



SOUTHERN LEVANT REGIONAL GROUP

TEAM LEADER : PIERRE DE MIROSCHEJJI

SECOND ARCANE WORKSHOP OF THE SOUTH LEVANT REGIONAL GROUP (RG 01) Blaubeuren, 16-18 May 2009

SUMMARY

The Southern Levant (SL) Regional Group (RG) of the ARCANE Project held its second Workshop from 16 to 18 May 2009 at the Fabri Institute, a meeting place of the University of Tübingen at Blaubeuren (Germany). Participants arrived on Friday the 15th in the afternoon and left on Tuesday the 19th in the morning.

The workshop brought together the Topic Coordinators of the Southern Levant Regional Group (with only one exception) and some guests scholars, altogether 12 participants representing eight countries (see below, Appendix 1). Although several formal presentations were delivered during the three days of the meeting, the latter concentrated on discussions which were divided in four parts and lasted altogether some 28 hours (see below, Appendix 2).

Objectives of the meeting

The first workshop in 2007 had defined the goals of the ARCANE project and its methodology, selected the list of sites and archaeological data and planned the work of the SL RG. Consequently, the second workshop had set the following goals:

- 1) Review of the progress of the ARCANE project in general, and the Southern Levant group in particular
- 2) Building the archaeological sequence of the Early Bronze Age of the southern Levant (ESL phasing)
- 3) The ESL sequence and absolute chronology (Carbon 14 and “historical”)
- 4) Review of the archaeological content of the ESL phases
- 5) Planning of the publication of the SL Regional Group

Main results

By and large, the meeting achieved the results set as its goals :

- 1) The archaeological sequence was established : it comprises 7 ESL (“Early Southern Levant”) phases which constitute the archaeological framework of the SL Group .

3) The relative and absolute chronology of the ESL sequence was reviewed and the major chronological anchors delineated. In particular, the relative chronology with Egypt and Lebanon was clarified while an examination of the corpus of C14 dates contributed to pinpoint some absolute datings in the sequence.

2) A full list of data to be included in each ESL phase was agreed upon. This will constitute the backbone of the future publication.

4) Finally, the practical modalities and the agenda for the preparation of the SL monograph were defined.

Directions for future work

The objectives for the forthcoming year have been set:

- Inventories: continuation of the preparation of inventories to complete the Data Base.
- Preparation of the publication of the SL monograph with March 30, 2010, as deadline for the delivery of the manuscripts
- Editing of the monograph between April 1st and October 1st, 2010.

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

The following is a description of the scientific content and of the discussion which took place at the event.

Review of current work

The first item on the agenda was a review by P. de Miroschedji of the progress of the ARCANE project in general and of the work of the Southern Levant Group in particular. The list of inventories already submitted to META for technical evaluation was presented and each TC gave the list of inventories to be completed in the near future.

The Archaeological Sequence

A major goal of the meeting was the definition of the Early Southern Levant (ESL) sequence (see attached table below). This tentative follows more than seventy years of successive chronological and terminological schemes which have introduced a fair amount of confusion in the chronology of the southern Levant. The ARCANE periodization elaborated during this workshop aims to introduce some clarity. Altogether, seven phases, ESL 1 to ESL 7, were defined. They span the entire conventional Early Bronze Age (i.e. EB I to EB IV/IBA), although only the phases ESL 2 to 7 concern the ARCANE Programme.

Following ESL 2, which corresponds to traditional EB IB, ESL 3 is a phase whose definition has been debated and which was variously designated, “Final” or “Terminal EB IB”, “EB I”, “EB IC” or “early EB II”. It witnessed the first appearance of fortified settlements and is well represented in the Jordan Valley and West of it. For working purposes, it was agreed to distinguish between ESL 3a and 3b, the former referring to any settlement presenting the archaeological characteristics of Phase ESL 3, and the latter to

those settlements which present in addition the first fortifications (e.g. Tel Shalem, Tell Abu al-Kharaz, Tell el-Fârah IVA).

ESL 4 is equated with traditional EB II. Although this phase is of rather long duration, the participants did not feel that it could be subdivided.

ESL 5 and 6 correspond with traditional EB III, a period which can be readily subdivided into two subperiods in the southern part of the regions located to the West of the Jordan Valley and on the Jordanian Plateau, but less so elsewhere.

ESL 7 is coterminous with the Intermediate Bronze Age (or EB IV, MB I, EB-MB), a period for which the distinction of well defined subphases is presently hazardous due to the small number of excavated settlement sites.

The ESL sequence and absolute chronology

The goal of the following sessions was to link the ESL archaeological sequence with some chronological anchor-points defined on the basis of interregional connections and C14 datings.

Concerning the relations between the southern Levant and Egypt, the main connections were recalled by Karin Sowada. They establish clear links between ESL 2 and Naqada IIc-d/IIIa₂ phases, ESL 3 and Naqada IIIb-c₁ phases, and between the beginning of ESL 4 and the reign of Djer. It was suggested that the beginning of ESL 5 could be dated to the beginning of the 2nd Dynasty (rather than the end of the 2nd or the beginning of the 3rd Dynasty) while the end of ESL 6 could coincide with the reign of Pepi I. ESL 7 would then span the latter part of the 6th Dynasty and the entire First Intermediate Period, and probably even beyond since the beginning of the MB I is now usually dated in the Southern Levant in the second half or last quarter of 20th century.

The latter suggestions are sustained by new data from the Tel Arqa excavations in northern Lebanon presented by Jean-Paul Thalmann. These data imply a synchronism between Arqa Stratum 16 and the reign of Pepi II, on the one hand, and between Arqa Stratum 17 and the reign of Pepi I and before, on the other hand. Arqa Stratum 18 can also be linked with Hazor XIX, which yielded a jug imported from the Lebanese coast. Hermann Genz presented contemporary material from his excavations at Tell Fadous Kfarabida.

These synchronisms suggest an “historical” chronology which is at least partially at variance with the chronology based on C14. “Historical” and C14 dates are in agreement at c.3000, but the discrepancy grows with time: the C14 dates are 50 to 150 years “older” for the transition from ESL 4 to 5, and c.300 years “older” for the transition from ESL 6 to 7, which Elisabetta Boaretto tends to date before 2600. These discrepancies are less marked in the Northern Levant, and notably at Arqa (Arqa 16 is C14 dated at c. 2400, only about a century earlier than Pepi II’s reign), but are comparable to those observed for the C14 dates of Egypt. This problem will require special investigation.

The archaeological content of the ESL phases

The participants then reviewed the archaeological content of each ESL phases in the four regions of the southern Levant (with the exception of the Negev/Sinai). The categories reviewed were:

- Architecture: dwellings, fortifications, temples, palaces and public buildings

- Metal: tools, weapons, vessels
- Bone : tools and objects
- Stone vessels
- Beads and amulets
- Figurines
- Glyptic
- Burial and mortuary

(Flint and ground stone were not reviewed due to the absence of Steve Rosen)

Planning of the publication of the SL Regional Group

The last session of the meeting was devoted to the planning of the publication of this Regional Group. In accordance with the recommendations issued by the ARCANE editorial Committee, modified in light of the treatment regarded as appropriate for the Southern Levant Group, the following outline and authors was agreed:

[Note the following abbreviations:

EB = Eliot Braun

EBo = Elisabetta Boaretto

HG = Hermann Genz

KS = Karin Sowada

PdM = Pierre de Miroschedji

PF = Peter Fischer

RG = Raphael Greenberg

SR = Steve Rosen

TH = Timothy Harrison

ZG = Zvi Greenhut

ZK = Zeidan Kafafi]

Title page

Will feature the name of the editor — i.e. the team leader — and those of the associated editors (i.e. *all* the topic coordinators)

Foreword (1-2 pages) : PdM

Will list : the team leader(s), the topic coordinators and the contributors (i.e. data providers = excavators or delegates)

Introduction (17 to 24 pages) PdM in consultation with EB, RG, ZG, SR, PF, ZK+TH

- Geographical : boundaries and their reasons: *c. 1 page*
- Methodology : working methodology followed by the group. *c. 1 page*
- Periodizations : former periodizations and their problems: *5 to 10 pages*
- The data available. *c.10-12 pages*
 - The excavated sites in the region (total number, nature, etc.)
 - Key sites retained for our study : how many were retained ? why ?

Stratigraphy (25 pages with tables) Each TCs + editing by PdM, RG, PF, ZK+TH, ZG and SR

- Presentation of the stratigraphic sequence of the selected sites
- stressing the stratigraphic hiatuses, the major articulations of the local stratigraphic sequences, etc. ; i.e. this chapter should underline the bases for chronological divisions which will be, so to speak, tested by the analysis of the different categories of material.

Pottery (max. 80 pages) Each TCs + editing by PdM, PF and TH

Order of variables follows that of the database. Presentation should be Ware by Ware (i.e., what is sometimes called regional assemblages). The c. 80 pages ascribed to this chapter include max. 30 plates + tables (incl. data on frequency + distribution maps, i.e. between 20 and 40 pages of text.

Architecture (20-25 pages) **EB for ESL phases 2-3 ; various TCs or excavators for individual sites of phases ESL 4-7 (list to be established) ; editing by PdM**

Includes dwellings, fortifications, temples, palaces, public buildings and also ovens, silos and various installations.

The items selected will be discussed and presented by type, context, and phase.

The illustrations of this chapter will be schematic plans only, at a scale of 1:200 or smaller.

Metal (15-20 pages) **HG**

Figurines & small finds (15-20 pages) **HG**

Lithics & stone industry (10-15 pages) **SR**

Burials & funerary customs (20-25 pages) **EB, RG, PdM, ZG, PF, ZK+TH and SR**

Glyptic & Art (15-25 pages) **HG + comments by PdM and RG**

C14 (5-10 pages) **EBo**

Southern Levant and Egypt/Lebanon (5-10 pages) **KS**

Conclusions (c. 15 pages) **PdM + all TCs**, so conclusions will be co-authored by all.

Credits (max. 5 pages)

Names of people who entered the data

Bibliography

Index and concordances **KS**

Global editing of the volume : **KS, RG and SR**

Time table

Manuscripts should be handed to the TL on March 1st, 2010

Editorial procedure : 6 months

End of editing : October 1st, 2010

ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS AND DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

This meeting achieved significant results, listed above, the most important being the chronological table illustrated below. However, it should be stressed that *this table is a preliminary and working document which will be further elaborated and modified in the near future.*

Future work will consist in

- Continuation of the preparation of inventories to complete the Data Base.
- Preparation of the publication of the SL monography with March 30, 2010, as deadline for the delivery of the manuscripts
- Editing of the monograph between April 1st and October 1st, 2010.

Meanwhile, the SL Group will co-organize an Levant Interregional meeting in 2010.

APPENDIX 1 : LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Country and institution</i>
<i>TOPIC COORDINATORS</i>			
Boaretto, Elisabetta	Radiocarbon dating	Radiocarbon Dating and Cosmogenic Isotopes Lab, Kimmel Center for Archaeological Science, Weizmann Institute of Science, 76100 Rehovot, Israel, +972 8 9343213 (P), +972 8 934 6062 (F), elisabetta.boaretto@weizmann.ac.il	Italy/Israel : Bar-Ilan University and (Weizman Institute)
Braun, Eliot	TC for EB I West of the Jordan river	Centre de recherche français de Jérusalem, 3, rue Shimshon, B.P. 547, 91004 Jerusalem Israel, +972-(0)2- 5658111 (P), +972-(0)2-6735325 (F), ebraun@netvision.net.il	France (Centre de recherche français de Jérusalem)
Fischer, Peter	TC Jordan Valley	Dorjeskarsgatan 37, SE-421 60, Vastra Frolunda, Sweden, +46 31 494058 (P), +46 31 493377 (F), peter.fischer@ptj.se	Sweden (Swedish Academy)
Genz, Hermann	TC Small Objects & Metals	Dept. of History and Archaeology, American University Beirut, P.O.B. 11-0236, , Beirut 1107 2020, Lebanon, +961-1-374374-ext. 4203 (P), hg09@aub.edu.lb	Germany/Lebanon (American University in Beirut)
Greenberg, Raphael	TC for EB II West of the Jordan river	Dept. of Archaeology and Ancient Near East, Tel Aviv University, P.O.B. 39040, Tel Aviv 69978, +972-3-6405470 (P) +972-3-6407327 (F), grafi@post.tau.ac.il	Israel (University of Tel Aviv)
Greenhut, Zvi	TC for IBA West of the Jordan rivere	Israel Antiquities Authority, P.O.Box 586, 91004 Jerusalem	Israel (Israel Antiquities Authority)
Harrison, Timothy	TC for Jordanian Plateau	Dept of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, 4 Bancroft Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5S 1C1 Canada, +416-978-6600 (P) +416-978-3305 (F), tim.harrison@utoronto.ca	Canada (University of Toronto)
Kafafi, Zeidan	TC for Jordanian Plateau	Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Dept. of Archaeology, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan, +962-2-7211111 (P), +962-2-7274725 (F), zeidank@yahoo.com	Jordan (Irbid University)
Miroschedji, Pierre de	ARCANE Co-chairman & RG01 TL	Centre de recherche français de Jérusalem, 3, rue Shimshon, B.P. 547, 91004 Jerusalem Israel, +972-(0)2- 5658111 (P), +972-(0)2-6735325 (F), pierre.de-miroschedji@mae.u-paris10.fr	France (CNRS/Centre de recherche français de Jérusalem)
Sowada, Karen	Aegyptiaca	4/45 Sir Thomas Mitchell Rd., Bondi Beach NSW, 2026 Sydney, Australia, ksowada@zeta.org.au	Australia (Macquarie University)
<i>GUESTS</i>			
Finkbeiner, Uwe		Altorient.Seminar, Tübingen University, Schloss, D-72070 Tübingen, Germany, 07071-29 74370, uwe.finkbeiner@uni-tuebingen.de	Germany (University of Tübingen)
Thalmann, Jean-Paul	ARCANE DB	3, rue du Cerf, F-26130 Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux, France, +33-475047600, +33-684688278, jp.thalmann@wanadoo.fr	France (University of Paris I)

APPENDIX 2 : PROGRAM OF THE MEETING

FRIDAY, May 15, 2009

Arrival in the afternoon

SATURDAY May 16

Morning :

Part 1 : Introduction to the Workshop

- P. de Miroschedji : Overview of advancement of the ARCANE project
Advancement of the work of the SL Group
- J.-P. Thalmann : The Data Base : present state

Part 2 : Building the ESL sequence : The "EB I"/"EB II" horizon

- E. Braun : West of the Jordan Valley
- P. Fischer : The Jordan Valley
- Z. Kafafi and T. Harrison : East of the Jordan Valley
- All participants : comments and discussion

Afternoon :

Part 2 : Building the ESL sequence (cont.) : The "EB II"/"EB III" horizon

- R. Greenberg : West of the Jordan Valley
- P. de Miroschedji : West of the Jordan Valley
- P. Fischer : The Jordan Valley
- Z. Kafafi and T. Harrison : East of the Jordan Valley
- All participants : comments and discussion

Evening :

Part 2 : Building the ESL sequence (cont. and concl.) : The "IBA" horizon

- Z. Greenhut : West of the Jordan Valley
- P. Fischer : The Jordan Valley
- Z. Kafafi and T. Harrison : East of the Jordan Valley
- All participants : comments and discussion

SUNDAY May 17

Morning :

Part 3 : The ESL sequence and absolute chronologies : Part 3A : the C14 datings

- E. Boaretto : presentation of the data
- All participants : comments and discussion

Part 4 : Review of the archaeological content of the ESL phases

H. Genz + all participants

Afternoon :

Part 4 : Review of the archaeological content of the ESL phases (cont. and concl)

H. Genz + all participants

MONDAY May 18***Morning :***

Part 3 : the ESL sequence and absolute chronologies(cont. and concl.) : Part 3B : “historical” chronologies

(1) Egypt

K. Sowada:

Comments : all participants

(2) Lebanon and Syria

H. Genz: The new data from Tell Fadous-Kfarabida

J.-P. Thalmann: The new data from Tell Arqa strata 17-18

Comments : all participants

Afternoon :

Part 5 : Planning of the publication

Discussion of who does what, and schedule: all participants

TUESDAY May 19

Departure in the morning

APPENDIX 3 : EXPENSES

Dr. Uwe Finkbeiner, who acted as Financial Officer of the meeting, has provided the following summary of expenses :

1. Travel costs of the Participants

<i>Name</i>	<i>Flight</i>	<i>Train</i>	<i>Extras</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sowada, Karin	806,85	68,40	28,40	967,00
		+ 63,00		
Kafafi, Zeidan	425,00	126,00	-	551,00
Fischer, Peter	371,80	66,00	10,00	615,00
	+ 169,00			
Greenhut, Zvi	372,60	107,00	-	480,00
Boaretto, Elisabetta	378,50	63,00	8,00	450,00
Braun, Eliot	650,23	62,00	---	712,00
Greenberg, Raphael	366,70	---	---	367,00
Harrison, Timothy	917,30	---	---	917,00
Miroschedji, Perre de	585,00	---	---	585,00
Thalmann, Jean-Paul	196,00	---	---	196,00
Genz, Hermann	424,00	---	---	424,00
Finkbeiner, Uwe	---	---	89,00	89,00

6.353,00

2. Accommodation and Meals

Stay at Fabri – Institute

1 454,90

Restaurant Hotel Ochsen, Blaubeuren	370,00	
		1.824,90
3. Local administrative Costs		
Rent VW-Bus	97,50	
Diesel	67,50	
Parking at the airport	3,00	
Telephone calls with Dr. Lebeau in Tell Beydar, Syria	13,00	
		181,00
Total Costs, RG 01 Scientific Meeting		8.351,70
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Transfer by ESF Strasbourg		+ 9.400,00
Expenditures, altogether		- 8.358,90
Saldo / remaining amount		+ 1.041,10
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