to a mudbrick wall still standing five courses high. After this wall had fallen out of use, it was covered by a layer of ash and two
mudbrick walls (E-025 and E-026) were built on top of this ash layer forming the corner of a room. Dug into the corner of this room was a child's grave (E-030). This was much disturbed by being used later as an animal lair, but as well as fragmentary human bones it contained part of a fine brown conical beaker which might be of Middle Assyrian date. It is not clear whether this grave should be associated with the use of this building or was dug after the building had fallen out of use.

Step 1 was excavated in two separate 5 m. by 5 m. squares. There is no obvious hiatus between Steps 1 and 2, although no direct stratigraphic link has yet been established between them. One of the most prominent features in Step 1 was a pit (E-032) cutting the earlier occupation layers revealed in Step 2. The base and lower part of this pit were marked by a white surface resulting from the decay of chaff or straw. The pit was round, approximately 3 m. in diameter, probably used for the storage of grain, filled with bricky patches and ashy lenses. The surface from which this pit was dug has not survived. The pit is now approximately 2 m. deep. The pottery from Pit E-032 included much East Anatolian Early Iron Age pottery. Particularly diagnostic were bowls and hole-mouth jars with corrugated, grooved or ribbed rims. The pottery from the pit forms a largely coherent and consistent assemblage and is described in detail elsewhere (Roaf in Matney, Roaf, MacGinnis and McDonald, in press). Similar ceramic assemblages suggest a date between the 11th and 9th centuries B.C. for the deposit (Blaylock 1999; Müller and Bartl 2001).

Of particular interest are two structures found in the western portion of the Operation E sounding. The earlier structure is evidenced by a series of deep foundation trenches into which walls of unplastered mud-brick were inserted. The surviving portions represent the remains of the walls below floor level. The plan of the building consists of a north-south wall (numbered E-013 and E-237) with two cross walls running east-west. The cross wall to the north (E-23B) has been exposed for a distance of 1.20 m. while that to the south (E-208) extends a distance of 4.60 m. as far as the west edge of the excavated area, forming a room over 3 m. wide. The thickness of the walls and the depth of the foundations indicate that this was a substantial building. At the moment the dating of this building is uncertain as no pottery that can be firmly associated with it has yet been excavated. It is early Middle Assyrian or later and it is cut by the pit in which Walls E-011, E-012, E-204, and E-239 were inserted, which is dated by the sherds found in it to the Late Assyrian period. It is possible that it should date to the Middle Assyrian period. Less likely it might belong to the period (c. 1050-900 B.C.) when the Assyrians no longer controlled this region (Roaf and Schachner in press). The pottery found in the nearby Pit E-032 dates to this period, but the character of the building is not what might be expected to have been built in this period. The third possibility is that it was constructed early in the Late Assyrian occupation of the site.

The latest construction in Operation E was another pit, this time roughly rectangular in outline, which cut through the upper part of Pit E-032 as well as the foundation wall E-237. The sides of this pit were lined with mudbrick walls, those on the south and west one brick thick while those on the north and east only a half brick wide with the rough cut edges of the half-bricks set against the edges of the cut. The floor of the structure was covered with whitewash that was also observed on the lower parts of the unplastered surfaces of the walls. The pottery from above the floor contained only a small number of diagnostic sherds, half of which were Middle Assyrian and the rest Late Assyrian in date, so it is probable then that this room was constructed in the Late Assyrian period. The function of the structure is also not certain. It was mostly subterranean and may have been used for storage. Whether it was a free-standing structure or part of a larger building which has been completely eroded away is uncertain as is also the elevation of the floor or surface from which it was dug.

The stratigraphy of Operation E is detailed and complex and covers a period of about 1500 years. Nine separate building levels have been identified to date. In all but one case there is evidence for breaks in occupation between the building levels attes-
ted either by external surfaces overlying the building remains or by levelling operations that have removed later layers.

*Operation G*

Work in Operation G in the lower town in the 2001 season was directed by John MacGinnis. Operation G was located in the Lower Town approximately 180 m. southwest of the High Mound. An area of 400 m² in Operation G was exposed in 2001. At a depth of less than 1.0 m. below the plowzone, excavations came down onto a major residential building with walls 1.5 m. thick, made of large bricks of red clay (Fig. 6). The main entrance to the residence was from a heavy cobbled street (Street 5) through a doorway paved with three large stone slabs (each measuring approximately 1.20 m. by 0.60 m.). The entrance (Room 1) was large, measuring 5.5 m. in depth and a width of at least 22 m. Room 1 gave access to a large mosaic courtyard (Room 2). The mosaic pavement was comprised of alternating squares of black and white river pebbles arranged in a checkerboard pattern (Fig. 7). Most of the squares were of a single color, but with some divided into four triangular parts by diagonal lines with opposing triangles of the same color, and some decorated with rosette patterns (Fig. 8). The entire northern wall of Room 2 was excavated revealing that the room was 12 m. deep. Its width is at least 13.5 m., but the southern wall has not been located, so it may be much larger.

A well-preserved doorway was found in the northern wall of Room 2, near the northwestern corner. This doorway led into another smaller room (Room 3) which, like the entrance room, is exceedingly long and narrow with a width of just 4 m. and a length at least 16 m. with the western edge of the room still not defined. Two additional rooms, parallel to Room 3, and possibly similar in size (Rooms 4 and 6) were also partly excavated in 2001. Room 3 contained the remains of a *pithos* in the center, while Room 4 contained two more *pithoi in situ* in addition to a quernstone and the remains of six other whole pots. The number of large storage vessels and the long, narrow plan of these rooms argues for the possibility that they may represent storage magazines adjacent to a central courtyard within the building.

Although only a small part of this building has been excavated, the presence of a checkerboard patterned mosaic floor indicates that this was an important Late Assyrian building. Such pavements have been uncovered at Tell Ahmar/Til Barsip (Areas C and E), Arslan Tash ("batiment aux ivoires") and Tille Höyük. (Blaylock 1998; Bunnens 1989; 1992; 1997). Although only preliminarily studied, the ceramics found in Operation G did not resemble the other well stratified Late Assyrian deposits at Ziyaret Tepe. The jars and storage jars found broken *in situ* on the floors of the checkerboard building in the outer town are not particularly diagnostic in themselves. While there is nothing in the ceramics of this building precluding a date in the Late Assyrian period, there is nothing that conclusively proves such a date either. At the present time the distinctive checkerboard mosaic floor is the most datable feature of the building.

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Fig. 1: Location of Ziyaret Tepe on the Tigris River in the Diyarbakir Province

Fig. 2: Topographic plan of Ziyaret Tepe showing the location of trenches excavated in 2001
Fig. 3: Plan of the Late Assyrian building (Phase B) in Operation A

Fig. 4: Photograph of Operation A kilns (A-0242 and A-0252)

Fig. 5: Plan of Steps 1-6, Operation E
Fig. 6: Plan of the Late Assyrian building in Operation G

Fig. 7: Photograph of black-and-white mosaic in Operation G

Fig. 8: Drawing of detail of mosaic pebbles in Operation G