

Interregional ARCANE Meeting “The Euphrates Connection” Leiden, 21-23 February 2011 REPORT

Monday February 21

After an introduction to the meeting by Marc Lebeau (RG08) and Pierre de Miroschedji (RG01), session I started with an exposé by Walther Sallaberger (TG01) on historical and epigraphical matters, especially the absolute dating of the sack of Ebla and that of Mari, two anchor points for later 3rd millennium chronology. Speaker tends to opt for the so-called Revised Middle Chronology, which dates Sargon of Akkad to 2263-2234. There seems to be agreement that Mari was destroyed 10 years after Ebla, yet an absolute date for these events is still difficult to establish.

Holly Pittmann and Petr Charvat (TG02, Glyptic and Art History) reported that they are still waiting for comprehensive data from the regional topic coordinators.

Tuba Ökse and Aynur Özfirat reported that they are working with a reduced number of inventories – the main ones coming from Aslantepe – since not all envisaged collaborators did in fact furnish their data. It was earlier decided to defer the discussions of the Eastern Anatolian and South Caucasian regions to the interregional volume.

Elena Rova (RG09) repeated her report of the meeting in Coimbra, adding that after additional data became available her impression is that the Tigridian Region has more connections with the Jezirah than with Southern Mesopotamia, at least in the second half of the third millennium. Some statistics: a total of 124 inventories, of which 73 are primary ones, 21 composite, and 30 artificial. After lunch she read Ph. Quenet’s text about urbanism, and then her own on the TG pottery sequence, of which the report is virtually finished. The subsequent discussion centered on the so-called Kranzhügel, and that at the end of EJZ 2 a strong increase in urbanizing tendencies can be observed, leading to “fully urbanized” EJZ 3. Writing appears in Syria, and inter-city state warfare. The latter is exemplified by the destruction of Mari (and Ebla) towards the end of EJZ 4b. “EJZ 4c is post-Akkadian, pre-Ur III” (M. Lebeau). 4c and 5 are said to represent a ‘decrease of culture’ – terms which generate some discussion.

Clemens Reichel and Pascal Butterlin (CM) generate a detailed discussion of key features of sites and historical dates, such as the statues from the Ninni-Zaza temple in Mari, the Massif Rouge, and the provenance of Mari’s c14 dates. Toward the Ur III period settlement in the Diyala region seems to shift to the east.

Tuesday February 22

Uwe Finkbeiner (ME) mentions that the Middle Euphrates report is well on its way, and highlights some remarks from his Coimbra report. ‘Human figurines appear mainly in EME 4’ (from the report of topic coordinator Ferhan Sakal). Paola Sconzo gives a detailed overview of the EME pottery sequence: EME 1 still contains much LC material, 2 has new wares, 3 more decorated wares and the ‘metallic ware’, as well as more ‘international’ contacts – characteristics which continue into 4 – and EME 5 and 6 offer a vaguer picture, 6 being transitional to the Middle Bronze Age.

Mirko Novák recounts his report on architecture and city planning. One seems to be able to distinguish a division between the north and the south within the Middle Euphrates region, the south gaining momentum around EME 4. The end of EME 4 knows some violence.

Jean-Paul Thalmann (NL) reports on the slow progress of the regional group, due to arising realization that there prove to be three distinct sub-regions here: NL Central is inland Syria, the Mediterranean coast is NL West, and southern Syria is NL South. There are some 40 inventories in total. ENL is divided in 7 sub phases. A discussion ensues after lunch about the significance of a cultural shift noted in the ENL chronological table: the appearance of cattle and Canaanian Blades around 2500-2400 BC.

The table is subsequently subjected to a wider discussion, concerning the character of urbanization. Furthermore, how the regional periodisations should be correlated on the basis, first and foremost, of the local stratigraphies cum pottery.



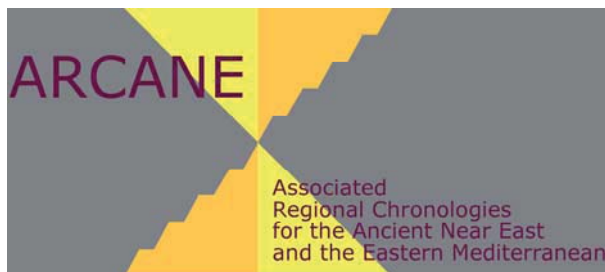
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Wednesday February 23

The last morning of the meeting was spent on progress reports of the various regional and transversal volumes that are now in preparation: the Tigridian, Middle Euphrates, Northern Levant, the History+Epigraphy, Glyptic and Art History volume. Marc Lebeau showed pdf proofs of the almost ready Jezirah volume. Lastly, additional items to be included in the interregional volumes were discussed.

After lunch, members started travelling home; the next day,

Thursday February 24 was devoted to the annual meeting of the Steering Committee.



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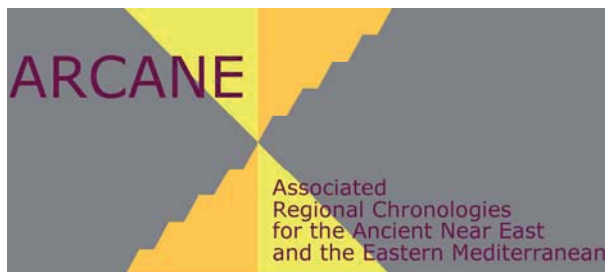
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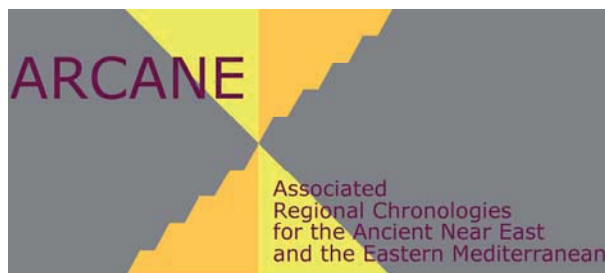
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**Interregional ARCANE Meeting
“The Euphrates Connection”** **Leiden,
21-23 February 2011**

Sunday 20 February **Hotel Nieuw Minerva**

19.30 *Dinner & welcome*

Monday 21 February **Kamerlingh Onnes Gebouw, room B 035**

from 8.45 *coffee*

Opening remarks

9.00-9.30 Willem Willems (Dean, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University)
Diederik Meijer (organizer, Leiden University)
Jesper Eidem (organizer, the Netherlands Institute for the Near East)

Introduction to the meeting

9.30-9.45 Marc Lebeau (RG08), Pierre de Miroschedji (RG01)

Session I: Presentations by Regional Teams / Transversal Groups

9.45-10.15 Walther Sallaberger (TG01): History & Epigraphy

10.15-10.30 Holly Pittman, Petr Charvat (TG02): Glyptic & Art History

10.30-11.00 *coffee break*

Session I (continued)

11.00-12.00 Aynur Özfirat, Tuba Ökse (RG06): Eastern Anatolia

12.00-13.30 *Lunch*

Session II: Presentations by Team Leaders & Topic Coordinators

13.30-14.15 Elena Rova (RG09): Tigridian

14.15-15.00 Clemens Reichel (RG10), Pascal Butterlin (RG10): Southern & Central Mesopotamia

15.00-15.30 *Tea break*

Session II (continued)

15.30-15.50 Marc Lebeau (RG08): Jezirah general

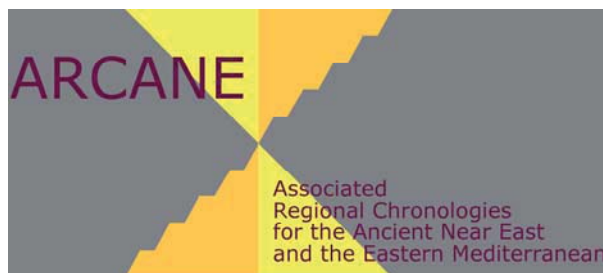
15.50-16.25 Philippe Quenet/read by Elena Rova (RG09): Jezirah stratigraphy, architecture

16.25-17.00 Elena Rova (RG09): Jezirah ceramic

17.00-17.30 Marc Lebeau (RG08): Jezirah cultural synthesis

18.00-19.00 *Drinks offered by Leiden University Faculty of Archaeology*

20.00 *Dinner*



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Tuesday 22 February

Kamerlingh Onnes Gebouw, room B 025

- from 9.45 coffee*
Session III: Presentations by Regional Teams / Transversal Groups
 10.00-10.30 Uwe Finkbeiner (RG07): Middle Euphrates general
 10.30-11.00 Paola Sconzo (RG07): Middle Euphrates ceramic
 11.00-11.30 Mirko Novák (RG07): Middle Euphrates architecture
 11.30-12.00 Jean-Paul Thalmann (RG02): Northern Levant
 12.00-13.30 *Lunch*
 13.30-14.30 Session IV: Determination of topics of Interregional Significance
(pottery, architecture and other), comments and additions to the Coimbra list)
 14.30-15.30 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
 15.30-15.45 Marc Lebeau (RG08): Introduction to the ENEL Table
 15.45-16.15 Stratigraphic sequences (general discussion)
 16.15-17.00 Correlation of regional periodisations (general discussion)
 17.30-19.00 *Drinks offered by the Netherlands Institute for the Near East*
 20.00 *Dinner*

Wednesday 23 February

Kamerlingh Onnes Gebouw, room B 017

- from 9.45 coffee*
Session VI: Regional and Transversal Volumes, progress reports, deadlines
 10.00-10.10 Southern & Central Mesopotamia Volume
 10.10-10.20 Tigridian Volume
 10.20-10.30 Middle Euphrates Volume
 10.30-10.40 Northern Levant Volume
 10.40-10.50 History & Epigraphy Volume
 10.50-11.00 Glyptic & Art History Volume
 11.00-11.15 Short Presentation of the Jezirah Volume
 11.15-12.00 Session VI (continued): Setting guidelines for the Interregional Volume (two volumes for the ARCANE Interregional Phase): chapters, contributors, text, tables, maps
 12.00-13.30 *Lunch*
Departure of participants
 20.00 *Dinner*

Thursday 24 February

Faculty of Archaeology, room 138

- 9.00 Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee
 19.30 *Dinner: Steering Committee*