



INTERREGIONAL ARCANE MEETING "EASTERN NEAR EAST" Saverne 22-25 th of may 2011

Scientific summary (P. Butterlin)

The Arcane Eastern relations conference was the fourth of the interregional meeting of the Arcane projet. Its purpose was to put together the conclusions of four of the regional groups and two transversal groups : the Tigris group, the Central Mesopotamia grou, the Southern Mesopotamia group and the Western Iran Group, the Art History group and the Written documents group.. The conclusions of each group have been first presented Some specific topics have been discussed in detail : the C 14 data and the relationship between the east and the west, the new glyptic data from Konar Sandal and the Mari new data.

After those precise settings a global discussion about periodization and specifically about the EL-E table occured. The SM-CM part of the table has been discussed again and a new division finally approved by all the members of the symposium.

The last day permitted to define a number of interregional topics related to the main inventories of the database. Here aganin, the exceptional richness of the sites implied has provided very interesting interregional topics combinig ancient and new data. The main challenges of this meeting were to introduce the old data in the new chronological framework, and to identify the methodological problems which will inevitably occur. All the participants were particularly aware of those difficulties and remained very cautious about the possibility to integrate all this old data. Nevertheless, there are enough recent informations to identify some new links and the main success of this meeting has been to settle the integration of the eastern groups in the general frame of Arcane, especially the SM-CM groups and the Western Iran group.

Arcane Eastern Interregional Meeting, 22-25 mai 2011 : *scientific report*
(P. Butterlin, Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne)

The purpose of the meeting, held from the 22nd to the 25th of May in Saverne, was to put together the results of four regional groups : the Tigridian, The Southern and Central Mesopotamian and the Western Iran, in order to define the interregional topics relating to the chronological relationship between the Eastern lands of the Arcane Project.

During the first day (23rd of May), P. Butterlin has presented in introduction the main issues of this meeting following the three previous interregional colloquium of the Arcane Project. It is obvious for methodological reasons that there's a huge gap in the program between the western groups, interconnected through well defined sequences, some textual data and C 14 dates and this Eastern set of data, based mainly on the often old chronocultural discussions and a lot of textual data. Apart from some site still under excavation like Mari, those sites provide usually data from old excavations, which have been and still are the chronological basis for the discussion. Therefore the challenge was here to test the old sequences, to select the relevant data and to define the limits of the whole process, since a lot of questions won't be solved without new excavations in Irak and Iran.

After this introduction, Marc Lebeau has recalled the basic principles of those meetings, summing up the results of the Coimbra, Leiden and Durham meetings and their agendas. He has presented the still unfinished table (EA-EM-EL table) to be completed precisely during this meeting, giving some insights on the still unsolved internal problems of some of the columns, especially the CM-SM one.

Following those introductory remarks, the two following sessions have been devoted to the presentation of the regional data and the regional periodization as presented in the EA-EM-EL Table.

Elena Rova has given a synthetic lecture about the Tigridian data, insisting upon some points : the first one is the gap observed in the Tigridian sequence between ETG 4 and 5. This gap, second point, is very specific to region and distinguishes it fundamentally from the neighbouring ones, in the Jezira and in Central Mesopotamia.

After that lecture, Barbara Helwing and Georg Neumann have presented in detail the results of the Iran group, presented for the first time. Those results include the Susa data, which remains the basis for the discussions and the results of later excavations on the plateau, even during the last decade. All those results are of utmost importance for the history of metallurgy for instance and they remain still a matter of controversy, especially when dealing with relationship further abroad on the plateau or with the Indus, not in scope for the Arcane Project.

After that iranian session, the CM-SM groups which have been merged together in 2008, have presented their result, first Margarete van Ess for the SM sector, and then Pascal Butterlin, Clemens Reichel and Jean Evans for the CM group. Margarete van Ess has presented the difficult data of Southern Mesopotamia, phase by phase underlining the huge gaps in some stratigraphical sequences and the clear breaks observed in the data, especially during the earlier phases which remain a matter of debate (is there an « Early Dynastic II » or not ?). Clemens Reichel and Pascal Butterlin have presented together the results of the CM Group : Clemens Reichel has presented the data of the Diyala and Kish areas, insisting upon the methodological issues in the discussion, upon the material culture and the architectural evolution, especially in the palatial complexes of the Diyala, and the Kish area. P. Butterlin has shortly presented the inventories from the Euphrates, mainly from Mari, to be discussed further the next day, with a presentation of the latest chronological issues about the chronology of the site, just between the east and the west in the Arcane Project. Thereafter, Jean Evans has presented a lecture about the art history and especially glyptic chronological issues. She has presented a new evaluation and periodization of the archaic glyptic of Southern and Central Mesopotamia, organized in five phases of the evolution of the « Combat Motive ».

The next day (24 th), and following those regional presentation, three topics have been selected for further présentation : Marc Lebeau has presented the results of his C 14 study of the interregional chronology of the western part and the egyptian sequence. That is the first step of a global synchronization of old world chronologies, to be linked now to the « East »

Holly Pittman has presented a paper about the Kerman data and the glyptic tradition of southern Iran, especially the exceptional sealings discovered at Konar Sandal Tepe. They are of exceptional chronological value since they present obvious

links with Southern Mesopotamia, particularly Ur, SIS strata. This region of Southern Iran belonged clearly to a huge interaction sphere long before the Akkad Kings' campaigns in the region.

P. Butterlin has given further insights on the Mari chronology, especially about the C 14 data, the destructions levels of the second city and the material recorded during the last excavations, particularly interesting for the interregional topics (statuary, chlorite vessels, inscribed and non inscribed foundations deposits).

After those three presentations, the first step was to settle the periodization problems. Therefore, a complete session was devoted to a new discussion with the other team leaders around the CM-SM terminology : the previous discussion produced a division in 9 periods, a working scheme which needed to be simplified in order to permit easier comparisons. Two problems were particularly difficult : the Early Dynastic II discussion and the divisions of the Early Dynastic III period and the following one. After discussion of the material involved, it was decided to create a new periodization in 7 phases, the existence of specific material in southern Mesopotamia justifying an ESM 2-ECM 2 period which is not so obvious in the Diyala record and elsewhere. Further researches should permit to solve this question. The transition between ESM 4- ECM 4 and 5 remains also a matter of debate, linked in part to the Akkad conquest and therefore not evenly distributed.

More specific topics were discussed in the conclusion of the day : the links between Iran and Tigris region and the composition of the regional CM-SM volume. After those discussions, the interregional session could begin.

This session held during the morning of the 25th of May, was devoted to the interregional topics. Since the EA-EM-EL Table was now completed, the participants have contributed to the list of interregional topics of chronological relevance, adding some new insights and selecting the contributors of the different volumes. Of special importance are in this case some architectural features (notably high and stepped terraces, palatial architecture), some interregional material like the intercultural stone vases, all subjects which are particularly relevant for an eastern interregional meeting. In conclusion, Marc Lebeau has defined the agenda for the last meeting of the Arcane Project in Bern, in December and presented his views about the future of the Project leaving it to another project. P. Butterlin concluded the whole meeting.

Paris, 27th of June, 2011.

Assessment of the results and impact of the event on the future direction of the field

The main result of this meeting are :

- a more comprehensive and enlarged EA-EM-EL table integrating the eastern data in the general framework ;
- the first steps of an integration of the C 14 data and the chronocultural classic periodization of Mesopotamia and Iran
- an assessment of the global value of the material coming from old and new excavations in the eastern areas of the Arcane Project
- the final definition of the interregional topics pertaining to the project
- the settlement of the final publication program, of the regional volumes of the groups involved in this meeting and of the interregional volumes.
- The future of the Arcane project has also been discussed and will be further discussed in the final meeting of Bern in december of 2011.
- We have now and it is the first time in this field the possibility to reassess all the old excavations in a new frame, defined in part by the results of the latest excavations results but also by comparisons with the western groups. That will surely stimulate further reflexions, on the eve of a new generation of excavators, resuming work in Iraq and Iran.

FINAL PROGRAM OF THE MEETING
Interregional ARCANE Meeting Eastern connections,
Saverne, 22-25 May 2011

Sunday 22nd of May

19.30 Dinner & welcome

Monday 23rd May

from 8.45 coffee

Opening remarks

9.00-9.30 P. Butterlin, (RG 10)

Introduction to the meeting

9.30-10.00 Marc Lebeau (RG08).

Session I: *Presentations by Regional Teams / Transversal Groups*

10.00-11.15 Elena Rova (RG09): Tigridian

11.30-12.00 Barbara Helwing, Georg Neumann (RG12)

12.00-13.30 *Lunch*

Session II: *Presentations by Team Leaders & Topic Coordinators*

13.30-14.15 Barbara Helwing, Georg Neumann (RG12), continued

14.15-15.00 15.00-15.30 *Tea break*

Session II (*continued*)

15.30-16.30 Margarete van Ess (RG 10)

16.30-17.00 Clemens Reichel (RG10), Pascal Butterlin (RG10): Central Mesopotamia

17.00-18.00 Jean Evans (RG 10), Central Mesopotamia

18.00-19.00 *Drinks*

20.00 *Dinner*

Tuesday 24 may

Session III : *Specific selected interregional topics*

09.00-10.00 Marc Lebeau : *The destruction of Ebla and Mari : the absolute chronology in question*

10.00 *coffee break*

10.00-11.00 : The Glyptic evidence of Konar Sandal and the interregional relationships between southern Iran and Southern Mesopotamia. ,H.Pittman, RG 02

11.00-12.00 : New evidence pertaining to chronology from the latest excavations in Mari, P. Butterlin, RG 10

12.00-13.30 *Lunch*

Session III : *Specific selected interregional topics*

13.30-15.30 : *Discussion about the SM-CM periodization*

15.30-16.00 : *coffee break*

Session IV: *Regional and Transversal Volumes, progress reports, deadlines*

16.30-16.40 Southern & Central Mesopotamia Volume

16.50-17.00 Tigridian Volume

17.10-17.20 Western Iran Volume

17.30-17.40 Levant Volume

17.40-17.50 History & Epigraphy Volume

18.00-18.10 Glyptic & Art History Volume

18.20-18.30 Short Presentation of the Jezirah Volume

Wednesday 25 th of may

from 9.45 coffee

Session IV: *continued*

10.00-11.00 *Determination of topics of Interregional Significance (pottery, architecture and other), comments and additions to the Coimbra-Leiden-Durham list*

11.00-12.00 *Session V: Selection of Specialists for summarizing the topics of interregional interest in the Interregional Volume, number of chapters, pages, illustrations (general discussion)*

Session V (*continued*): *Delineation of Absolute Chronology, Correlation of Stratigraphic Sequences and Regional Periodisations*

12.00-12.30 *Session VI (continued): Setting guidelines for the Interregional Volume (two volumes for the ARCANE Interregional Phase): chapters, contributors, text, tables, maps*

12.30-13.30 *Lunch*