



Eastern Anatolia (RG 06)
Tuba Ökse / Aynur Özfirat
Team Leaders



The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey

‘Workshop of the Eastern Anatolia Regional Group of the ARCANE (Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and the East Mediterranean), 12-15 Kasım 2007, Van, Turkey’

Summary

The first meeting of the ARCANE regional group 06 (Eastern Anatolia), organized by A. Tuba Ökse and A. Özfirat, took place in Van (Turkey). Nineteen scholars from Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Italy, Belgium, France and Germany participated this meeting. The three goals of the meeting were the presentation of the sites within the region, the presentation of the Project and the Database, and determining of topic coordinators.

1. Description of the scientific content and discussion of the event

The ARCANE Eastern Anatolian Regional Group 06 leaders Prof. Dr. A. Tuba Ökse and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aynur Özfirat have organized the first meeting of the regional group between the 12th and 15th November 2007 at Van. To this meeting 19 scholars from Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Italy, Belgium, France and Germany have participated by presenting the EBA sites within the region: A. Tuba Ökse, Aynur Özfirat, Mehmet Işıklı, George Narimanishvili, Goderdzi Narimanishvili, Marina Puturidze, Safar Ashurov, Tufan Akhundov, Behlül İbrahimgil, Döyüş Logmanoglu Musayev, Qudret Seyfullahoglu İsmayilov, Ruben Badalyan, Khachatur Meliksetyan, Giulio Palumbi, Marc Lebeau, Jean Paul

Thalmann, Nicolas Gailhard and Barbara Helwing. Other participants were Orhan Aliyev from Azerbaijan and the assistants as well as overgraduate students of the Yüzüncü Yıl University: Nilgün Coşkun Köse, Sabahattin Erdoğan, Gulan Ayaz, Davut Yiğitpaşa, Özgür Cangüleç and Cem Haydaroglu.

At the first day of the meeting Marc Lebeau have presented the ARCANE Project and Jean-Paul Thalmann the Database, since it has been the first meeting of the Regional Group 06, and most of the participants were not familiar with the aims and methodology of the Project.

The ARCANE Project aims the construction of a reliable relative and absolute chronological framework for the cultures of the 3rd millennium BC in the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean. The objective of a chronological framework should be reached by developing independent regional chronologies and by synchronizing these respective sequences. The period covers roughly the period frequently named as the Early Bronze Age which is contemporary to the Early Transcaucasian culture of the Eastern Anatolian Regional Group 06 comprising the Southeastern Taurus zone to the Caucasian Mountains. The area is bordered in the west by the Upper Euphrates Valley and in the east the Caspian Sea. The area covers Eastern Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nakhicevan.

The region has close geographical and cultural relations to Northwestern Iran and Central Anatolia. The eastern part of the region has close cultural contacts to Northern Caucasus and the western part (the Upper Euphrates region) to Northern Mesopotamia. This is itself a highly diverse landscape and individual chronological sequences are apparent within this area. A first aim of the Eastern Anatolian group thus consists of the correlation of these individual sequences.

The goals of the first meeting of the Eastern Anatolian Regional Group 06 were:

1. the participants from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Nakhicevan, Iranian Azerbaijan and Turkey came together and presented their papers on their fields concerning the EBA cultural properties of the region
2. the presentation of the ARCANE database
3. determining the sites with data suitable for the database
4. determining new coordinators for vacant topics

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

The region to be studied by the Eastern Anatolian Regional Group 06 extends from the Upper Euphrates region to the Caspian Sea and from the Caucasus mountains to the Taurus Mountains. This wide region contain two different cultural zones, so, in the first meeting of the Eastern Anatolian Regional Group 06 the study region has been divided into two sub regions: the first sub-region is the Upper Euphrates region and the second one extends from the mountainous Eastern Anatolia to the Caucasus Mountains. Moreover, key sites for each sub region has been listed, however, the topic coordinators will contact to the excavators, in order to form an exact list of key sites.

Hereafter the coordinators of the previous list have been checked and new coordinators for the vacant topics have been determined and it has been decided to ask some scholars within the ARCANE Project, if these were interested in participating the Eastern Anatolian Regional Group 06.

The topics and the coordinators are as follows:

Team Leader	A. Tuba Ökse	Turkish	Kocaeli University
Team Leader	Aynur Özfırat	Turkish	Yüzüncü Yıl University
Chronology, Stratigraphy and Radiocarbon sequences correlation (Southern Caucasus)	Ruben Badalyan	Armenian	Armenian Academy of Sciences
Chronology, Stratigraphy and Radiocarbon sequences correlation (Upper Euphrates)	Gian Maria Di Nocera	Italian	University of Rome “La Sapienza”
Ceramics (Southern Caucasus)	Safar Ashurov	Azerbaijan	Scientific Academy of Azerbaijan
	Mehmet Işıklı	Turkish	Atatürk University
Ceramics (Upper Euphrates)	Giulio Palumbi	Italian	University of Rome “La Sapienza”
Architecture (Southern Caucasus)	Marina Puturidze	Georgian	Tbilisi State University
Architecture (Upper Euphrates)	still to be designated		
Lithics	Martha Zambello	Italian	University of Venice
Metals	Nicholas Gailhard	French	University of Paris
Burials and funerary practices (Southern Caucasus)	Marina Puturidze	Georgian	Tbilisi State University
	Safar Ashurov	Azerbaijan	Scientific Academy of Azerbaijan
Burials and funerary practices (Upper Euphrates)	still to be designated		
Art and Iconography Small Finds, Andirons and Figurines	still to be designated		

3. Programme of the Meeting

Day 1: 12. 11. 2007

- 09:30 Opening Speeches and Welcome
- 09:45 M. Lebeau:
"Introduction to the structure and modus operandi of the ARCANE project, following the 'Guidelines for the ARCANE procedures of the regional phase'"
- 10:15 Proposal for Topic Coordinators and Teams
- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:15 Selection of Topic Coordinators and Teams
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Jean Paul Thalmann
"Presentation of Database System"
- 15.00 Coffee Break
- 15.30 Jean Paul Thalmann
"Presentation of Database System"

Day 2: 13. 11. 2007

- 9.30 Tuba Ökse
"The Western Border of the Eastern Anatolian Early Bronze Age Culture"
- 09.50 Mehmet Işıklı
"To the End of the Kura-Araxes Period in Erzurum Region : A Key Site; Güzelova"
- 10.20 Aynur Özfırat
"Karagünüz and Van Lake Basin-Mt. Ağrı Area During Early Bronze Age"
- 10.40 Coffee break
- 11.00 George Narimanishvili and Goderdzi Narimanishvili
"Ritual Roads at Trialeti Barrows-Innovation or a Local Variant"
- 11.30 Marina Puturidze
"About the Problem of Development of Goldcraft Transition from Early Bronze to Middle Bronze Age in South Caucasus"
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14.00 Safar Ashurov
"The Early Bronze Age Ceramic of Nakhichevan"
- 14.30 Behlül İbragimli
"Burials of the Early Bronze Epoch in Nakhchivan"
- 15:00 Tufan Akhundov
"South Caucasus as a Step to the Bronze Age"
- 15:30 Coffee break

16.00 Döyüş Loğmanoğlu Musayev
"The Early Bronze Age Monuments of North-East Azerbaijan"

16.30 Qüdrət Seyfullaoğlu İsmayilov
"Azerbaijan and Early Bronze Age Culture"

17.00 Barbara Helwing
"The Early Bronze Age in the Lake Orumiye Environs".

Day 3 14. 11. 2007

09.30 Nicholas Gailhard
"The Witness of the Metallurgic Activity in Eastern Anatolia"

10.00 Ruben Badalyan
"Periodization and Chronology of the Kura-Araxes Culture of Armenia"

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Giulio Palumbi
"The Upper Euphrates in the III millennium: Internal Sequence and External Correlations. The status of Art and Work Perspectives"

11.30 Kh. Meliksetian, E. Pernicka, R. Badalyan
"Metal artefacts from Early Bronze Age Armenia: Composition and Provenance"

12:00 Lunch

14.00 Discussion of working steps for the first phase of the project; objectives, scheduling, budget, and responsibilities

Day 4 15. 11. 2007

08.00 Excursion
Boot-trip to Akdamar Church,
Visit to Çavuştepe Fortress, Van Castle, Archaeological Museum and City