

ANATOLICA

ANNUAIRE INTERNATIONAL POUR LES CIVILISATIONS DE L'ASIE
ANTÉRIEURE, PUBLIÉ SOUS LES AUSPICES
DE L'INSTITUT NÉERLANDAIS DU PROCHE-ORIENT À LEIDEN

COMITÉ DE RÉDACTION

G. Algaze, J. Bennett, J. Eidem, F.A. Gerritsen, A.H. de Groot,
M. Özdoğan, Th.P.J. van den Hout, T.K. Vorderstrasse

SECRÉTAIRE DE RÉDACTION

C.H. van Zoest

ÉDITEUR RESPONSABLE

J.J. Roodenberg

TABLE DES MATIÈRES

Preface	v
Silver for Assur: Kanesh, Acemhöyük and Metal Wealth in the Taurus Highlands. <i>K. Aslıhan Yener</i>	1-8
A Gold Plaque from Kaman-Kalehöyük and the 'Lion-Dragon' Motif. <i>Masako Omura</i>	9-22
King Samsu-iluna's Financial Problems. A New Text. <i>Marten Stol</i>	23-36
The Goddess Who was Robbed of her Jewellery. Ishtar and her Priest in an Assyrian Colony. <i>Jan Gerrit Dercksen</i>	37-60
The Mari Eponym Chronicle. Reconstruction of the Lay-Out of the Text and the Placement of Fragment C. <i>Rafał Koliński</i>	61-86
The 2013 and 2014 Excavation Seasons at Çadır Höyük on the Anatolian North Central Plateau. <i>Sharon R. Steadman, Gregory McMahon, Jennifer C. Ross, Marica Cassis, T. Emre Şerifoğlu, Benjamin S. Arbuckle, Sarah E. Adcock, Songül Alpaslan Roodenberg, Madelynn von Baeyer, and Anthony J. Lauricella</i>	87-124
Excavations at Ziyaret Tepe, Diyarbakır Province, Turkey, 2011-2014 Seasons. <i>Timothy Matney, Tina Greenfield, Kemalettin Köroğlu, John MacGinnis, Lucas Proctor, Melissa Rosenzweig, and Dirk Wicke</i>	125-176
Lower Göksu Archaeological Salvage Survey Project, The Second Season. <i>Tevfik Emre Şerifoğlu, Naoise MacSweeney and Carlo Colantoni</i>	177-190
Was Ancient Egypt the Only Supplier of Natron? New Research Reveals Major Anatolian Deposits. <i>Gonca Dardeniz</i>	191-202
The 2012 to 2014 Excavation Campaigns at Site LE, Sagalassos. The Structural Remains and General Phasing. <i>Jeroen Poblome, Hendrik Uleners, Inge Uytterhoeven, Elena Marinova, and Bea De Cupere</i>	203-240

Copyright 2015 by
Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten
Witte Singel 25
Postbus 9515
2300 RA Leiden – the Netherlands

*All rights reserved, including the right to translate or to
reproduce this book or parts thereof in any form*

ANATOLICA is available online through
Peeters Online Journals
<http://poj.peeters-leuven.be/>

Information and sales:

Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten
Witte Singel 25, P.B. 9515, 2300 RA Leiden – the Netherlands
NINOpublishations@hum.leidenuniv.nl
www.nino-leiden.nl



Klaas Veenhof in Kültepe, July 2015. Photo by Vanessa Tubiana-Brun (project Kul-Text).

PREFACE

The Editors of *Anatolica* would like to congratulate Klaas R. Veenhof on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Accordingly, we offer this special issue of the journal to him, both to mark his long-standing interest in the history and archaeology of Anatolia, and as a token of gratitude for his involvement over many years in the work of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East, in supporting academic research into the civilizations of Western Asia.

During his fruitful career he has made (and continues to make) many important contributions in many fields. We single out three of them in this issue of the *annuaire*. First of all is his research into the Old Assyrian documents discovered at Kültepe-Kanesh and the significance of the Old Assyrian Colony period in Anatolia in all its aspects. Then there is his research on the chronology of the ancient Near East, in particular his identification of the Kültepe Eponym List. We also owe him much for his work on the Old Babylonian period, especially concerning legal and economic affairs.

The articles collected in the first part of this issue address these three fields. May Klaas enjoy them *ina šulmim*!

Jan Gerrit Dercksen, *éditeur spécial*
Jacob Roodenberg, *éditeur responsable*

SILVER FOR ASSUR: KANESH, ACEMHÖYÜK AND METAL WEALTH IN THE TAURUS HIGHLANDS

K. Aslıhan Yener

Abstract

The location of the mines that supplied silver, which Old Assyrian merchants shipped to Assur in large quantities, remains unclear. Recent lead isotope analyses of artefacts found at Acemhöyük, Qalat Shergat (ancient Assur) and Kültepe (ancient Kanesh) suggest that these objects originated from the Taurus Mountains.

INTRODUCTION

It is both an honor and a pleasure to have been invited to contribute an article to this issue of *Anatolica* for Klaas Veenhof who celebrates his 80th anniversary: a pleasure because it is gratifying to have the opportunity to pay tribute to a scholar who played such an important role in a major field in Assyriology, the Old Assyrian textual corpus from Kültepe; and an honor because of his eminence as an economic historian of such extensive background. In the course of a distinguished career, Professor Veenhof touched on many aspects of the Middle Bronze Age of central Anatolia in general and in particular, the Kültepe-Kanesh texts. While my contribution does not address his particular expertise, I will present the results of silver, copper and lead samples taken from the Istanbul Archaeological Museum stemming from the excavations at Qalat Shergat, ancient Assur. A second dataset of samples given to the author by the excavators, includes a silver hoard from Acemhöyük and iron bloom fragments from Kültepe, two of the Anatolian centers in the Assyrian trade network. The Assur, Kültepe and Acemhöyük metal analyses presented here have been published in science journals several decades ago. However, since these findings have been mostly inaccessible to philologists as well as archaeologists, it is worth reemphasizing them here in the context of recent research in ancient highland metallurgy in Turkey and its sources.¹ These new emphases have led to a better understanding of cultural relations, especially during the formative periods of metal technology and state formation in Anatolia.

Many of the Kültepe texts have documented one of the major goals of the Assyrian merchants, silver from Anatolia. Over the course of several decades, Klaas Veenhof has provided us with a fine-grained understanding of the dynamic trade networks into which Kültepe and Acemhöyük are embedded.² The well-known silver, gold, *annaku* (tin or alloying material) and textile trade about which Veenhof has written in great detail spurred my archaeometallurgical project to locate the silver sources in Turkey of relevance to the second millennium BC.

¹ Lehner and Yener 2014; Yener *et al.* 2015.

² Veenhof 1972, 1987, 1999, 2014.

A GOLD PLAQUE FROM KAMAN-KALEHÖYÜK AND THE ‘LION-DRAGON’ MOTIF

Masako Omura¹

Abstract

A gold plaque crumpled in a lump was found in a room dated to the Period of Assyrian Trade Colonies at Kaman-Kalehöyük in 2010. The gold sheet was partially unfolded and a proposed restoration drawn. Although the upper part of the plaque is missing, the design cut out of gold sheet is thought to be a composition of a lion-dragon standing on its hind legs with a fawn at its feet, all enclosed within a frame. The motif of the lion-dragon is one of the subjects brought to Anatolian art from Mesopotamia in the early phase of the second millennium B.C. The lion-dragons observed on seal impressions from Karum Kanesh are in the tradition of Sumerian and Akkadian art in their forms and concepts. The gold plaque from Kaman-Kalehöyük offers another example of the lion-dragon and the nature of Mesopotamian influence on Anatolian art.

LOCATION AND STRATIGRAPHY OF KAMAN-KALEHÖYÜK

Kaman-Kalehöyük is a mound site located 100 km southeast of Ankara and 3 km east of Kaman, Kırşehir, Turkey. It is immediately south of National Route 260 which connects Ankara, Kayseri, and Adana. An older route called *Göç yolu* or *Kervan yolu* passes on an east-west axis along the southern side of the mound. The mound measures 280 m in diameter and 16 m in height. The surrounding area is agricultural land, planted mostly with wheat².

Excavations since 1986 have revealed four main stratigraphic levels:

- Stratum I: Ottoman period, 15th to 17th c. A.D.
- Stratum II: Iron Age, 12th to 4th c. B.C. Stratum II is subdivided into four phases. IIa and IIb: Late Iron Age; IIc: Middle Iron Age; IId: Early Iron Age.
- Stratum III: Middle and Late Bronze Ages, 20th to 12th c. B.C. Stratum III is subdivided into three phases. IIIa: Hittite Imperial Period; IIIb: Old Hittite Period; IIIc: Assyrian Trade Colonies Period.
- Stratum IV: Early Bronze Age, 30th to 20th c. B.C. The investigations of Stratum IV are ongoing and only two upper sublayers have been distinguished as yet. IVa: Period of Transition from Early Bronze Age to Middle Bronze Age; IVb: Early Bronze Age in the second half of the third millennium B.C.

¹ Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan – Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology, Kaman, Kırşehir.

² Omura, S. 2011:1095-1096; Omura, S. 2013: 290-291.

KING SAMSU-ILUNA'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. A New Text

Marten Stol

Abstract

The reign of the Old Babylonian king Samsu-iluna had its ups and downs. Best known are the revolts quenched by him, as he proudly relates in his inscriptions. He remains silent about his financial problems, the collecting of taxes and recovering outstanding debts. The two texts presented here show that he took action at last and some of his cities even had to sell property in order to pay him off.

INTRODUCTION

When contributing to Klaas Veenhof's anniversary volume in 2001, I published an Old Babylonian letter I had found in the Yale Babylonian Collection in 1977. At that time I also copied another text, which I then did not dare to publish because of its obscurities. Meanwhile, more is now known of the reign of Samsu-iluna and the time has come to confront Klaas with this second text as well. We owe to him excellent editions of unusual Old Babylonian texts, full of fine observations and thoughtful digressions, and he may have useful comments on this one as well.

YBC 11041

The tablet has been described in Beckman, 2000: 224. Dimensions: 8,8 cm high, 5,5 cm wide, 2,7 cm thick.¹ Provenance unknown.

¹ Published here by permission of W.W. Hallo, then Curator of the Yale Babylonian Collection. Ms. Ulla Kasten kindly provided me with photos of the tablet.

THE GODDESS WHO WAS ROBBED OF HER JEWELLERY. Ishtar and her Priest in an Assyrian Colony

Jan Gerrit Dercksen

Abstract

A sacrilegious incident involving members of the family of the priest of the goddess Ishtar in the Old Assyrian central colony Kanesh is reported to the priest in a letter. After a presentation and discussion of this document, the present article investigates the role of priests in Old Assyrian society and the evidence about sacred space in ancient Kanesh.

INTRODUCTION

Several cuneiform documents have survived that acquaint us with the jewellery and fineries of gods and goddesses.¹ These include lists from the Ur III period,² an Old Babylonian list about Ishtar of Lagaba (Leemans 1952), lists from Emar (Westenholz 2000, nos. 25-30) and Qatna, and documents relative to jewellery of Ishtar of Uruk dating to the Neo-Babylonian period (Beaulieu 2003). We have no such text for the Old Assyrian Colony Period, but the document to be presented here shows that Ishtar of Kanesh also possessed cloth and jewellery donated to her for her dress. A detailed list was made of her possessions in duplicate, which is referred to in text Kt c/k 18, a copy of a letter sent to Šu-Ištar, priest of Ishtar.³ This letter is unique among the thousands of other texts from Kültepe Karum Level II in that it contains rare details about the practical aspect of the cult of this goddess. The tablet was excavated in 1950, and it is to be linked to a group unearthed in 1988.⁴ Several documents from that group were published by Veysel Donbaz.⁵ The sender of the present letter, Aššur-lamassi, is to be identified with Šu-Ištar's attorney (*rābišum*) named in the texts published by Donbaz.

¹ See the overview in Postgate 2009: 235.

² Paoletti 2012: 101.

³ I wish to thank the Director of the Kültepe excavations, Fikri Kulakoğlu, for entrusting this tablet to me for publication. The final edition of this text will appear in the series *Kültepe Tabletleri*.

⁴ Kt c/k 18 was found in or near N-P/20. Texts Kt 88/k 970-1136 were excavated in quadrant U/12 according to the information in *Kültepe Tabletleri* (abbreviated AKT) VII-a: 36. This quadrant comprises the house numbered 61 by Hertel (2014: 31 map, 47).

⁵ The texts published in Donbaz 2008 are Kt 88/k 970, 971, and 972. See the Appendix to the present article for collated transliterations and translations. It is uncertain whether two other texts, Kt u/k 3 and Kt u/k 4, refer to the same Šu-Ištar. Kt u/k 3 is a letter sent to Šu-Ištar by Aššur-rabi; Kt u/k 4 is a letter to Šu-Ištar from Mannum-balum-Aššur and Belum-bāni. It appears from these texts that Šu-Ištar and his son Aššur-rabi were involved in trade like most other men in Old Assyrian society; the father had textiles as *ikribu* (Kt u/k 3:2) and quantities of copper were stored in his house according to Kt u/k 4.

THE MARI EPONYM CHRONICLE. Reconstruction of the Lay-Out of the Text and the Placement of Fragment C

Rafał Koliński¹

Abstract

The Mari Eponym Chronicle (MEC) is represented by eleven fragments of clay tablets, which were excavated in the palace of king Zimri-Lim at Mari. These tablets provide precious information on the political developments in Northern Mesopotamia during almost a hundred years. For each year covered by the chronicle, the name of the acting eponym is given, as well as what was considered the most important political event that happened during that year. Following its publication by M. Birot in 1985, various scholars studied this important document. A fresh reconstruction of the text is presented in this article, which also contains a discussion of the possible function of the extant copies.

INTRODUCTION²

The Mari Eponym Chronicle (abbreviated MEC) constitutes one of the most important sources for the reconstruction of the history and chronology of the Old Babylonian period, especially of North Mesopotamia. The text, which is an account of the history of the dynasty to which Samsī-Addu, king of Assur belongs, consists of a long series of historical entries starting with the names of subsequent eponyms in the city of Assur. It was probably composed to be recited during the commemorative rituals to former kings (*kispum*).³ The text covers a period of nearly 100 years,⁴ starting with the enthronement of Narām-Suen, king of Assur, and ending most probably in the year when Aššur-emūqī was eponym, two years after the death of Samsī-Addu.

Fragmentary tablets containing MEC have been discovered in Mari during several seasons since 1936,⁵ but were published by Maurice Birot only in 1985. The publication provided photographs, copies, transliterations, translations and a general commentary on the identified 11 tablet fragments, some of which Birot was able to join. The text was later commented upon several times, mainly by authors of historical studies,⁶ though only rarely corrections and improved

¹ Institute of Prehistory, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland.

² I am greatly indebted to Denis Lacambre for scrupulous reading of the manuscript, correcting my mistakes and suggesting improvements to the text. The remaining faults, as well as expressed views, are, of course, mine.

³ Durand and Guichard 1997: 42.

⁴ The exact number of years was written in the colophon, but the numeral is damaged (Birot 1985: 220, 232).

⁵ The first fragment found was S.115-26 (Dossin 1939: 99).

⁶ Whiting 1990: 181-84; Durand and Guichard 1997: 42-43; Veenhof 2000: 139; Charpin and Ziegler 2003: 9; Veenhof 2003: 50-51; Charpin 2004: 49; Eder 2004: 200-203; 2008: 59-60; Kryszat 2004: 4-5; Pruzsinszky 2009: 154-156.

THE 2013 AND 2014 EXCAVATION SEASONS AT ÇADIR HÖYÜK ON THE ANATOLIAN NORTH CENTRAL PLATEAU

Sharon R. Steadman, Gregory McMahon, Jennifer C. Ross, Marica Cassis,
T. Emre Şerifoğlu, Benjamin S. Arbuckle, Sarah E. Adcock,
Songül Alpaslan Roodenberg, Madelynn von Baeyer, and Anthony J. Lauricella

Abstract

Çadır Höyük, on the north central Anatolian plateau, is one of the few multi-period sites in the region. The site has demonstrated occupation spanning six millennia (ca. 5200 BCE to the late 11th century CE). The 2013 and 2014 seasons, reported on here, have continued to target the four main periods investigated over the last decade: the Late Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age (ca. 3600-2900 BCE), the Middle Bronze/Hittite period (ca. 1800-1200 BCE), the Middle and Early Iron Age (ca. 1200-800 BCE), and the Middle Byzantine (6th-11th c. CE). In the Late Chalcolithic trenches we have, after well over a decade, finally retrieved the additional extant walls of the Omphalos Building first exposed in 2001. We also recovered unusual apsidal structures and revealed a non-domestic structure that may have been used for specialized purposes. The Early Bronze trenches have offered a very clear view into occupation outside the large perimeter wall and possible industrial activities. Our second millennium investigations have revealed additional information on the defensive architecture and the reuse of various phases in successive periods. Iron Age investigations have continued to paint a picture of industrial activities that took place in the last decades of the Hittite Empire and after its collapse. Work in our Byzantine areas over the last two seasons has revealed much about the building of the major fortification system on the summit, and the creation of various phases of residential structures on the North Terrace.

INTRODUCTION

Over the course of the previous two seasons (2013-2014) the work at Çadır Höyük (Fig. 1) has continued to explore almost the entire complement of periods represented in horizontal exposure at the site, spanning the fourth millennium BCE to the early second millennium CE.¹ In 2013 we excavated in fourteen 10 x 10 m trenches, some previously open and

¹ We would like to thank the Turkish Kültür Varlıkları ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü, and Süleyman Can, Bahar Hasırcı, and Hüseyin Toprak, our representatives in the 2013 and 2014 seasons, for their support and invaluable aid during these seasons of work. Gregory McMahon (University of New Hampshire) remains Director and Sharon Steadman (SUNY Cortland) continues as Co-Director and Field Director; Jennifer Ross (Hood College) serves as Associate Director; Marica Cassis (Memorial University) and Benjamin Arbuckle (University of North Carolina) continue as Assistant Directors, and in the 2012 season we were delighted to welcome our Assistant Director Dr. Emre Şerifoğlu (Bitlis Eren University); we were also fortunate to have excellent teams in both seasons and we thank them for their outstanding field and lab work and their much appreciated contributions. Other members of our senior staff are MJ Hughes (Hood College, senior illustrator), Jeffrey Geyer (Hood College, lithics), Carola Manzano (Conservation), Alexia Smith (University of Connecticut, archaeoethnobotany), and

EXCAVATIONS AT ZIYARET TEPE, DIYARBAKIR PROVINCE, TURKEY, 2011-2014 SEASONS

*Timothy Matney, Tina Greenfield, Kemalettin Köroğlu,
John MacGinnis, Lucas Proctor, Melissa Rosenzweig, and Dirk Wicke*

Abstract

This article presents the results of excavations at Ziyaret Tepe, the Late Assyrian city of Tuşhan in the Diyarbakır Province of southeastern Turkey during the summers of 2011-2013, as well as from a study season in 2014. Excavation in nine operations is briefly summarized, and the preliminary results of zooarchaeological and archaeobotanical studies in three operations are presented. Major public buildings of the Late Assyrian period (c. 882-611 BC) were recovered in Operation AN (palace), Operation W (administrative building), and Operation Y (city fortification), while an exposure of domestic architecture was revealed in Operation K. Also of importance from these field seasons was the documentation of a Late Roman, or Late Antique, occupation in Operations T and U. Zooarchaeological evidence from earlier excavations in Operation K reveal the subsistence practices of commoners during the Late Assyrian period. Likewise, the use of plants for human food and animal fodder are discussed for the Late Assyrian (Operation Q, the city gate excavated earlier) and the Late Antique (Operation T, domestic housing) periods. These combined reports outline the importance of animal husbandry, as well as agricultural production of grain, as key economic aspects of the Late Assyrian settlement, and complement existing cuneiform documentation.

INTRODUCTION

This paper represents the final installment in our preliminary report series in *Anatolica* covering the excavations at Ziyaret Tepe, the Late Assyrian city of Tuşhan, in the Diyarbakır Province of southeastern Turkey. The 2011, 2012, and 2013 summer excavation seasons are discussed, as are some results from an additional study season undertaken in June-August 2014 to complete the recording of small finds, pottery, animal and human bones, archaeobotanical remains, and microdebris samples stored in our expedition depots.* For a more detailed de-

* Prof. Timothy Matney served as the director of the project. Our senior staff included: Dr. John MacGinnis of Cambridge University, Dr. Dirk Wicke of the University of Mainz, and Prof. Dr. Kemalettin Köroğlu of Marmara University. We would like to acknowledge the kind help of the directors of the regional Diyarbakır Archaeological Museum: Nevin Soyukaya (2011-2012), Mehmet Akif Bilici (2013), and Mehmet Eneze (2014). Likewise, we were assisted by a number of able and helpful government representatives: Ahmet Durman and Nuray Çırak (2011), Murat Aktay (2012), Esmâ Bedirhanoglu (2013), and Leyla Ay (2014). Our thanks go out to all their efforts and hard work on our behalf.

Funding for these seasons was generously provided by: the National Endowment for the Humanities (Grant No. RZ-50721-07), Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, the McDonald Institute of Cambridge University, the National Geographic Society (Grant No. 9290-13), the Tekfen Foundation,

LOWER GÖKSU ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE SURVEY PROJECT, THE SECOND SEASON

Tevfik Emre Şerifoğlu, Naoise MacSweeney and Carlo Colantoni¹

Abstract

This article presents the results of the 2014 season of the Lower Göksu Archaeological Salvage Survey Project, in the Mersin Province of Southern Turkey. In 2014, the team continued the work begun in 2013, documenting as many archaeological sites and monuments in the Lower Göksu valley as possible before the scheduled construction of the Kayraktepe Dam. During the course of the two-week season, we were able to discover several new sites in the flood zone, as well as returning to several known sites to undertake more detailed work. This more detailed work included initial resistivity surveying and the documenting of illegal excavations. A short summary of the field season and a discussion about our methodology and the local settlement patterns are provided here. The 2014 season of this Bitlis Eren University project, which is conducted in collaboration with the University of Leicester, was funded by the Bitlis Eren University Scientific Research Projects Commission and the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara. The survey project will continue for another season in 2015 and we will most probably start excavating one of the major sites in 2016 in collaboration with the Silifke Museum.

INTRODUCTION

The Lower Göksu Archaeological Salvage Survey Project (LGASSP) aims to document, as far as possible, the archaeological heritage of the Lower Göksu valley, which lies in the Mersin Province of Turkey (Şerifoğlu et al 2014). This section of the river valley is scheduled to be flooded with the construction of a hydroelectric dam at Kayraktepe in 2018, approximately 10km northwest of the town of Silifke (ancient Seleucia ad Calycadnum). As a result, the rich archaeological record of this area will be lost, submerged beneath the waters of a new lake. During the first LGASSP season in summer 2013, the team both identified several new sites from extensive survey, and collected more data from previously known sites in intensive survey. The team was able to push back the date of earliest known occupation to the Chalcolithic period; uncover more about settlement patterns in the prehistoric period; and illuminate the relationship between military and domestic sites in the Roman to Byzantine periods (Şerifoğlu et al 2014).

In autumn 2014, the LGASSP team returned to the Lower Göksu valley for a second survey season. The focus of the two-week season was, once again, twofold. Firstly, we attempted to discover new and previously undocumented sites through a combination of examining satellite images; seeking information from local inhabitants; and traditional extensive field

¹ Bitlis Eren University and the University of Leicester.

WAS ANCIENT EGYPT THE ONLY SUPPLIER OF NATRON? New Research Reveals Major Anatolian Deposits

Gonca Dardeniz¹

Abstract

The use of natron as a source of soda in vitrified material industries, especially glassmaking, is known since the first millennium BC in the Near East. The source of natron has usually been associated with the well-known reserves of Wadi Natrun in Egypt, whereas ancient Anatolian sources have been less discussed as potential supplies. This paper reviews the sources of natron available in Anatolia and discusses their importance for the ancient vitrified material industries.

INTRODUCTION

Natron, with its chemical composition of sodium carbonate 10-hydrate, had various applications in ancient technologies, ranging from the mummification of bodies to soap production and glassmaking (Lucas 1962; Nicholson and Shaw 2000). This white powdery material is an evaporate deposit of alkaline lakes and is found in nature as fragile, whitish stone chunks and it remains a crucial industrial component of soap/detergent and glass industries today. It is a form of soda (alkali) that was also much used as a component in vitrified material (e.g., frit, faience, glazed pottery) and glass production together with other major components such as silica and lime. Natron helps reduce the melting temperature of silica and in glass-making is referred to as 'flux'. Preliminary studies suggest that natron has been used for manufacturing glass and other vitrified materials since the Iron Age (1200-500 BC) (Brill 1999; Bimson and Freestone in Barag 1985; Reade *et al.* 2005), earlier methods having made use of plant ash as the flux. This paper discusses current research on natron sources in the ancient Near East and suggests how these resources were critical to vitrified object production from the Iron Age until the 7th to 9th centuries AD. Traditional wisdom from scholars studying vitrified material technologies and the emergence of ancient glass have usually associated natron sources with the well-documented region of Wadi Natrun, located 100 km northwest of Cairo (Egypt). However, the notable natron sources of central Anatolia, especially Lake Van, and its peripheral lakes in the east (Fig. 1), have been less studied for their role as a possible source of natron in antiquity. This paper presents a brief discussion of their potential and emphasizes their role in vitrified material production practices, particularly the glass industry of the ancient Near East.

¹ Archaeology and History of Art Department, Koç University.

THE 2012 TO 2014 EXCAVATION CAMPAIGNS AT SITE LE, SAGALASSOS. The structural remains and general phasing

*Jeroen Poblome, Hendrik Uleners, Inge Uytterhoeven,
Elena Marinova, and Bea De Cupere*

Abstract

In recent years, the Sagalassos Archaeological Research project of the University of Leuven has coordinated a research programme aimed at the community of ancient Sagalassos. Understanding in more detail how the ordinary townsfolk lived and worked in antiquity forms an important aspect of this research. With this aim in mind, archaeological excavations were launched at Site LE in 2012. Here, a dense stratigraphical sequence documenting changes within part of a neighbourhood in the upper parts of the ancient town was documented. An original domestic quarter changed character resulting from the erection of public buildings in Roman Imperial times, such as the Neon Library and the unidentified public building of Site LE. In late Roman times, the structures of Site LE were thoroughly re-organized, possibly including a house and a textile workshop. A very well preserved coroplast workshop formed part of this arrangement too. Upon abandonment of these domestic and artisanal units, Site LE was overhauled one last time. Remains of an early Byzantine professional bakery were identified within the re-organized premises. This paper wishes to present our initial understanding of the site, its phases of architectural and functional organisation as well as the detail of the consecutive structures. As such, the paper represents the framework for continued study and future publication of the at times fairly unique find assemblages, such as the materials found within the late Roman coroplast workshop.

INTRODUCTION

The following presents the preliminary report on three years of archaeological excavation at Site LE (Library East) in ancient Sagalassos, for the campaigns of 2012 to 2014. In 2012, a new excavation programme was initiated at Sagalassos with the aim to improve knowledge on how the ordinary townsfolk, the majority of the population of each ancient community, lived, worked and died in antiquity. Site LE is located immediately to the east of the so-called Neon Library, which itself was situated on one of the main streets of Roman Imperial Sagalassos, linking the area of the Upper Agora with that of the Theatre and beyond, into Eastern Suburbia. As small portions of a structure adjoining the Neon Library to the east were already excavated in 1991 and 1993 (Waelkens 1993: 48; Waelkens *et al.* 1995: 59-61), revealing well-preserved remains of what was thought to be a late Roman house, destroyed by fire, Site LE figured prominently in the new thematic approach to the Sagalassos excavation campaigns.

The occupation history of Site LE can be subdivided into four main phases: 1. the earliest interventions and management of the terrain can be dated to around the start of the Com-