



Beste lezer,

We zijn het nieuwe jaar ingestapt met de 6th NINO Annual Meeting in Groningen op 30 januari. Dit jaar had de NINO-dag het thema *Heritage and politics in the Middle East* met onder ander lezingen van Naseem Raad en Daniel Soliman. Het was een geslaagde dag met een indrukwekkende aantal lezingen (alleen al twaalf *lightning* presentaties!) en buitenlandse sprekers uit Turkije, Egypte en Libanon. Gecombineerd met een aansprekende fototentoonstelling over *Archaeology, tourism and cultural diplomacy in the Holy Lands* was dit een uitstekend georganiseerde NINO-dag. Onze dank en felicitaties gaan uit naar het Groninger organisatie-team: Canan Çakırlar, Audrey Crabbé, Bill Figueroa, Lidewijde de Jong, Mayada Madbouly en Karène Sanchez-Summerer. De volgende NINO-dag zal eind januari 2026 in Leiden plaatsvinden.

In maart heeft het NINO weer de slotavond van de Week van de Klassieken medegeorganiseerd. Dit is inmiddels een kleine traditie. Met genoegen hebben we ook dit jaar weer een perspectief vanuit het Oude Nabije Oosten bijgedragen op het thema Recht en rechtvaardigheid. Op 16 maart namen drie sprekers van de Universiteit Leiden ons mee op een reis door Mesopotamië en Egypte. Jan Gerrit Dercksen vertelde over het eerste wetboek ter wereld, de beroemde Codex Hammurabi, Ben Haring gaf inzicht in rechtspraak in het arbeidersdorp Deir el-Medina en Margaretha Folmer combineerde Egyptische en Mesopotamische tradities met een case study

uit Elefantine, waar rechtsteksten uit de Perzische periode – zoals een huwelijkscontract in het Aramees – overgeleverd zijn.

Nu kijken wij uit naar de inauguratie van een nieuwe lezingenreeks, die het NINO in samenwerking met het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden en gefinancierd door een donatie kan realiseren. In aansluiting op de goed lopende Veenhof- en Sancisi-Weerdenburg-lezingen wordt nu met de nieuwe Herta Mohr-lezing een focus op jonge wetenschappers in de Egyptologie gelegd. De eerste editie vindt op 11 april plaats met een lezing van prof. Kathrin Gabler over het graf van Ipoei. De nieuwe reeks herdenkt het overlijden in 1945 van Herta Mohr, een jonge Oostenrijkse Egyptoloog die in Leiden studeerde en vooral door haar publicatie over de grafkapel van Hetepherachty bekend staat.

Wij wensen alle lezers veel plezier bij de aanstaande NINO-activiteiten!

MM

11 April 2025 (17:00-19:30 hrs)

Herta Mohr-lezing:

TT 217, the tomb of the sculptor Ipuy, and the impact of Nina and Norman de Garis Davies

Speaker: Prof. dr. Kathrin Gabler (Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz)

Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Taffeh-zaal

www.nino-leiden.nl/event/herta-mohr-lecture-tt-217-the-tomb-of-the-sculptor-ipuy





Nieuws uit het NINO- onderzoekscentrum

NINO Annual Meeting

Canan Çakırlar

The 6th edition of the NINO Annual Meeting took place at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen on Thursday 30 January, in the Harmonie Building. The “NINO-day” is organized annually, rotating among Dutch universities; the first edition was organized in Groningen as well. Groningen researchers and staff from the Groningen Institute of Archaeology and department of Middle East Studies joined forces to create a program focusing on heritage and politics in the Middle East: historical perspectives.

This theme merges three increasingly prominent interests of UG FoA researchers: Heritage studies, history and politics of the Middle East, and archaeology of West Asia and the East Mediterranean. The program (densely packed with two keynotes, full research papers and a lightning session of short presentations by early stage researchers, a Middle Eastern lunch and a photo exhibition) reflected the success of this interdisciplinary approach. The two keynotes were presented by two distinguished researchers, who kicked off the day: Daniel Soliman (National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden) reflected on early Dutch Egyptologists engagement with the political developments of their time through a study of letters. Naseem N. Raad (American University of Beirut) explained the entanglement of past and present colonial heritages, economic policies, identity politics in Lebanon, and discussed how all this impacts the practice of archaeological work in the field in Lebanon. The two keynotes provided distinct approaches on the academic and colonial heritage of archaeology in the Middle East, its making today, and its possible futures. The talks led to exciting and valuable discussions among participants.

In addition to students and researchers from Dutch universities, the program included international presenters – from Poland, Turkey/

Germany, and Egypt. Our colleagues Hatem Eltablawy and Hossam Hegazi from the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities presented a comprehensive overview of how the rulers of Ancient Egypt conserved historical buildings to protect built heritage. Pınar Özgüner from the University of Zielona Góra spoke about the remaking of local heritage by local administrators in a provincial capital in Turkey to boost economic activity and consolidate soft power. M. Kemal Baran's (Koç University/Staatliches Museum Berlin) discussed the challenges of trying to see 19th century colonial archaeology in the Middle East through the eyes of the Ottoman imperial administrators, local authorities, and local actors. The archives were largely silent about their perception.

The lightning session presentations demonstrated the breadth of research in the Netherlands focusing on West Asia: Within two hours during the afternoon, participants got a glimpse about the diverse research projects of early stage researchers from Leiden and Groningen, thematically ranging from Hittite political economy revealed by zooarchaeology to Arabic excavation archives in Upper Egypt.

Another highlight was the photo exhibition of Frank Scholten's work. On several tables large prints of a selection of the Scholten photos with a short description were on display. During the walking lunch people could observe the photos and Karène Sanchez-Sommerer gave a speech contextualising the photos and linking them to the NINO-day theme.

As always, the NINO-day was also a great opportunity for several NINO members, students and researchers from different universities, representatives of local branches of NGOs, and international researchers to get to know about each other's research interests much better in an informal setting, renew connections or make new ones. Thanks to generous funding from NINO, the event was free for all attendees; lunch and refreshments were arranged by Sanchez-Sommerer and catered by a local Syrian company.



The interdisciplinary theme and the enthusiastic participation from outside Groningen made the NINO-day a great success. Many thanks to our wonderful colleagues Thom Brongers (team Zooarchaeology) and Paula Kalkman (team MARE project) for their kind efforts to make everything run smoothly!

RuG zooarchaeology research group: www.rug.nl/research/groningen-institute-of-archaeology/research/archeozoologie

MARE project: www.rug.nl/research/groningen-institute-of-archaeology/research/mare

Winners of the NINO BA and MA Thesis Prize 2023-2024



BA Thesis, First Prize: Louise van der Vlugt
Heiligheid siert uw huis: Tempelherinnering in woord en beeld op laatantieke synagogen en kerkmozaïeken. BA in Ancient Near Eastern Studies (Hebrew and Aramaic), Leiden University.

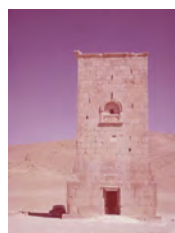
BA Thesis, First Runner-up: Tara Sikkel



Van kopiëren tot innoveren: Een studie naar archaïsme in de Late Tijd met een focus op de Piramideteksten in de tombes van Montuemhat en Petamenope. BA in Ancient Near Eastern Studies (Egyptology), Leiden University.



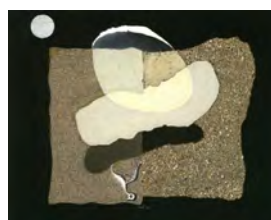
MA Thesis, First Prize: Nolke Tasma



Funerary Monuments in Palmyrene and Nabataean Inscriptions. Regional Funerary Traditions Reflected in the Epigraphy of the Roman Near East. Classics and Ancient Civilizations (Hebrew and Aramaic Studies), Leiden University.

Abstracts of these theses are on the NINO website: www.nino-leiden.nl/message/best-ba-and-ma-thesis-on-the-ancient-near-east-2023-2024

MA Thesis, First Runner-up: Stamatios Vogiatzopoulos



Chalcolithic Pottery "on the rocks". Petrography of Red-on-White, Plain White and Red Monochrome wares from Chlorakas-Palloures, Cyprus: A pilot study. MSc in Archaeological Science (Material Culture Studies), Leiden University.



Even voorstellen

Rients de Boer, curator Böhl Collection

The cuneiform documents in the Böhl Collection are housed at Leiden University Libraries (UBL) and are available for consultation at the Special Collections Reading Room.

Rients de Boer is the curator of the NINO cuneiform tablets. He studied Assyriology in Groningen, Leiden, and Paris and obtained his PhD in 2014 with a thesis on the early Old Babylonian Amorites. He specialises in texts from the Old Babylonian period (ca. 2000-1600 BCE), with a focus on social-economic and political history. Since 2014, he has worked at the VU Amsterdam, Leiden University and Delft Technical University. As curator, he is the liaison between researchers, the NINO, and the institutions where the objects are kept (UBL Special Collections and RMO). You can contact Rients for any questions about the De Liagre Böhl collection. www.nino-leiden.nl/collections/de-liagre-bohl-collection

In addition to aiding researchers with (often highly specific) questions, Rients occasionally presents selected objects to visitors in the frame of a course or visit. In December, students in the ResMA course “Fragments” had the opportunity to view collection items in UBL. On 8 April, ambassadors and diplomats from the MENA region will visit UBL to view Middle Eastern items, including clay tablets.

Funding reports

Incoming Mobility Grant

Marc Flores

Thanks to the kindness of Mark Eertink, Dr. David Kertai, and Dr. Miriam Müller, and the generous funding of the NINO Incoming Mobility Grant, I had the opportunity to collate the cuneiform tablet LB2110 in the National Museum of Antiquities (RMO) in early December – just before it was installed in the new permanent exhibition. This tablet preserves the second part of Gilgamesh and Huwawa A (GH A), the second millennium precursor to the cedar forest episode in the Epic of Gilgamesh, and it contains the passage where Gilgamesh and Enkidu encounter and kill Huwawa.

Though it features interesting grammatical and lexical variants, LB2110 has its most bearing on disentangling scribal interpretative traditions of GH A. It is at times the best-preserved source for the second part of the story, especially after line 170, and is almost unique in its attention to detail and emotions. It is among the six tablets that list all the seven auras that Huwawa gives away to Gilgamesh, and among the five tablets where Huwawa addresses Gilgamesh in woeful terms before turning to Utu. Together with two sources from Ur, Huwawa cries in LB2110, showing his most human side to Gilgamesh and the audience.

The fact that most of these more detail- and emotion-oriented sources come from cities other than Nippur is, I believe, relevant for our understanding of the story's reception in the Old Babylonian period, something I tackle in my dissertation. In this respect, one of my goals was to try and determine whether J.J.A. van Dijk, who copied the tablet in TLB 2, 4 (1957) and published it in CRAAI 7 (1960) with a





photograph of the reverse, was right in establishing the provenance of LB 2110 in Larsa. He based his hypothesis on paleography and tablet format, which resembles that of tablets acquired by Yale and the Vorderasiatisches Museum that are also thought to come from the Larsa area. Even if, after collation, his suggestion must remain tentative, I can confirm the obvious – that LB 2110 does not come from Nippur. However, a southern provenance remains possible, considering that the only other sources where Huwawa cries come from Ur. Related to this passage, my second goal was to collate line 146 (rev. 13), read differently by previous editors of the text, and I can now confirm Edzard's reading of the line (“[. . .] ‘BIL-ga-mes ʾšū ba-am₃-mu-u₈’”). With this reading, LB 2110 features a unique variant where Huwawa tells Gilgamesh to let him free. Finally, I was also able to improve the reading of some of the very fragmentary lines on the obverse.



Thanks to RMO photographer Robbert-Jan Looman, who was kind enough to take new photos of the tablet (with the dome!) at my request, researchers will soon have access to RTI photos of the fascinating tablet LB 2110. My heartfelt thanks go to all the staff members of NINO and Leiden University who warmly welcomed me in Leiden and fed me with cookies and good company during the Sinterklaasborrel.

Incoming Mobility Grant

Sherouk Shehada

NINO granted me an Incoming Mobility Grant to participate in its 5th Postdoc Conference “Unseen—Untold: Stories of non-elite communities” organized by Dr. Alisée Devillers, which took place from Wednesday 18 to Friday 20 December 2024. I presented a paper in this conference entitled: “How Palaeographical Studies help in defining the identities of the sub-elite community? Case Study on Serabit el-Khadim Inscriptions”.



Presenting at the “Unseen—Untold” conference

Through my participation in the conference, I was able to have wide-ranging and intense discussions with many professors and colleagues – conference speakers, attendees and Leiden University staff. In particular, I had two meetings with Dr. Ben Haring from the LU Egyptology department about my PhD project entitled “A Palaeographical Study of Egyptian Inscriptions in Serabit el-Khadim during the Middle and New Kingdoms”. We discussed the methodology of my study, the research questions and how to conduct this study to better results.

On the 20th of December I had the chance to study an object from the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (RMO): the stela of Neby, overseer of the *medjay*. I am deeply thankful for the kind help of the curator at the RMO, Dr. Daniel Soliman.



Documenting and studying stela L.XI.4 of Neby at the RMO

On two occasions I was able to extensively discuss different topics with NINO director Dr. Miriam Müller. Thanks to her wide area of knowledge, our discussions were very advantageous to me.

In addition, NINO office assistant Koen Klein kindly showed me and several other Egyptian colleagues the NINO library and other parts of Leiden University Libraries.



Incoming Mobility Grant

Hossam Hegazi

From December 17 to 21, 2024, I conducted a research visit to the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO) in Leiden, as part of a mobility grant, I received. This visit provided a valuable opportunity to deepen my research on the social and economic aspects of non-elite groups in ancient Egypt, with the aim of expanding the theoretical and field framework of my research project, which greatly contributed to the development of my studies.

One of the key benefits of the visit was gaining access to the specialized NINO library, which holds a vast collection of rare references and sources that are difficult to find in Egypt. These resources were crucial in advancing my dissertation, helping me explore new insights and field dimensions that enriched the analysis of my research topic.

I was also honored to participate in the conference titled “Unseen—Untold: Stories of Non-Elite Communities”, where I presented a paper titled “The Poor Economic Classes and Social Solidarity in Ancient Egypt.” The conference served as an excellent platform for exchanging knowledge with experts in the field, where I was able to discuss my ideas and receive valuable feedback that improved the quality and scope of my research.



*Examining an ushabti statue
in the storage of the RMO*

One of the major activities I undertook during the visit was the study of shabti statues belonging to the lower economic classes in ancient Egypt. I conducted a comparison between these statues in Egyptian museums and similar pieces from the same historical period in the Leiden Museum, which helped highlight the differences between Egyptian and international contexts. This analysis provided me with a deeper understanding of the role these statues played in representing the social realities of ancient Egypt and their connection to the understanding of non-elite groups during that period.



*Meeting and discussing with Dr.
Daniel Soliman at the RMO*

During the visit, I had the opportunity to meet with Leiden researchers such as Dr. Daniel Soliman, Dr. Miriam Müller, and Dr. Ben Haring. These meetings were part of productive academic collaborations, during which we discussed various topics related to my research project. They led to the inclusion of a study of four shabti statues from the non-elite classes, which has become an important addition to guide my future research.

The visit concluded with a tour of the National Museum of Antiquities (RMO) in Leiden, which houses a rich collection of artifacts that provided new insights into ancient Egyptian culture. This tour enhanced my understanding of the historical and social contexts reflected in these pieces, offering a deeper perspective on the lives of non-elite communities in ancient Egypt.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to NINO for providing me with this invaluable opportunity. The support I received throughout my visit has significantly advanced my research and broadened my academic perspective.

Incoming Mobility Grant

Kholoud Shawky (Alexandria University, Egypt)

In mid-July 2024, I was accepted to present my research, “The Players with the Sands and the Fire between the Elimination and the Appreciation,” at the NINO Postdoc conference “Unseen—Untold. Stories of Non-Elite Communities”, organized by Alisée Devillers from December 18 to 20, 2024 in Leiden.

My anticipation and curiosity were sparked to attend the intriguingly titled conference. I was eager to share my research on ancient glass with an international community. The opportunity to engage with fellow participants and learn from experts in the field, establishing potential cooperation relationships, is something I truly looked forward to.



Being able to use Dutch libraries is a significant benefit to my Ph.D. Visiting the archaeological museums with their exceptional collections is one of my main interests, and adds to my upcoming dissertation entitled “The Roman Glass-Making Techniques Between Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean.” This study focuses on contemporary excavations of glass artifacts in Alexandria, one of the major center of glass production under Roman rule.

Full of excitement, I counted down the days to my trip to Leiden.

I attended the three-day conference at Leiden University (Academieggebouw, P.J. Veth Building) and in the National Museum of Antiquities (RMO). This not only broadened my comprehension but also inspired new ideas and collaborations, particularly during our fruitful discussions.



Searching in the academic libraries – MEL/NINO (at Leiden University) and in the RMO – with their rich collections of books, journals, catalogues,

and e-publications, was very useful to my thesis and my knowledge.

Visiting the ancient Egyptian and the classical collections in the National Museum, particularly the glass objects and the temporary exhibition “Bronze Age” with its prominent objects from the Netherlands and surrounding countries, emphasizes the ancient relationship between metallurgy and glassmaking techniques (part of my research project).

In Amsterdam, I had the opportunity to meet Dr. René van Beek, curator at the Allard Pierson (UvA), who spared no effort to explain, guide, and

generously welcome me. I am thankful to him and his colleagues who facilitated my two visits to the museum, to explore the unique glass pieces.



I am thankful for the NINO Incoming Mobility Grant, and to Dr. Alisée Devillers and Koen Klein. I would also like to thank Dr. Amany Shabaan who sent me the conference’s call for papers, and Prof. Maher Eissa for his guidance, fruitful discussion and support.



*Left to right: Hossam Hegazi,
Maher Eissa, Sherouk
Shehada, Kholoud Shawky.*

Incoming Mobility Grant

Eva A. Calomino

Between 1st-21st December 2024, Eva A. Calomino did a research stay at NINO within the framework of the NINO Incoming Mobility Grant. This opportunity granted her access to the collections of The Netherlands Institute for the Near East, the NINO Near Eastern Library, and the National Museum of Antiquities (RMO). During this period, she collaborated with Dr. M. Müller, whose expertise in domestic contexts and household archaeology in ancient Egypt, particularly in the eastern Delta, provided valuable insights for her work. At the Faculty of Archaeology, she had the opportunity of meeting with Prof. Dr. P. Akkermans, to present her project and engage in a discussion about methodologies for conducting large-scale spatial, temporal, and interdisciplinary research. As part of the stay, Eva participated in the Ancient Worlds Lecture Series, where she presented the paper “Back to the Sinai: The archaeological mission at Tell el Ghaba” and engaged with distinguished



researchers specializing in Egyptology and the ancient Near East.

Her work involved also the cataloging and documentation of small finds and pottery from the Third

Intermediate Period originating from Naukratis and Tanis, part of the collections housed at the National Museum of Antiquities. Additionally, Eva attended the meeting “Unseen—Untold: Stories of Non-Elite Communities” and the opening of the new permanent exhibition “The Ancient Middle East” at the National Museum of Antiquities.



Outgoing Mobility Grant

Sara Gebhardt

From 2-6 September 2024, I had the opportunity to attend the conference “Current Research in Egyptology (CRE 2024)” held at Liverpool, UK thanks to the NINO Outgoing Mobility Grant. During this conference, made for early career researchers, I was able to present my resMA thesis.

In my thesis, which was supervised by Dr Miriam Müller and Dr Henning Franzmeier, I analysed a corpus of naked female figurines found at

Qantir, in the eastern Nile Delta. Such figurines have been found at multiple sites in Egypt and are attested from the Predynastic to Roman Period. My paper’s main focus was an in-detail study of their archaeological context, and the suggestion of a typology based on both a stylistic and iconographical analysis. Furthermore, the figurines’ material and manufacture was taken into account. Subsequently, by means of comparison with other naked female figurines found at other sites throughout Egypt, as well as by taking into account their manufacture and archaeological context, I discussed previously suggested interpretations and presented some further interpretations for the use of these objects.

During the conference, I was not only able to share the outcome of my research and MA thesis, but also to practice presenting in front of a larger crowd of scholars. Additionally, I was able to attend different lectures about ongoing research in the field of Egyptology, and expand my professional network.

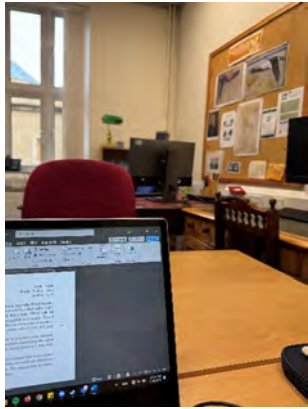
In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to NINO for this Outgoing Mobility Grant, and the opportunity to participate in CRE.

Outgoing Mobility Grant

Lauren van Kruijsen

Over the past two years, I have worked extensively with the archival material of Prof. Dr. Adriaan de Buck housed at the NINO. Adriaan de Buck was Professor of Egyptology at Leiden University from 1939 until 1959 and Director of the NINO (together with Franz de Liagre Böhl) from 1939 until 1955. Among Egyptologists, he is best known for his monumental publication of the Coffin Texts, a large collection of funerary texts from the Middle Kingdom. De Buck started working on this project in 1924 and would continue working on it until his death in 1959. The archival material here in Leiden consists of research documents and photographs related to this project, different research projects, lecture notes, annotated publications, and hundreds of letters written by various colleagues and institutions.





Griffith Institute

While preparing the archive for the big move to the Special Collection of the Leiden University Library this past June, I discovered that De Buck received a large number of letters (77!) from the famous British Egyptologist Sir Alan Gardiner. These letters offer fascinating insight into the research endeavours of both Gardiner and De Buck, as

they often asked each other for advice on various topics. The scholarly importance of these letters, the warmth of their friendship, and the insight they give into the political climate of their time inspired me to prepare these letters for publication.

With the help of the NINO Outgoing Mobility Grant, I was able to visit the Griffith Institute at Oxford University to complete the correspondence housed here in Leiden – since we only have the letters written by Gardiner, not De Buck's actual replies. The Griffith Institute, which houses the Gardiner archive, had 86 letters and postcards sent to Gardiner by De Buck. During my research visit to Oxford, I was able to photograph all of these letters and fully transcribe most of them. Using my reference photos, I will be able to finish my transcription over the upcoming months and provide the letters with commentary.

The letters in Oxford confirm that De Buck and Gardiner valued each other's opinions on the projects they were working on and enjoyed a close friendship. De Buck's letters also offer more insight into his working process for the Coffin Texts Project as he kept Gardiner well-informed on his progress.

Luckily, the letters in Leiden and Oxford fit together very well, allowing me to reconstruct most of their correspondence without major gaps. Combined, the letters span the period from 1923 until 1959, starting at the beginning of the

Coffin Texts Project until the death of De Buck in 1959. Some letters from the beginning of their correspondence seem to be missing on both sides and there is a small gap right after the Liberation of the Netherlands in 1945, but these seem to be the only ones.

In Oxford, I was able to meet with Prof. Dr. Richard Parkinson who offered helpful insight into the life of Gardiner which will be very useful for the commentary I will provide for the letters. The staff at the Griffith Institute was very helpful – for which I am ever so thankful.

I am very grateful to the NINO for granting me the NINO Outgoing Mobility Grant, enabling me to conduct this very successful research visit. The information I gathered will allow me to continue my work on the publication of these letters. It is the first time this archival material will be made accessible and these letters will provide valuable insights to the scholars interested in this important and formative period of Dutch and British Egyptology.



Fieldwork Subsidy: Berenike 2025 pottery studies

A generous grant from the NINO has enabled the furthering of pottery studies at Berenike. The fieldwork grant allowed for the presence of three pottery specialists, incl. one assistant, on site.

At the port site of Berenike pottery is found dating to the Hellenistic to Late Antique period, 3rd century BCE–6th century CE. Every season,



Queen's College Library



pottery is excavated dating to all those periods. The sheer quantity of material found, in combination with only two specialists on site, results in a regular backlog of material to be studied.

During the 2025 season all pottery from the 2025 trenches was studied in detail. This material ranged from Ptolemaic sherds from the bathhouse to Late Antique material from trash dumps around the Isis Temple and in the Northern Complex. This meant that the trench supervisors could be actively supplied with data regarding the pottery during the season, instead of after, thereby enhancing their understanding of the stratigraphy and ancient activities in their respective trenches.

Because of the addition of a pottery assistant on the site, more work could be done. This assistant was focused on the processing of the material from the backlog from the 2023 and 2024 seasons. Most of this material was from the trash dumps surrounding the Isis Temple, as in those many pieces of pottery were found. This backlog comprised a quantity of 20 crates of pottery. At the end of the season this backlog was reduced to two crates, meaning next season the pottery analysis is all up to date. In total 74,319 sherds of pottery have been analysed during the 2025 season, an amount that would not have been possible without the NINO fieldwork grant that allowed both for travel costs of one of the regular pottery specialists and for the addition of a pottery assistant to the team.

Student Research Assistantship: Tell Hammam al-Turkman Archiving Project

Ruben Hartman

In late 2023, I was asked by my supervisor, Professor Bleda Düring, if I was interested in taking on a digitisation project as a Student Research Assistant. It involved the excavation archive of the Tell Hammam al-Turkman project, which took place from the 1980s to the early 2000s. The digitisation project was made possible by the NINO, through a NINO Student Research Assistantship.

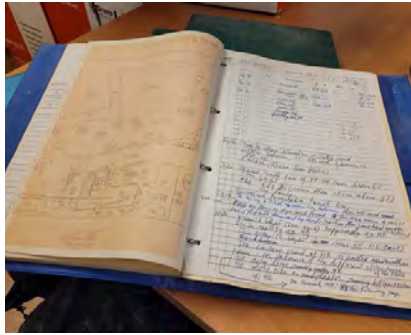


Tell Hammam al-Turkman: sfeerimpressie van de site, seizoen 1984 (HMM84SITE_037).

Tell Hammam al-Turkman is a ruined mound (tell) in northern Syria, located on the Balikh River. The tell covers about 500 × 500 m and is as high as 45 m. Occupation traces date from 5300 BC to about 300 AD, with the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1600 BC) being particularly well represented. At the time, the excavations were led by Prof. M. van Loon and Dr D.J.W. Meijer.

The project was of relevance to me because of my interest in Middle Eastern archaeology in general, and also because making archaeological data available for further research has become very important now that no projects are currently possible in the region.

The digitisation began in February 2024 with an inventory of the documents, together with Dr Diederik Meijer. At first, the amount of documents to be scanned seemed limited, as it comprised about four moving boxes and one filing cabinet full of folders. However, although the scanners at the Faculty of Archaeology have the convenient functionality that allows multiple A4 sheets to be scanned automatically, this functionality was of limited use for the Hammam sheets. These sheets were filled in during fieldwork some four decades ago, and as a result were deteriorating, damaged, or filthy, constantly jamming the machine. As a result, the files had to be scanned manually, one by one, significantly increasing the workload.



Een map met documentatie: links een day-sketch, rechts een daynotes formulier.



*Een 'chlorite stamp seal'
uit put M23, uit de
Romeins-Byzantijnse laag,
volgens het objectenregister
van seizoen 1982
(HMM82_obj009 – Z1).*

In addition to the paper documentation, several thousand slides have also been digitised. Each season, photographs were taken of the archaeology in the field and individual objects of interest. Since the project used analogue photography, several photos of each image were shot with different settings, to make sure there was at least one good photo among them. As the slide scanner was of limited availability, a preselection was made of the most clear photo of each unique image. This still resulted in a total of 2733 scanned slides, each of which was individually documented as to its subject and context, or the object involved.

After digitisation, the data was uploaded to the DANS Data Station for Archaeology. The dataset can now be found there and is available (open access) for future studies.

This project was an interesting immersion into the Tell Hammam al-Turkman project, which trained a previous generation of Leiden archaeologists. In the process, I got an impression of the archaeological work, atmosphere at the site, and everyday life through the photos, sketches and notes hidden among the documentation.

I would like to thank the NINO for making this project possible, making the data available to a wider audience in the digital domain. I would also like to thank Diederik Meijer and Bleda Düring for their pleasant cooperation during the project.

“Tell Hammam al-Turkman - Digital Archive” in DANS: <https://archaeology.datastations.nl/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.17026/AR/ZP2FLG>

NINO funding: upcoming deadlines

15 May: Incoming Mobility Grant, Outgoing Mobility Grant, Conference Subsidy, Student Research Assistantship

continuous: Visiting Research Fellowship, Outreach Allowance

NINO Student Research Assistantship: call open 1 April-15 May 2025

Cooperation between a senior researcher and a student (BA or MA): a researcher and a student work together on an ongoing project in NINO's areas of interest. The student's salary costs are funded by NINO. Working on the project should benefit both parties.

One day per week, maximum nine months (or equivalent). For more information, see www.nino-leiden.nl/funding/nino-student-research-assistant

Agenda-overzicht

Activiteiten van NINO, door NINO fellows, en van bevriende organisaties:

2 April 2025 (13:00-14:00 hrs)

Ancient Worlds Lunch Lecture: Moses of Abydos: A life in fragments. Speaker: Jacques van der Vliet, organised by Ancient Worlds Network. Herta Mohr building, KITLV Seminar Room 1.30 (Universiteit Leiden).

www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/research/research-projects/humanities/ancient-worlds-network

2 April 2025 (20:00 hrs Amsterdam time)

ASOR webinar: How to Re-Place Carthaginian Votive Dedications into Context. Speaker: Brien Garnand, organised by ASOR. Zoom (Friends of ASOR)

www.asor.org/news/2025/03/webinar-garnand



10 april 2025 (17:15-18:15u)

Leidse Papyrologielezing: **Aan tafel in Romeins Egypte**. Spreker: Cisca Hoogendijk, georganiseerd door de Papyrologie+ groep (Universiteit Leiden). Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Taffeh-zaal.

www.rmo.nl/uw-bezoek/activiteiten/leidse-papyrologielezing-2025

11 April 2025 (17:00-19:30 hrs)

Herta Mohr-lezing: **TT 217, the tomb of the sculptor Ipuu, and the impact of Nina and Norman de Garis Davies**. Speaker: Prof. dr. Kathrin Gabler (Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz), organised by NINO & RMO. Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Taffeh-zaal.

www.nino-leiden.nl/event/herta-mohr-lecture-tt-217-the-tomb-of-the-sculptor-ipuu

Middle Eastern Library

Reguliere openingstijden

Leeszaal: maandag t/m vrijdag 9:00-23:00u (na 17:00 toegang via de UB), zaterdag en zondag 9:30-22:30 (toegang via de UB)

Bibliotheekbalie: maandag t/m vrijdag 9:00-17:00u

Aankomende sluitingsdagen en aangepaste openingstijden:

- 18 april, Goede Vrijdag: MEL leeszaal geopend; bibliotheekbalie gesloten
- 19 april, Paaszaterdag: MEL leeszaal geopend; bibliotheekbalie gesloten
- 20 en 21 april, Pasen: MEL leeszaal gesloten
- 26 april, viering Koningsdag: MEL leeszaal gesloten
- 5 mei, Bevrijdingsdag: MEL leeszaal gesloten
- 29 mei, Hemelvaart: MEL leeszaal geopend; bibliotheekbalie gesloten
- 30 mei, dag na Hemelvaart: MEL leeszaal geopend; bibliotheekbalie gesloten
- 8 en 9 juni, Pinksteren: MEL leeszaal geopend; bibliotheekbalie gesloten

16 April 2025 (13:00-14:00 hrs)

Ancient Worlds Lunch Lecture: **Defining New Kingdom sub-elite categories: An impossible quest? A case study: the woodworkers**. Speaker: Alisée Devillers, organised by Ancient Worlds Network. Herta Mohr building, KITLV Seminar Room 1.30 (Universiteit Leiden).

www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/research/research-projects/humanities/ancient-worlds-network

go down in flames
DUSANE
17th of April 2025

Programme:

- 11.30 - 11.40 | Opening address
- 11.50 - 12.20 | Dr. Jennifer Swerida
- 12.25 - 12.55 | Drs. Theo Krispijn
- 12.55 - 13.30 | Coffee and Lunch Break
- 13.30 - 14.00 | Prof. Dr. Lidewijde de Jong
- 14.05 - 14.35 | Gustav Ryberg Smidt MA
- 14.40 - 15.10 | Nolke Tasma MA
- 15.10 - 15.30 | Coffee Break
- 15.30 - 16.00 | Dr. Dennis Braekmans
- 16.05 - 16.35 | Lidewij van de Peut Ph.D.
- 16.35 - 16.50 | Closing of the Symposium
- 16.50 - 18.00 | Drinks

**Van Steenis Building,
Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University**
Room: E0.03

L.A.S. Terra NINO ARCHON University of Leiden

17 April 2025 (11:00-19:00 hrs)

Go Down In Flames. Dutch Symposium of the Ancient Near East (2025). Organised by DUSANE Committee; Van Steenis building, room E0.03 (Faculty of Archaeology).

The 16th edition of the Dutch Symposium of the Near East (DUSANE) has arrived! DUSANE is an annual academic symposium, organized by study associations L.A.S. Terra and Pleyte, that celebrates the archaeology, history and culture of West Asia. We welcome students and staff to join the symposium, and the ensuing drinks, on April 17th!

www.instagram.com/dusane_symposium