

# N News & Notes

The Oriental Institute

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*Issued confidentially to members and friends**Not for publication*

Members' Day last month was a great success: over 200 members and friends of the Oriental Institute attended and enjoyed demonstrations of archeological methods, hieroglyphic and cuneiform writing systems, and the scholarly work of interpreting ancient texts. They also saw films on scientific exploration and exhibits about the Institute's major projects, and had the opportunity to meet many of our faculty and discuss their work with them firsthand. Just about everyone agreed that the twin highlights of Members' Day were the tours of the basement facilities and the Hurrian music. We hope that even more members will come to the next Members' Day.

Let us remind you that on Wednesday evening, May 15, at 8:30 P.M., Dr. Kantor will present an illustrated lecture on some aspects of this season's work at Chogha Mish. The newsletter which follows summarizes the expedition's accomplishments this year.

## JOINT IRANIAN EXPEDITION, CHOGHA MISH EXCAVATIONS 1973-74 SEASON Chicago, December, 1973

In December, 1898, Walter Andrae\* started on his way from Germany to the Near East. He did not arrive at the goal of the journey, Babylon, until some 14 weeks later, after a protracted journey by land and sea, interrupted by a three-week stay at Baalbek and ending with a long ride across the Syrian desert to Mesopotamia. Once there he did not return for a furlough in Germany until four years later. Today, with modern means of transportation, this situation is almost unimaginable. Whether the ultimate balance is to the good or bad is not to be settled in this first newsletter of the JIE's new season. Today a round trip to the Near East can be made within a week, and the present Newsletter is a brief report on just such a rushed journey.

Approximately a year ago in a major reorganization of those branches of the Iranian Ministry of Art and Culture dealing with antiquities, a new "National Research Centre for the History of Art and Archeology," under the direction of Dr. Firouz Bagherzadeh, was established. He has organized, as a yearly event to occur during the course of the celebration of the birthday of his Imperial Majesty, the Shah of Iran, a "Symposium" in which the directors of archeological expeditions working in Iran will present the results of their work. Already last summer Dr. Bagherzadeh had written to Professor P. P. Delougaz and myself that he considered the presence of at least one of us at the Symposium as essential, and he reinforced this statement by a cable a short time before the Symposium was to open at the end of October. The practical problems involved in a trip to Iran in the midst of the University term are obvious, and at first seemed insuperable. However, in view of Dr. Bagherzadeh's urgency, we finally decided that Delougaz would represent the Joint Iranian Expedition at the Symposium.

Unfortunately, after he had made all the preparations for the trip, a traffic accident shortly before the departure date prevented him from leaving. After an exchange of telephone calls to his Los Angeles hospital, I had to take over the "mission."

There remained only about three days for all the preparations for departure, including the selection of lecture slides. A fog-shrouded London airport provided the "adventure" of the outward

\*Andrae went out as an assistant of Koldewey at Babylon and was to become Koldewey's successor as the leader of the German school of Mesopotamian archeology, direct the DOG excavations at Assur, and become one of the major figures among the investigators of the ancient Near East.

journey; that is, the missing of my onward flight and the friends who had come to Tehran airport to meet me. I counted myself fortunate to find a flight that arrived in Tehran at 2:00 A.M. It turned out that our regular accommodation staying place, the archeological Marlik Hotel, no longer functioned as a hostelry, so that I was indeed grateful to be taken in by the American Institute of Iranian Studies at 4 o'clock in the morning and to be able to stay there during the days of the Symposium. The director, Dr. Jerome Clinton, who, together with his wife, has established the AIIS as an active and respected member of the foreign cultural institutions in Tehran, told me that the Chogha Mish lecture was scheduled for the afternoon of that very first day. A few hours after arriving in Tehran, I was at the opening morning session of the Symposium, presided over by H. E. Mr. M. Pahlbod, the Minister of Art and Culture. Only the luncheon interval was left for checking over the final arrangement of the lecture slides for that afternoon.

This hectic pace was typical for all the five days of the Symposium. The daily programs were long, since there were over thirty excavations or surveys to be reported on and in addition, important restoration projects. Thus the Symposium provided an excellent survey of the archeological work done in Iran during the previous year, through the oral reports and the special exhibition of finds installed by the Muze Iran Bastan (Antiquities Museum of Iran), as well as through informal conversations. It was a great pleasure to meet many friends whose excavation schedules do not correspond to ours and whom accordingly we do not usually see in Iran. The western hemisphere had only two representatives, T. Cuyler Young, Jr., of Canada (Royal Ontario Museum, University of Toronto) and myself. At the end of the Symposium I felt it appropriate on my own behalf and on that of the foreign archeologists to thank the organizers of the scholarly gathering for giving us the opportunity to meet together with our Iranian colleagues and for the warm hospitality which they extended to us.

The final session of the Symposium was devoted to several reports on the ambitious plans proposed for the National Centre of the History of Art and Archeology by its director, Dr. Bagherzadeh. These include the expansion of the Muze Iran Bastan (Antiquities Museum of Iran) in both its public exhibition and research aspects and the development in the Centre of a large corps of excavation and technical specialists. Already, in fact, the Joint Iranian Expedi-

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tion has contributed to the Centre Ali Reza Khasvandi, who is now the official pottery restorer at the Museum. We began training him as a young lad in 1963 when we noticed his exceptional abilities, and he developed into one of our most skilled workmen.

After the close of the Symposium there was a chance to discuss with Dr. Bagherzadeh such practical expedition business as the annual renewal of our excavation permit and the appointment of a colleague representing the Centre. Dr. Bagherzadeh assured me that all these matters would be arranged promptly, so that there would be nothing to delay the start of work when we returned to Iran at the end of December. Thus, from both the practical point of view as well as from a scholarly one, the hectic seven days in Tehran were as rewarding as they had been exhausting. And on the westward flight, traveling with the sun so that one left Tehran in the pre-dawn light and arrived in Chicago in the dusk of the same "day," the contrast between earlier journeys to the Near East such as that of Andrae mentioned at the beginning of this Newsletter and those that we can make today was forcibly borne in upon me.

#### GHALEH KHALIL NEAR CHOGHA MISH

March 31, 1974

The schedule for the 1973-1974 season of excavations at Chogha Mish called for us to leave L.A. and Chicago as soon as the autumn quarters at both universities were over. We hoped to work on finds in the house during the final days of December and to prepare for the opening of excavations on January 1, 1974. This would, we thought, give us a three-month season of continuous digging. Several unforeseen circumstances intervened to change this plan. First and most serious, P. P. Delougaz, after having been struck by a car in the autumn quarter, was, despite his expectations to the contrary, unable to come out to Iran until late in the season. Secondly, the winter rains were unusually long-sustained this year, interrupting the work on the mound even more than in previous seasons. However, despite these difficulties, now that Professor Delougaz is here and we are closing the season together, we can see that the sum total of our results is gratifying. Now to turn to details.



*Gully Cut Extension showing Middle Susiana structures, foreground; Early Susiana walls, to the left; avenues of the Gully Cut Sherdyard.*

This year most of the staff members have already been with us for one or more seasons, and were both very experienced in general and in particular familiar with the situation at Chogha Mish. Miss Johanne Vindenas, formerly chief librarian of the Oriental Institute, was the archeological registrar. Mr. Donald D. Bickford, who worked on the Oriental Institute's Nubian Expedition, was the artist. Milton M. Winn, who received his doctorate last November from UCLA, and Daniel Shimabuku, a student of Professor Delougaz's at UCLA, were area supervisors. Another student of Delougaz's, Mrs. Marian Moor Sturz, participated very actively in many aspects of the dig. We were particularly fortunate to have with us our colleague from the National Centre for the History of Art and Archeology in Tehran, Mr. Jehangir Yasi, who has conducted many surveys and excavations in Iran. He has been a knowledgeable and helpful colleague.

Mr. Bickford, the first to start, left his home in Hawaii, stopping in Los Angeles to see Delougaz and pick up some excavation supplies, and came on to Chicago where he was most helpful in the final rushed preparations for departure. On December 19th we met Johanne Vindenas in Amsterdam, and the three of us went on together to Abadan. We arrived late at night, but had a royal reception, being met in the customs shed by Mr. William Ryan, one of the American consuls at Khorramshahr, by a friend of long standing, Captain Martin Crane, and by our faithful driver, Mohammed Basirifar. After being most hospitably put up at the consulate for the rest of the night, we drove up to Andimeshk and on to the expedition house in the little village of Ghaleh Khalil, which we reached just at dusk on the 20th. Gholam Emiri, the Expedition guard and cook, had the house in splendid order so that the job of unpacking was quickly finished. After only one day we were able to begin work with sherd recording and drawing on December 22nd. Winn and Shimabuku, who were coming by way of Afghanistan, arrived on Christmas morning after an adventurous trip, including many delays and a flight on a small local airplane between the snowbound mountains of Afghanistan. Our Christmas celebration together was dampened only by the absence of Professor Delougaz.

Before leaving the United States, Professor Delougaz and I had discussed the general aims of the season and the specific areas to be dug. The focus was to be on two widely separated chronological segments, that is (a) the period of the earliest so far known settlement in the Khuzestan plain, Archaic Susiana, provisionally dated to the late 7th and early 6th millennia B.C., and (b) the Early Protoliterate period, dating around 3400 B.C., which saw the invention of writing and the elaboration of economic and social systems.

Excavation started exactly according to schedule on January 1st, in two low-lying areas on the east side of the terrace. In one of these, Sounding G, we had obtained in the fourth season a clear stratigraphic sequence from Middle Susiana down to the Late Archaic, but the area had not been large enough to develop the traces of architecture found. About 16 m. to the south was the Gully Cut, which from the fourth season on has been yielding stratigraphic evidence for the three phases of the Archaic Susiana period. Accordingly, we had decided to open up the entire area between Gully Cut and Sounding G. Not far away on the East slope are two other areas, Trench XXI (with stratified Middle, Early, and Archaic Susiana remains) and below, Trench XXXII, where in previous seasons we had found Archaic walls running in the direction of Tr. XXI. This season we decided to excavate the space between the two areas, throwing them into one. The third sector of work was the east quarter of the Protoliterate city. In addition to the areas which we determined to reactivate while still in America, the circumstances of the work, in particular the practical needs of distributing pickmen, made it advisable to open an additional area. A stratigraphic test trench, XXXVII, 20 by 2 meters, was laid out on the east slope of the terrace some distance south of the Trench XXI-XXXII area to check the extent of the Archaic settlement in that direction and to see whether well-preserved Early Susiana rooms analogous to those found to the north also existed there. Our results can be summarized



Discovery of a pair of nested bituminous stone vessels of c. 6000 B.C. in the Trench XXI area.

briefly, area by area, beginning with the smallest one, that of Trench XXXVII.

A. *Trench XXXVII.* The westernmost end of this trench is at about the same level as the Early Susiana houses of the Trench XXI area, some 30 meters to the north. In Tr. XXXVII, however, instead of Early Susiana brickwork just below the modern surface, we found mixed debris containing sherds of the first millennium B.C. (Achaemenid Persian), the late fourth millennium (Protoliterate), and of the preceding prehistoric periods. To our surprise, Protoliterate sherds continued to be found even some two meters below the surface, at a depth where an equid skull, complete except for its mandible, occurred. We were clearing a pit which had cut through and destroyed Early Susiana strata and which was over four meters deep. We had the ironic satisfaction of finding at the very bottom a large loop-handled Achaemenid sherd, proving that a very extensive pit of the first millennium had here disturbed the earlier remains. In the other parts of Trench XXXVII, however, prehistoric Middle Susiana and Early Susiana layers with some architectural features (such as hearths and walls) were in place. A Middle Susiana burial had a fine unpainted beaker and a small squat black-washed jar. In the west part of Tr. XXXVII we reached a level with the characteristic painted wares of the Archaic Susiana 3 stage. Below, sterile soil appeared, indicating that this part of the site had not been settled in the earlier two phases of the Archaic Susiana period. In providing evidence pertinent to the extent of the Archaic settlement Tr. XXXVII fulfilled one of the main objectives for which it had been dug.

B. *The Trench XXI-XXXII Area.* The unexcavated space between Trenches XXI and XXXII did not have house walls preserved close to the surface but instead revealed not far below the surface five burials attributable to the Archaic Susiana 3 period. The skeletons were without grave goods, except for one with a stone pendant at the throat. However, two well-shaped stone maceheads were found nearby. The preliminary analysis of the pottery from this level suggests that we may be dealing with deposits intermediate between the Archaic Susiana 3 proper and the fully developed Early Susiana period. If detailed study corroborates the intermediate position of these deposits, they will provide important evidence for the continuity of development in the Susiana area at a time when the possibility of migrations between the Susiana area and Mesopotamia must be considered.

Below the level of the burials begins a complex of walls, some

preserved only one or two courses high, of the Archaic period; they need further excavation for their clarification. In the adjacent area of Tr. XXI we are clarifying various loci previously excavated. In the course of this work we have established the existence of a small mud-brick platform of the Early Susiana period flanked on the north by the well-built Early Susiana rooms excavated in the fifth season and on the southeast by substantial Early Susiana walls beginning immediately below the modern surface. One large room and several smaller ones have emerged, but we probably will not be able to finish clearing them before leaving. The work this season has shown clearly that in the Tr. XXI-XXXII area the Early Susiana settlement is exceptionally well-preserved, while somewhat to the south, as shown by Tr. XXXVII, it has been considerably disturbed by erosion and later occupation.

C. *The Enlarged Gully Cut.* The excavation here demonstrated the advantages of opening up a considerable area at once. Close to the Protoliterate drain dug first season in the Gully Cut, in the southern part of this season's extension, was a large pit crammed with Protoliterate pottery. It had been dug in from a now-eroded upper surface, cutting away in the process some walls of the Middle Susiana period. Fortunately, this large pit and a smaller one at the edge of the Extension were the only Protoliterate remains, so that we were able to clear several undisturbed layers of Middle Susiana floors and houses. The large number of kilns and hearths, some of quite complicated structure, was noteworthy. Another interesting feature was two patches of floor paved with potsherds. Below the Middle Susiana remains appeared the walls of rooms of the preceding Early Susiana period, at least two levels being represented. The walls of the lower Early Susiana level are particularly substantial. The greater part of a room some 5 meters long lies within this year's excavation, but its southwest corner disappears under undug earth. What appears to be a lane separates this large room from another room to the east of which is a substantial wall with five buttresses. This wall apparently turns a corner, but both ends of it are still unexcavated and we cannot clear it completely in the limited time remaining this season.

It is already clear that we have in the Gully Cut Extension very substantial buildings of the Early Susiana period, constructed on a lower level than the good Early Susiana houses of the Tr. XXI-XXXII area, allowing us to visualize the ancient town of the sixth millennium B.C. with houses rising one above another on the hill. The density and importance of the Early Susiana settlement was greater than we had originally anticipated when we began digging on the east slope of the terrace.

Some of the walls found this season in the Gully Cut Extension may have belonged to structures that were more than simple dwellings. Nearby the buttressed wall is a thick deposit of black ashy earth with masses of Early Susiana sherds, many painted, now in the process of being joined by sherdboys into semi-complete forms in the sherdyard. These additions to our corpus of Early Susiana pottery are exciting, but furthermore the same black debris has yielded evidence for terracotta figurines. A miniature figure of a seated woman, about 3 cm. in length, is well modeled and complete except for her head; every visitor immediately exclaimed, "This is the Venus of Chogha Mish." Fragments of larger figurines, all painted, include an upper torso with large breasts reminiscent of those of the miniature figurine and lower torsos with painted bands presumably indicating clothing. Most striking of all, and on a larger scale, is the painted terracotta human head. We can now visualize what a complete Early Susiana painted figure would look like. And just two days ago (March 29) we found in the same deposit a large stone pendant in the shape of a boar. It remains for next season and the still further enlargement of the Gully Cut area to determine whether we have here substantial private houses or structures of a more public nature. It must also remain for next season to open up the underlying Archaic levels into which we are just beginning to penetrate on the southern end of the Gully Cut Extension.

D. *The East Area of Protoliterate Houses.* We began to explore this area in the second season, but had to neglect it for several years while we were working in the early prehistoric areas on the lower slopes of the mound. We returned to the East Area briefly at the end of the short seventh season. This year we marked off a long strip along the north side of the previously excavated areas and dug down from the surface. The main results are as follows. Very close to the surface were traces of an occupation dating to the Achaemenid Persian period. After the Protoliterate period (ca. 3400 B.C.) the terrace at this spot had lain unoccupied for some 3000 years, until the time of the first Persian dynasty in the first millennium B.C. Several patches of Achaemenid floors, one with a small hearth lined with tiny potsherds, and the bottom course of a wall were traced. In addition an Achaemenid kiln cut down into the Protoliterate deposits was also found. The Achaemenid pottery, though occurring as sherds rather than complete pieces, will greatly enrich our corpus of pottery from this period and be important for comparison with finds from elsewhere. In fact though so much monumental architecture and sculpture is known from the Achaemenid period, the evidence for smaller finds is more meager. Our little Achaemenid village at Chogha Mish may well make a larger contribution to the knowledge of the period than might at first seem possible.

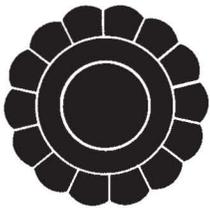
As was to be expected, the remains of the Protoliterate period were both extensive and complex: pits dug down at varying stages within the period were full of sherds and beveled-rim bowls. A number of rooms, sometimes with pottery vessels *in situ* in their floors, kilns, and an elaborate baked-brick installation associated with drain pipes were cleared. The latter is clearly built for a specialized craft, which we hope to identify with more likelihood when the surrounding area is removed next season. The newly excavated rooms will add considerably to the plans of the private houses in this quarter of the Protoliterate city.

Two discoveries in the East Area have important implications. In

a room which yielded several seal impressions was a cluster of several clay cones; in other words, for the first time we have found a chunk of the cone-mosaic decoration typical for Protoliterate temples, which presumably fell from a nearby building. Somewhat to the west of this find, in the reclearing and deepening of an area begun several seasons ago, we came upon two superimposed walls, both about 1.70 m. thick. The upper one forms a corner; that of the lower stage of the building runs in a straight line for some 10 meters before disappearing in unexcavated earth. Their size and very regular construction set apart these walls from those of the normal private houses of the area and suggest that we are dealing here with the remains of a public structure. Since these walls are not far from the Circular Building, also clearly not a private building, we may, with luck, be approaching on this highest part of the terrace at Chogha Mish some public buildings around which the private houses and the little lanes of the Protoliterate city were grouped.

Now with the rush of the final days of the season upon us, and with some members of the staff already departing, there is no time to dwell upon our results or the promise of the next season or on the details of daily life here. Fortunately the arrival of Professor Delougaz is allowing us to round off the season far more successfully than would otherwise have been possible, and we hope somehow to manage all that must be done in the next few days. Meanwhile, it is the time of the Iranian New Year, which lasts for thirteen days. Professor Ezat Negahban, Director of the Archaeological Institute of Tehran University, had his customary New Year's Eve party at Haft Tepe on March 20th, and we have had many visitors. The countryside is green and bright with wild flowers. Professor Delougaz and I wish all of our friends and colleagues and the members of the Oriental Institute a very happy and successful new year 1353.

Helene J. Kantor



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