



## **Interregional ARCANE Meeting "Larger Upper Mesopotamia" Coimbra, 27-29 January, 2011**

### **Minutes of the Meeting, Scientific and Technical Summary**

#### **Sessions I and II : Presentations by Team Leaders & Topic Coordinators**

Tigridian (general : E. Rova)

Tigridian (pottery : M. Arrivabeni)

Two communications presented the current stage reached by the Tigridian group, including a detailed presentation of the sub-regions, and defining the general strategy of the group.

A quite substantial number of inventories (115) have been entered in the DB, with a relatively high ratio of composite and artificial inventories, due to the specificities of the area and to the lack of recent high-standard excavations. The DB entry phase is completed and a proposal of new regional periodization has been issued, including 9 phases (ETG 1 to 9) and a total of 11 sub-phases (ETG 2 and ETG 4 being subdivided into two sub-phases each).

Some chapters of the regional publication have been completed or will be completed very soon (Pottery for instance).

Jezirah (general : M. Lebeau)

Jezirah (stratigraphy, architecture, city planning : Ph. Guenet)

Jezirah (pottery, glyptic : E. Rova)

Three papers detailed the current achievements of the JZ group, maybe the most advanced at the moment. The following topics were reviewed and summarized by the contributors : general chronology, stratigraphy, architecture, city planning, pottery and glyptic.

The DB entry phase was completed already a long time ago, reaching the maximum allowance of inventories (130), mostly primary and composite. These inventories give a good picture of the evolution of the material culture in the Jezirah in the 3rd Millennium, even if the earliest periods still deserve some further characterization. The absence of Tell Khazne inventories (for the early phases) and of Kazane inventories (for the later phases) is regrettable. Numerous C14 datings, analysed in much details by L. Ristvet, allow the regional group to offer firm chronological anchorages in particular for the middle part of the cultural sequence (Final EJZ 2 to EJZ 4b).

The regional periodization includes 6 phases (EJZ 0 to 5) and a total of 10 sub-phases.

The regional volume is in a very advanced stage of preparation. The first proofs will be soon

distributed to the contributors. It will count around 450 pages. The text has been English edited and the graphic harmonization of the plates, tables and illustrations is now achieved. A .pdf version of this volume (before the final Brepols formatting) will be available on February 15th. It will be communicated on demand.

Middle Euphrates (general : U. Finkbeiner)

Middle Euphrates (architecture & other topics : M. Novák)

The Middle Euphrates regional group was represented by its team leaders who offered the audience a comprehensive overview of the progress of the group.

The regional periodization was discussed within the group and was adopted, comprising 6 phases (EME 1 to 6) and a total of 7 sub-phases (EME 2 being subdivided into 2 sub-phases).

The regional volume is in an advanced phase of preparation and should be ready soon. It could constitute the second regional publication of the Arcane series. It nevertheless still requires the English editing and the graphic harmonization. It was reminded here that completed chapters can be sent for English editing and graphic harmonization independently, even before the completion of the whole volume.

Transcaucasian Culture (S. Kroll)

Stephan Kroll exposed to the audience the developments of the Transcaucasian culture in the 3rd millennium, emphasizing the very peculiar nature of that culture and the various problems of interpretation. It is necessary to encompass it as a whole, breaking somewhat the geographical boundaries of the Arcane regions. It is too late in this phase of the Arcane Programme to proceed to this readjustment. It will nevertheless be one of the priorities in the future of the Programme (the post-ESF one). This point was discussed and some proposals were formulated.

Glyptic & Art History (H. Pittman)

It is somewhat too early to detail the progress of the group and the structure of the publication to come since the group entirely depends on the results of the regional groups. It has been reminded that, besides the two Team Leaders, this transversal group is composed of the Art History & Glyptic Topic Coordinators of each regional group. At the moment, Andrew McCarthy issued a report on the JZ glyptic. It is reminded that data from CM and SM are crucial since those regions only can provide valuable information about non-glyptic art documents. Nippur inventories are expected as soon as possible. For all these reasons, the Art History & Glyptic volume will most probably will be one of the latest publications of the Programme.

C14 (E. Boaretto)

E. Boaretto exposed the results of the C14 transversal group, and emphasizes that firm anchorages can only be found in the SL, JZ and EA (in particular in the Upper Euphrates sub-region) but without inventories, where a critical mass of datings has now been reached. Several models have been implemented in order to obtain the finest possible tuning. The collaboration of field archaeologists is crucial to give substance to those models and to reach a comprehensive interface between field people and laboratory technicians. The historical Middle Chronology was discussed at the occasion of a fruitful dialogue with W. Sallaberger, Team Leader of the History & Epigraphy transversal group. Nevertheless a gap of about one century persists in the central Arcane regions between the C14 results and the chronological estimates proposed by epigraphers and historians, based on astronomical data and the comput of king lists, including several synchronisms.

### Session III : Topics of Interregional Interest (abbreviated hereunder 'TIS').

Selection of the TISs (pottery and other), Proposals of names of specialists for summarizing the TISs in the interregional volume, Number of chapters, pages, illustrations (general discussion).

The structure of the interregional volumes has been discussed at large.

It was decided that the interregional Larger Mesopotamia group will propose to the SC and to the Team Leaders of the other regional groups to develop the results of the interregional phase of the Arcane Programme into two volumes (instead of one single proposed by the SC), one devoted to the pottery, the second one to the other TIS (architecture, figurines, ...) and (in the introductory part) to a presentation of the new Arcane regional periodizations, supplemented by 5 pp. of comments for each regional periodization, aimed to provide a 'cultural synthesis' for each region. Indeed it appears evident that a single volume will not be able to contain all the necessary developments.

The TISs are defined as short monographies, summaries of topics with chronological and interregional substance, developed mainly to be used by and profitable to Master degree students. Some of those summaries will be shared among several contributors since the Arcane geographical range is quite large. The TISs altogether would thus constitute some kind of 'handbook', updating the latest results in the advancement of the current research.

Distribution maps will systematically describe the geographical relevance of the topics, one single map for each TIS, including either spotted dots or plain zones (extent of a phenomenon) or both together. In this respect sites with inventories would be distinguished from sites without inventories by a graphic mean (different levels of grey for instance). Our cartographer will thus be very busy.

Being sometimes very specific, the summarized bibliography (max. 1 p.) concerning the TIS will be placed at the end of each contribution, and not integrated in a general bibliography at the end of the volume (as it is the case for the regional publications).

Both volumes will be English edited and submitted to graphic harmonization.

A CD or DVD will be appended to the interregional volumes, containing an integrated interregional searchable DB.

For obvious reasons, the TISs have been divided into three main categories (Large, Medium and Small), each one including a maximum number of pages :

- L (large TIS = 15 pp. max., comprising a title, the signature of one or several authors, a small diagram detailing the Arcane regions concerned, 5 to 9 pages of text, 5 to 9 pages of illustrations, 1 page of summarized bibliography, 1 page for the distribution map).
- M (medium TIS = 10 pp. max., comprising a title, the signature of one or several authors, a small diagram detailing the Arcane regions concerned, 3 to 6 pages of text, 3 to 6 pages of illustrations, 1 page of summarized bibliography, 1 page for the distribution map).
- S (small TIS = 7 pp. max., comprising a title, the signature of one or several authors, a small diagram detailing the Arcane regions concerned, 2 to 4 pages of text, 2 to 4 pages of illustrations, 1 page of summarized bibliography, 1 page for the distribution map).

Art History & Glyptic, C14, and History & Epigraphy TISs : it was proposed and suggested that glyptic and art history materials will not be treated in the interregional volumes but all questions of interregional connections will be considered in the transversal volume and, at the interregional meetings, contributors and consultants will be identified. The same considerations are valid for the C14 and the History & Epigraphy TISs.

The cover of the interregional volumes will include the signature (as editors) of the Chairmen and all the TLs of the Arcane Programme.

The Larger Upper Mesopotamia cluster of regional groups took the liberty to propose to the SC, to the other interregional organizers and to the TLs of the other groups the following project, of course not limited (since a large number of additional TISs could be proposed in the next interregional meetings), and submitted to adjustments, reviews, comments and changes, including author further proposals.

Once this list supplemented and agreed, the Arcane SC would have the responsibility to take some decisions (for budgetary reasons and time planning matters) after a final review of the list, and to send the final list to the suggested authors for having their consent.

The interregional volumes should be ready and sent to Brepols before December 31st, 2013, in order to benefit from the remaining ESF funds.

**Provisional general proposal (mainly as concerns 'central' regional groups, to be supplemented at the occasion of the next interregional meetings)**

Interregional first volume : Pottery

TIS	Size	Concerned Arcane Regions	Suggested Contributors
Smearred-Wash and combed wares	M	ME, JZ, NL, EA	E. Rova
Upper Mesopotamia metallic wares, red-banded ware and related fabrics	L	ME, JZ, NL, EA, CM, TG	A. Porter, C. Falb & A. Pruß
Early Syrian bottles	S	NL, ME, JZ, EA, WA, CM	P. Sconzo
Reserved slip ware	M	NL, ME, JZ, EA	A. Jamieson
Cyma-Recta	S	ME, NL, JZ, EA	L. Cooper
Depas amphykypellon	S	WA, ME, NL	a contributor from WA
Ninevite 5 pottery	L	TG, JZ, CM	M. Roaf
Post-LC 5 wares	M	EA, TG, JZ, ME	E. Rova
Red- and/or Black-Burnished wares and related fabrics	L	EA, WA, NL, SL, JZ	A contributor from EA
Dark Rim Orange Bowls	S	TG, JZ, EA	Aynur Özfirat and/or V. Orsi & S. Valentini
Radial burnished bowls	S	SM, CM, TG, JZ, ME [ ?]	A contributor from SM/CM
Caliciform pottery	L	NL, ME, SL [ ?]	A contributor from NL
Carinated 'Akkadian' jars with relief decoration	S	SM, CM, TG, JZ	A contributor from SM/CM
'Snake-Jars'	S	SM, CM, TG, JZ	Ph. Quenet
Combed wares	M/L	SM, CM, TG, JZ, ME, NL, EA	C. Schmidt
Scarlet Ware	M	CM, WI, TG, SM, JZ	J. Oates
Heart-shaped 'Akkadian' beakers and bottles	S	SM, CM, TG, JZ, WI	M. Arrivabeni
Late 3rd Mill. 'Ur III' carinated bowls	S	CM, JZ, TG, ME	A contributor from Mari
Early 3rd Mill. Local painted wares	M/L	ME, EA, JZ	C. Valdes Pereiro
To be continued			

Interregional second volume : Architecture

<b>TIS</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Concerned Arcane Regions</b>	<b>Suggested Contributors</b>
Fortification systems	L	all regions	A. Burke + a Ebla colleague + consultants
In-antis temples	L	ME, NL, JZ, CM, TG	C. Castel
Bent-axis temples	L	SM, CM, TG, JZ, ME	P. Miglus & D. Lawecka
Palatial architecture	L	SM, CM, JZ, ME, NL, SL	P. de Miroschedji (SL, NL, ME), M. Lebeau (JZ), M. van Ess (CM, SM, WI)
Storage facilities	L	all regions	S. Kulemann & V. Van der Stede, with the help of a SL consultant
Monocellular (buttressed or not) houses	S	WA, EA, JZ, ME, TG [ ?]	C. Dezzi Bardeschi & L. Battini
Tripartite houses	S	SM, CM, WI, JZ, TG [ ?], ME [ ?]	
Central space/courtyard houses	S	SM, CM, WI, TG, JZ, EA [ ?]	
3 room/space houses	S	CM, JZ, EA, ME, SL, NL	
General layout of settlements	L	all regions	M. Novak, Ph. Quenet & P. de Miroschedji
Circular or rounded buildings	M	CM, TG, JZ	A. Emery & S. Facco
High terraces with buildings	L	to be identified	a contributor from SM/CM
High places and tumuli	M	to be identified	P. Butterlin & Th. McClellan
Baetyloi	S/M	SL, NL, ME, CM, JZ, CY [ ?], WA [ ?]	C. Castel & J.-M. Durand
To be continued			

Interregional second volume : Other topics

<b>TIS</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Concerned Arcane Regions</b>	<b>Suggested Contributors</b>
Anthropomorphic figurines	L	TG, JZ, ME, NL, EA, CM, SM, SM, WI, SL, CY [ ?]	F. Sakal
Chariot and wagon clay models	M	CM, TG, JZ, ME, NL, EA	A. Pruß
Metal weaponry	L	all regions	G. Gernez
Metal pins, toggle-pins and cloth ornaments	L	all regions	a contributor from SM/CM
Canaan blades	M/L	SL, NL, ME, JZ, TG, EA	S. Rosen
Stone vessels	L	all regions	M. Casanova
To be continued			

Funerary practices : we suggest that funerary practice TISs will be selected by the FP TCs of all regions who will discuss and propose the point.

## Session IV : Delineation of Absolute Chronology, Correlation of Stratigraphic Sequences & Regional Periodizations

The regional periodizations of the three present regional groups (ME, JZ and TG) were reviewed by the attendance. Some tunings have been realized, the phases of the different regional periodizations have been synchronized at the interregional level. Some absolute chronology considerations were pointed out. As an illustration of this discussion, we reproduce the following table.

EME	West	EJZ	East	ETG
1 LRSW	? ↑ ? ↖ Cyma recta LRSW ? ↙ ? ↓	0 <hr style="width: 10%; margin: 5px auto;"/>	Nose lugs / BRB Transit. Nin5	1 2a
2 cyma recta LRSW Ptd ware RBBW Champagne cups		1  2a	Cyma recta Ptd + inc. Nin5 Local ptd style Inc + Exc Nin5	2b Interm. Nin5 style 3 Ptd + inc. Nin5 4ab Inc + Exc Nin5
3 Euphr. Banded ware, metallic, smw, hor. RS  4 id + Hama beakers, depas, tall neck bottles		Final 2  3a no Nin5, met, banded rim jars, flat & rounded bases  3b grooved rim, end : bottles with tall necks, smw, truncated conical bowls with flat base	Late exc Nin5+ met	? flat base cups,  5 globular bottles  [6 conical beakers
5 disap. of met w and Hama beakers; corr. goblets, grooved rim bowls [akk glyptic], no akk shapes		4a		7
6 EB+MB forms, combed inc.		5		8

The ENEL Table current version was reviewed. Some adjustments were proposed (for instance between JZ and ME). It was suggested to increase the number of columns aimed to indicate the relative level of urbanization (one 'urbanization' column, next to each regional periodization column). As a consequence, the ENEL will be reviewed, developed on two distinct pages if necessary. M. Lebeau will soon provide a version 3.1 for taking into account all these additions. E. Rova emphasized the 'cultural development' significance of the ENEL labels, which is maybe more significant than its own strict chronological value. The ENEL table project will consequently be pursued, under the coordination of M. Lebeau, in order to prepare the final Synthesis volume. Informations concerning the EA (more specifically 'Upper Euphrates') will be asked to M. Frangipane, G.-M. di Nocera and G. Palumbi (Arslan Tepe excavation).

## Session V : Guidelines for the Interregional Volumes

The following proposal will be submitted to the SC members, the organizers of the next interregional meetings and the Team Leaders of the regional groups (as reference, see the Editorial Guidelines for the Regional Publication Phase, Arcane website).

*Language of publication* : English + English editing.

*Number of volumes* : 2 volumes : 1 for periodization summary and pottery, 1 for architecture and other topics (c. 400 pages each volume, incl. biblio, maps, ill., place name index).

*Format* : as the Subartu series volumes : 5000 characters/page, Times New Roman 10 for text, 9 for footnotes, 10 for captions.

*Length of chapters* : Contributions of various sizes depending on the topics will be recommended : S = 7 pages, M = 10 pages, L = 15 pages max.

*Title of the volumes* : Interregional Connections (Regional periodisations & Ceramic) – Interregional Connections (Architecture & Other topics).

*Signature of the volumes* : Both chairmen and all the TLs of the regional groups, acting as editors (eds.)

*Contents* :

Foreword 1-2 p : General + reason why we chose the structure of these interregional vol. No need of a real introduction.

Comments on regional periodization (5 p maximum per region), in the sense of a cultural synthesis.

Topics : see the list of topics as suggested in Session III.

*Bibliography* :

A summarized bibliography of max. 1 page will follow each contribution (there will thus not be an integrated bibliography at the end of the volumes, like in the regional publications).

*Guidelines for the contributions* :

Title, signature of author(s), small diagram for identifying the concerned regions, respect of the suggested number of pages per topic, summarized bibliography, 1 distribution map, limited number of plates, figures or photos.

No integrated biblio at the end of the volume.

References to the DB could be done, in that case strictly respecting the labels used in it.

No conclusion, the conclusion will be the substance of the next volume ('Synthesis').

*Credits*: will be included in the foreword.

*Index* of place names (ancient and modern).

*Editorial rules* : as for the regional volumes.

*Annex* : a CD/DVD will be appended to one of those 2 volumes, comprising an integrated interregional ARCANE DB, which will be an advanced searchable DB.

## Session V (continued) : Progress Reports on the Regional and Transversal Volumes

General remark and reminder :

The volumes must be delivered to Brepols before the end of 2013, since the ESF remaining funds will not be available after that deadline.

It is suggested that the chapters are sent for English editing (Helen Taylor : helen\_bgb@yahoo.co.uk) and for graphic harmonization (Aurélie Eid : aureleid@gmail.com), with copy to Marc, as soon as they are ready, without waiting that the volume is complete. The illustration files must be sent both in .pdf and in Adobe Illustrator formats. Maps can be asked to Martin Sauvage ([martin.sauvage@wanadoo.fr](mailto:martin.sauvage@wanadoo.fr)), who will be in charge of harmonizing them.

EA :

Very few sites are represented (essentially Arslan Tepe + 4 other ones) and the Armenian, Georgian and Azeri colleagues did not pursue their collaboration, with few exceptions. So, due to a lack of information, this area cannot unfortunately be integrated for the moment in the ARCANE publications, despite the efforts of Aynur Özfirat and Tuba Ökse. However, the 14C data of Arslan Tepe will be included in the 14C table since it is really a key site. There is a site sequence that could be used. Marcella Frangipane and G.-M. di Nocera will be contacted by E. Boaretto and by M. Lebeau to see what can be done. Aynur and Tuba will be present in Leiden and we shall find a way to keep them implied.

ME :

The deadline for delivering the manuscripts is end of February 2011. The final manuscript should be ready and sent to Brepols at the end of May or June. If so, it can still be published in 2011.

TG :

Deadline was December 2010. Some chapters are well advanced, some in course. The manuscripts should be ready by June 2011, and a final version should be sent to Brepols in the beginning of 2012.

Glyptic – Art History :

Holly Pittman will start now gathering the material. She plans a volume organized in chapters corresponding to periods. The volume should be ready at the end of 2013.

Radiocarbon :

Elisabetta Boaretta will write the 14C chapters for the regional volumes in collaboration with the archaeologists and/or 14C TC of each group.

The Transversal volume should be ready at the end of 2011.

CM / SM :

? We shall know more in Leiden. The volume would probably not be ready in 2011. No news from the TLs. Jean Evans will be invited in Leiden.

JZ :

Presentation of a .pdf of the JZ volume (not the final version but an advanced formatted one). It will count probably c. 450 pages.

In conclusion, the Coimbra Arcane interregional meeting was a great success, even if attended by 11 colleagues only. It was organized very professionally and generously by M. Conceição Lopes, with the help of four students from the Coimbra Institute of Archaeology.

The attendants left Coimbra with a renewed feeling of enthusiasm, having in mind a more concrete view of what will be the final products.

M. Lebeau & M.-E. Sténuit  
January 31st, 2011

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## APPENDIX

### **Interregional ARCANE Meeting "Larger Upper Mesopotamia" Coimbra, 27-29 January, 2011**

#### **Workshop Programme**

Day 1 (Thursday, January 27th), at the Institute of Archaeology.

- 09h15 Welcome speech by the Faculty Dean, Dr Carlos André.
- 09h45 Welcome to the Meeting (C. Lopes), Some introductory points (M. Lebeau)
- 10h00 Session I : Presentations by Team Leaders & Topic Coordinators
  - 10h00 Tigridian (general : E. Rova)
  - 10h30 Tigridian (pottery : M. Arrivabeni)
- 11h00 Coffee Break
- 11h30 Session I (continued) : Presentations by Team Leaders & Topic Coordinators
  - 11h30 Jezirah (general : M. Lebeau)
  - 11h50 Jezirah (stratigraphy, architecture, city planning : Ph. Quenet)
  - 12h25 Jezirah (pottery, glyptic: E. Rova)
- 13h00 Lunch
- 14h30 Session II : Presentations by Team Leaders & Topic Coordinators
  - 14h30 Middle Euphrates (general : U. Finkbeiner)
  - 15h00 Middle Euphrates (architecture & other topics : M. Novák)
  - 15h45 Transcaucasian Culture (S. Kroll)
- 16h30 Coffee Break
- 17h00 Session II (continued) : Presentations by Team Leaders & Topic Coordinators
  - 17h00 Glyptic & Art History (H. Pittman)
  - 17h45 Radiocarbon (E. Boaretto)
  - 18h30 General discussion
- 19h30 Dinner

Day 2 (Friday, January 28th), at the Institute of Archaeology.

- 09h15 Session III : Determination of Topics of Interregional Interest (pottery and other)
- 11h00 Coffee Break

- 11h30 Session III (continued) : Discussion about the Topics of Interregional Interest
- 13h00 Lunch
- 14h30 Session III (continued) : Selection of Specialists for summarizing the Topics of Interregional Interest in the Interregional Volume, number of chapters, pages, illustrations (general discussion)
- 16h30 Coffee Break
- 17h00 Session IV : Delineation of Absolute Chronology, Correlation of Stratigraphic Sequences & Regional Periodisations

- 17h00 Absolute Chronology (general discussion)
- 17h30 Stratigraphic Sequences (general discussion)
- 18h00 Correlation of Regional Periodisations (general discussion)
- 18h30 An Introduction to the ENEL Table (M. Lebeau)

- 19h30 Dinner

Day 3 (Saturday, January 29th), at the Institute of Archaeology.

- 09h15 Session V : Setting the Guidelines for the Interregional Volume (one single volume for the whole ARCANÉ Programme) : chapters, contributors, text, tables, maps for the 'Larger Upper Mesopotamia' section.
- 11h00 Coffee Break
- 11h30 Session V (continued) : Regional and Transversal Volumes : Progress Reports
  - 11h30 The special cases of Eastern Anatolia (introduced by M. Lebeau, comments by S. Kroll) and Central Mesopotamia/Southern Mesopotamia
  - 11h50 Middle Euphrates Volume
  - 12h00 Tigridian Volume
  - 12h10 Glyptic & Art History Volume
  - 12h20 Radiocarbon Volume
  - 12h30 A short Presentation of the JZ Volume
- 13h00 Lunch
- 14h30 University Visit
- 19h30 Dinner