



**EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION**

Prof. Dr. Jan-Waalke Meyer

D-60629 Frankfurt am Main
Fach 146, Grüneburgplatz 1
Telefon: 069/798 32317
Sekretariat: 069/798 32313
Fax: 069/798 32314
e-mail: j.w.mayer@em.uni-frankfurt.de
www.uni-frankfurt.de/fb/fb09/archwiss/vorderklass

ARCANE , First Meeting of the Regional Group 08, Frankfurt a.m., 23.02-25.02.2007

Scientific Report

Summary

From February 23rd until February 25th the first meeting of the ARCANE regional Group 08 (Jezirah) took place at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe - University, Frankfurt am Main. The meeting had been organised by J.-W. Meyer. 17 Scholars from Belgium, Germany, USA, Italy, Turkey, UK and France participated in this meeting (see list at the end of this report). Unfortunately two of the invited guests have not been able to come, one because of a misguided e-mail (L. Martin) the other one because of a lack of time (Au. McMahon). As announced the meeting had three main subjects: 1. The introduction into the ARCANE Project 2. The presentation of sites in the Syrian Jezirah 3. The main Topic Reports

1. The introduction into the ARCANE Project

Because it has been the first meeting of the ARCANE Regional Group 08 some of the participants were still unfamiliar with the goals and methodology of the ARCANE Project. Therefore at the first day of the meeting M. Lebeau gave an introduction. First he spoke in general about the history, organisation and goals of the ARCANE Project. Hereafter M. Lebeau explained details. Most important was his explanation about inventories. According to M. Lebeau there are three different types of inventories:

a) "Primary Inventories/ Stratigraphical Benchmarks

- Benchmarks originally referred to surveyors' marks made on a stationary object of previously determined position and elevation and used as a reference point e.g. for tidal observations and other surveys. Consequently, for archaeologists, a chrono-stratigraphic or assemblage benchmark is a standard by which other archaeological data can be measured or judged. Benchmark assemblages are thus groups of objects found in contexts of the highest depositional integrity that, hopefully, though not always, can be linked to an absolute chronology, e.g. single burial deposits, suddenly destroyed floors / buildings / complexes, single event caches.

b) Composite Inventories

In order to add complementary data to the artefactual assemblages represented in the "primary

inventories", ARCANE "composite inventories" may be introduced by merging together (under one ARCANE Inventory Serial Number) a restricted number of inventories from "excavation units" strictly correlated stratigraphically, not necessarily contiguous but belonging to the same Complex. By definition they cannot be linked to a UNIT, but will compulsorily be linked to a Complex (e.g. inventories from contemporary floors in various rooms of the same building).

c) Artificial inventories

- ARCANE "artificial inventories" respond to the wish of incorporating significant information retrieved from insufficiently documented contexts and/or old standards of publication. They should be used with utmost care, introduced only when strictly necessary, and in any case include but a small proportion of all data collected for ARCANE.

The participants further learned, that only complete vessels out of inventories should be presented to ARCANE. Finally M. Lebeau explained the Database and how to use it.

2. The presentation of sites in the Syrian Jezirah

On the second day of the meeting the excavators presented their sites. The aim of these presentations was firstly to teach the colleagues about unpublished results of excavations and secondly to give the topic co-ordinators an idea about a potential interesting material.

Tell Chuera (J. -W. Meyer)

J. -W. Meyer gave a summary of the last excavation-results at Tell Chuera. He showed that Tell Chuera has been settled from the beginning to the end of the third millennium. At Tell Chuera it has been partly possible to date the planning and expansion of the town, making this site very important for the reconstruction of the process of urbanisation in the Jezirah. Inventories with complete vessels -mostly graves- can be presented from the periods TCH IB, IC and ID.

Tell Leilan (L. Ristvet)

Like Tell Chuera also Tell Leilan has a long history of occupation and there are hints for the dating of its upper and lower town.

Kharab Sayyar (Ralph Hempelmann)

At Kharab Sayyar, located close to Tell Chuera, a stepped trench has been carried out, providing the excavators with a complete sequence of the third millennium. Specially stressed was the phenomenon, that the earliest pottery at Kharab Sayyar while very similar to those from the upper Euphrates lacks any similarity with those from the Khabur. Unfortunately no inventories with complete vessels have been unveiled.

Tell Mozan (F. Buccellati)

F. Buccellati, who presented the results of the excavations at the palace, has represented the American mission at Tell Mozan. This area was very rich in seal impressions, some wearing inscriptions and therefore very important for the reconstruction of the history at the fourth quarter of the third millennium.

Tell Mozan (P. Pfälzner)

P. Pfälzner presented the results of the German mission at Tell Mozan. He maintained that the central terrace already existed in the period Early Jezirah II (2800-2600). This period has been followed by a permanent occupation until the end of the third millennium, so that all Early Jezirah periods are represented at this site.

Tell Beydar (M. Lebeau)

Though only the later phases have been unveiled on a wider scale –showing us an impressive architectural structures containing cuneiform tablets- also Tell Beydar has been occupied at least since the period Early Jezirah II. M. Lebeau was able to present C14-dates for each period.

Tell Bderi (P. Pfälzner)

At this site the periods EJ IIIA and EJ IIIB are particular well represented. The excavators noticed a break in the occupation between these two periods.

Tell Barri (St. Valentini)

Presenting the site of Tell Barri, St. Valentini focused on structures containing the inventories, he wanted to present to the ARCANE. These structures form two buildings, dated to the beginning of the third millennium (EJ I/II) and have been interpreted as shrines of the ancestor cult. In the following discussion TC A. Pruß expressed his surprise about the find of anthropomorphic terracotta figurines within these buildings. According to A. Pruß at other sites anthropomorphic figurines appear much later.

Girvanaz (H. Erekanal)

The participants learned to know, that besides the remains of later periods very rich graves from the third millennium have been found at Girvanaz.

Tell Mohammed Diyab (Chr. Nicolle)

At this site a huge terrace dating to the period EJ IIIA has been discovered. Interesting is also the find of calculi.

Abu Hujeira (Ph. Quenet)

Because the field director A. Suleiman could not be present, Ph. Quenet presented this site. Of special interest are four longish buildings with flying buttresses, interpreted as storehouses. Also huge terraces have been found. Because of the extraordinary amount of grindstones Ph. Quenet supposed they had been produced at this site.

Kashkashuk (Ph. Quenet)

At Kashkashuk early levels from EJ I and EJ II have been unveiled. The earliest structure consists of a round enclosing wall to which at the inside rooms are added. A later grave cut into these structures consisted rich material. Other important finds were fragments of a statue, a calculating-tablet and many metal-artefacts.

Chagar Bazar (Ö. Tunca)

Ö. Tunca presented the results of the Belgian excavations at Chagar Bazar

Kazane (P. Wattenmaker)

The occupation of this big site started at the very beginning of the Early Bronze Age and reached its maximum expansion during the period EJ IIIB. The history of the settlement has interesting parallels to the history of Tell Chuera.

3. The main Topic Reports

On the third day of the meeting the Topic Co-ordinators gave an introduction into their way of collecting and arranging the material. They also were supposed to tell the excavators which material of each site would be interesting to add to the database.

Stratigraphy (Ph. Quenet)

Ph. Quenet spoke about perspectives and problems connected with the installation of a unified stratigraphic sequence.

Ceramics (E. Rova)

E. Rova summed up the first impressions she got from the presentation the day before. She divided the Jezirah in different pottery-areas. She also mentioned what she regarded as being special important in each site

Metal (A. Bianchi)

A. Bianchi gave a short summary about metal objects in general.

Glyptic (A.P. McCarthy)

A.P. McCarthy told about his ideas of collecting the glyptic-data. His methodology distinguishes between the scene itself and the style in which this scene has been depicted.

Burial and Funerary Practices (St. Valentini)

In a very detailed presentation St. Valentini mentioned not only different types of burials but also their social and religious conclusions.

Terracotta figurines (A. Pruß)

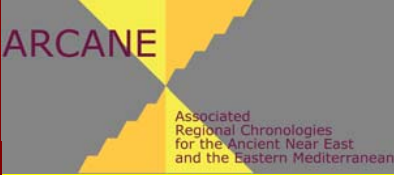
A. Pruß presented a typology, which he already had worked out.

The final discussion focused mainly on how to interpret the collected data. J. -W. Meyer recommended the topic co-ordinators not to analyse the material according to social, religious etc interpretations but to focus on the chronology. M. Lebeau agreed on that adding, that at the end there will be only an interpretation of the chronology.

4. List of participants

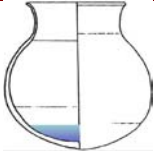
<i>Name</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Country</i>
Marc Lebeau	RG08 TL	European Centre for Upper Mesopotamian Studies/ Université Libre de Bruxelles	Belgium
Elena Rova	RG08 TC	Venice University	Italy
Philipp Quinet	RG08 TC	Institut Français d'Archéologie du Proche-Orient	France
Peter Pfälzner	RG08 TC	Tübingen University	Germany
Jan Waalke Meyer	RG08 TC	Frankfurt University	Germany
Alexander Pruß	RG08 TC	Munich University	Germany
Alice Bianchi	RG08 TC	Tübingen University	Germany
Stefano Valentini	RG08 TC	Florence University	Italy
Andrew McCarthy	RG08 TC	University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom
Uwe Finkbeiner	RG07 TL	Tübingen University	Germany
Patricia Wattenmaker	Invited participant	University of Michigan	USA
Federico Buccellati	Invited participant	Tübingen University	Germany
Christophe Nicolle	Invited participant	Université de Bourgogne	France
Lauren Ristvet	Invited participant	Georgia State University	USA
Hayat Erkanal	Invited participant	Ankara University	Turkey
R. Hempelmann	Invited participant	Frankfurt University	Germany
Ö. Tunca	Invited participant	Université de Liège	Belgium

5. List of inventories

ARCANE ESF PROGRAMME JEZIRAH (RG 08) INVENTORIES					Nr of C14 dates in invent.	Nr of C14 dates (total)	pottery	stone vessel	figurines	seals/sealings	metal	beads/jewellery	chipped stone	heavy lithic	other	Published. = yes Unpublished = no Partly published/ partly unpublished = partly	
Update: 09/04/07 v.1.6	Deadline: 30/11/07																
Site name	Arcane site code	Nr of inventories	EJ Phases	Date Range													Arcane contact person + email
Brak (Oates)	JZ001	10 to 15 asked to Joan OK				?											Joan Oates jlo29@cam.ac.uk
Brak (Matthews)	JZ001	5 to 7 asked to Roger OK				22											Roger Matthews tcnrom@ucl.ac.uk
Beydar	JZ002	15 to 17	EJ I to IVc	2900 - 2100	c. 15	32	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	tablets	partly	Marc Lebeau marc.lebeau@chello.be
Khuera	JZ003	10 to 12	EJ II to IV	2700 - 2200	3	12	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		partly	Jan Waalke Meyer j.w.meyer@em.uni-frankfurt.de
Leilan	JZ004	12 to 15	EJ I to IVc	2900 - 2100	c. 60	c. 100	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	tablets	partly	Lauren Ristvet Iristvet@gsu.edu
Mozan (Buccellati)	JZ005	2 to 5	EJ III to V	2400 - 2000		?										partly	Federico Buccellati fab@urkesh.com
Mozan (Pfälzner)	JZ005	2 to 5	EJ III to V	2600 - 2000			x		x	x				x	tablet	partly	Peter Pfälzner peter.pfaelzner@uni-tuebingen.de

Arbid	JZ006	6 to 8 asked to Piotr																																			Piotr Bielinski piotr.bielin@wp.pl	
Barri	JZ007	7	EJ II to V	2600 - 2100				x		x	x	x	x																								no partly forthcoming	Stefano Valentini vstoshiro@libero.it
Kazane	JZ008	9 to 10	EJ II-III, V	2750 - 2000	7	13		x		x	x	x	x	x	x																					partly	Pati Wattenmaker paw3u@virginia.edu	
Atij	JZ009	6 to 8 asked to Michel OK	EJ II to IIIa	2750 - 2400				x		x		x																									partly	Michel Fortin michel.fortin@hst.ulaval.ca
Bderi	JZ010	5 to 6	EJ II to IIIb	2750 - 2300				x		x																										partly	Peter Pfälzner peter.pfaelzner@uni- tuebingen.de	
Girnavaz	JZ011	2 to 3	EJ I to V	2900 - 2000				x		x	x	x	x																							partly	Hayat Erkanal irerp@superonline.com	
Kashkashok III	JZ012	3 to 6	EJ I to II	2900 - 2600				x		x	x	x	x	x																						no	Philippe Quenet pquet@orange.fr	
Kneidej	JZ013	6 to 8 asked to Lutz OK	EJ 0?/I to IIIb	3000 - 2300				x																												yes	Lutz Martin l1martin@gmx.de & Sabina Kulemann-Ossen sabina.kulemann.ossen@orien- t.uni-freiburg.de	
Melebiya	JZ014	6	EJ II to IIIb	2650 - 2350				x		x	x	x	x																							yes	Marc Lebeau marc.lebeau@chello.be	
Raq'a'i	JZ015	6 asked to Glenn OK																																			Glenn Schwartz schwartz@jhu.edu	
Abu Hufur	JZ016	3 asked to Piotr																																			Piotr Bielinski piotr.bielin@wp.pl	

Abu Hujaira	JZ017	3 to 6	EJ IIIa to V	2550 - 2000				x		x			x	x	x				Philippe Quenet pquenet@orange.fr
Chagar Bazar	JZ018	1 to 2	EJ IV	2200				x										x	yes Philippe Quenet pquenet@orange.fr
Gülharin	JZ019	not excavated																	
Jassa el-Gharbi	JZ020	3 asked to Piotr																	Piotr Bielinski piotr.bielin@wp.pl
Gudeda	JZ021	4 asked to Michel OK	EJ IIIa-b to IVa	2550 - 2300				x		x			x		x	x			partly Michel Fortin michel.fortin@hst.ulaval.ca
Kerma	JZ022	contact missing																	
Kharab Sayyar	JZ023	1 to 3	EJ I to IV	2900 - 2100				x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			partly Jan Waalke Meyer j.w.meyer@em.uni-frankfurt.de
Khazne	JZ024	10	EJ I	2900 - 2750															Shahmardan Amirov shahmardan@mail.ru
Mabtuh Sharqi	JZ025	to be evaluated																	
Mashnaqa	JZ026	not enough data																	
Muhammad Diyab	JZ027	2 to 3	EJ III to IV	2600 - 2100				x					x	x					partly Christophe Nicolle christophe.nicolle@college-de-france.fr
Mulla Matar	JZ028	contact missing																	

Nuss Tell	JZ029	contact missing																	
Rad Shaqrah	JZ030	3 asked to Piotr																	Piotr Bielinski piotr.bielin@wp.pl
Zaghan	JZ031	not excavated																	
Ziyadeh	JZ032	contact missing																	
Jezirah Regional Group		proposed inventories: 80 to 106 requested inventories: 52 to 65	ideal nr of inventories: 100 to 125 currently validated inventories(13/03/07): 6	C14 c. 85	C14 c. 179	Please, send JZ inventories (DVD/CD) to: Marc Lebeau 41 Bld. A. Reyers, Bte. 6 B-1030 Bruxelles, Belgium				 <p>Please, contribute to fill the bottle...</p>									