

The kitchen of the royal palace of Tupkish at Urkesh (sector D): stratigraphy, typology and conservation

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The ancient city of Urkesh (situated today at Tell Mozan), is located in the north east of Syria and inhabited from the 4th to the end of the 2nd millennium B.C. The main goal of the thesis is to offer a comprehensive study of sector D of the royal palace of Urkesh. It has been identified as the kitchen of the royal palace, and thus it is especially important on account of its function within the organization of space. The stratigraphy of the unit 6 is complex but very clear. It is complex because it includes later strata above the Palace, but clear because the condition of the walls was excellent, and they are preserved to a considerable height. The sector shows an excellent conservation of its walls. It was found in excavation unit A6, and I intend to work on a full analysis of this unit.

While it has been published in preliminary reports by the excavators, and included in the publication of the palace (Urkesh.org/UMS6), this unit still awaits a full publication within the framework of the Urkesh Global Record. This is the subject of my current research, for which I have access to the primary material in the archives of the Expedition. I will also present an analysis of the conservation record of these walls during the ten years of war in Syria (2011-2021), during part of which I have been directly involved in the conservation program and in its record. This is also the subject of my MA program at Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest, Hungary: with the support of IIMAS, I have been able to travel to Budapest to confer with my advisers there, and in May 2022 I plan to take part in a seminar at Pázmány University which I will help organizing, with the participation of Profs. Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati. The seminar will be devoted entirely to Urkesh and in particular to the conservation and heritage program in which I am directly involved.