

Poster 1

The site

Tell Mozan, historically known as Urkesh, is located in the north east of Syria, in the triangle of upper Khabur basin, near the city of Amouda and 20 km west of Qamishli.

Tell Mozan is considered one of the largest archaeological sites dating back to the 3rd and 2nd millennium B.C (early and middle bronze age), and one of the first cities formed in the plain area and one of the first religious centers in northern Mesopotamia. Its importance derives from its location in a well irrigated plains next to wadi Dara in the Khabur triangle which had a good environmental conditions suitable for agriculture and herding animals, where there is heavy rain fall and fertile soil, in addition to the rich plantations that surrounded the area making it appear as a natural reserve.

The site was a path for commercial convoys between the north and the south.

Poster prepared by: Shafkar smail, Siban Ahmad, Ahmad Moulla Ahmad, Kajin Alloush, Aynour Ahmad.

Poster 2

The excavations

The first excavations started in 1934 by an English mission under the direction of Max Mallowan, by conducting digs in small trenches. He then left the site and went to Shagar Bazar after misreading the pottery and dating it back to the Roman period.

The regular excavations started in 1984 and lasted until 2011, by the American expedition under the direction of Marilyn and Giorgio Buccellati. After 10 years of continuous work, the expedition was able to discover the Hurrian identity of the city in 1995 after finding a seal impression in the royal palace, inscribed with the words Tupkish king of Urkesh. The palace was discovered between 1992 and 1994 by the American expedition. The Abi, discovered in 1999, is the Hurrian name mentioned in a preserved Hittite Archive.

Many tombs were discovered in Urkesh dating back to different time periods from early Jazirah II (2800-2600 B.C) to the Mittani period. The EJII tombs were found in the north western part of the lower city especially is OA4 and OB1, which was apparently used in that period as an outdoor cemetery for the upper city citizens. In OB1, many pottery jars and bronze tools were found. 5 tombs dating back to the Akkadian period were found in stratum 9 to 11 and in the residential quarter, and from stratum 9 we have 3 graves.

Poster prepared by: Nour al din Maami, Jwan Lejjo, Souleiman Lejjo, Siban Ali, Alan Youssef.

Poster 3

The palace

The palace was built in 2250 B.C. Tukish was interested in the architectural aspect and built a palace using mud bricks and mud on a foundation of stones on the south western side of the site. This palace is considered one of the largest and finest in Syro-Mesopotamia. The palace constituted of two wings (formal and service wing) and an outer courtyard. The service wing which expands 100 m² contained a kitchen, a storehouse for food and the royal family goods. There is also a service section that provided the needs of the royal household and another section of a yet unknown function. The formal wing spreads on 2500 m². Only 700 m² were discovered for far and it constitutes of a paved courtyard and some walls, rising above the service wing by 2,55 m. in this section the royal family lived and ruled. Tukish connected the palace with two sacred building predating the palace building period, the Abi and the temple.

Poster prepared by: Hajar Mahmoud, Ismail Khalil, Mohammed Hawas, Alan Kassem, Mohammed Kassem

Poster 4

The lion temple (the oval temple)

The temple is located north of the upper city center and it is called the oval temple. It was built using mudbricks on an oval high terrace 55x45 m and 9 m high. The temple was built in two phases, the first in 2800 B.C and the second in 2400 B.C, making it look similar to the Ziggurat in southern Mesopotamia. The temple is rectangular 20x12,5 m, built on a stone foundation with an entrance from the south western side which can be reached by a wide staircase built with large limestones. It consists of 27 rows and is flanked on both sides by two stone walls. The temple is 28 meters higher than the plain around it, 7 meters higher than the plaza and 12 meters higher than the palace. It is believed that it was dedicated to the Hurrian god Koumarbi. The temple was surrounded by an unpaved plaza dating back to 2600-1400 B.C, which linked the temple with the palace and Abi in the shape of homogenous mass running 250 meters west to east. To the south of the temple there was another plaza 100x50 m that separates it from the residential quarter of houses, the largest of which is the house of Busham. This house was square in shape and contained an inner courtyard surrounded by rooms on the north, south and western sides, while the entrance was located on the eastern side. This house had a sewage system and it's considered one of the largest houses pertaining to the early and middle bronze period.

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Poster 5

The lion statues

The two lions of which Urkesh is famous for, are one made from bronze protecting a foundation stone tablet inscribed in Hurrian language:

Tish-Atal king of Urkesh built a temple for Nergal. May Lubagada protect this temple and destroy who destroys it, and And let the lady of Nagar, the god of sun and the god of weather.... destroy him.

And it is preserved in the Louvre museum. The other lion is preserved in the Metropolitan.

Poster prepared by: Jean Shekhmos, Haval Mustafa, Rudi Ibrahim, Mohammed Mohammed, Najwa Ahma.

Poster 6

Seals

A 1000 clay and ceramic seals and seal impressions were found. These seals provided us with accurate details by bearing scenes related to the social life and relations between the royal household and the courtiers, the notion of succession and many other administrative subjects. It also conveyed the role of the women in pursuing the administrative work and supervising the goods and its distribution.

Among these seals, the seal of king Tupkish where he is portrayed sitting on the throne with a reclining lion next to him, and the crowned prince and minister in front of him.

There is also the seal of queen Uqnitum which reveals the role of women and their part in ruling with the king and the crowned prince.

Poster prepared by: Darya Suleiman, Fatima Ibrahim, Khadija Hassan, Barwin Hassan, Fadilah Hamza

Poster 7

The Abi

The Abi was built in 2400 B.C, using small rectangular stones, on different stages. It is a circular shaft, 4 m in diameter and 8 m deep with a square entrance, and it is reached by narrow steps. The building was roofed at one period.

The Abi was designated to communicate with the netherworld, by speaking to the god, summoning the spirits and expelling the evil by offering a sacrifice.

Bones of piglets, puppies, sheep, goats and donkeys were found inside the Abi, along with some bronze, copper and lead tools and some obsidian and flint stone blades. In addition, some clay figurines shaped like jars or containers were found there and were probably used for rituals.

Poster prepared by: Mlad Hoj, Birivan Khalil, Zouzan Ahmad, Mohammed Issa, Housain Ali