

EXCAVATIONS AT TELL KARRANA 3 (1985 AND 1986)

In 1985 and 1986 the German-Italian Expedition to Iraq in collaboration with the State Organization of Antiquities and Heritage of the Republic of Iraq continued its work in the area of the Saddam Dam basin north of Mosul, which was initiated in 1984¹.

Already in 1984, Tell Karrana 3 had proved to be the most important site for linking the Late Uruk pottery development to the early Ninevite 5 one. In spring 1986 the water table of Lake Saddam reached a height of only seven meters below the top of Tell Karrana. Though the archaeological strata were not affected, access to the site could only be obtained by boat (Fig. 1), which was kindly placed at our disposal by the State Organisation of Antiquities and Heritage. During the winter following our last campaign, Tell Karrana was reported to have disappeared completely under water.

The aim of the first campaign in 1984 was to establish the sequence of occupation and to excavate a larger part of what was called «Level 3» and

¹ Cf. F.M. FALES *et al.*, in *Researches on the Antiquities of Saddam Dam Basin Salvage and Other Researches*, Baghdad 1987, 99-128.

The second campaign lasted from September 6 to November 6, 1985, the third and last campaign from September 20 to November 18, 1986. Both campaigns were jointly directed by Gernot Wilhelm, then University of Hamburg, and Carlo Zaccagnini, University of Bologna. The members of the 1985 team were: B. Brautlecht-Peacey, Dr. L. Crescenzi, Dr. M.K. Gesuato, M. Goedecke, U. Hartung, G. Heese-Greve M.A., J. Rehmet and Dr. E. Rova; those of the 1986 team were: B. Brautlecht-Peacey, Dr. L. Crescenzi, M. Goedecke, U. Hartung, A. Ianiello, Dr. E. Rova, V. Schön. Our Iraqi representatives were Sd. Abdul Salam Sim'an (1985) and Sd. Karim Toma (1986).

Financial support to the project was secured by the Iraqi State Organization of Antiquities and Heritage that contributed a substantial share of the costs and supplied housing facilities in the Nineveh excavation compound. Both campaigns were again sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Italian Ministry of Education (through the University of Bologna).

Once again, we express our gratitude to Dr. Muayad Sa'id Damerji, President of the State Organization and to all his staff in Baghdad and Mosul who contributed to the success of the project. We owe special thanks to the head representatives of the Saddam Dam constructor, GIMOD J.V.: directors Dipl.-Ing. H. Strunck (Hochtief, Essen), Dr. L. Brillo (Impregilo, Milano), Dipl.-Kfm. J. Knoop (Hochtief, Essen), and Mr. O. Rossi (Italstrade, Milano) continued their aid, hospitality, and highly efficient technical assistance throughout our presence in Iraq, an assistance which was of decisive importance especially at the end of the 1986 campaign.

limited parts of the underlying Levels 2 and 1. In the preliminary report on the first campaign (cf. Fales et al., l.c.), levels had been numbered from bottom to top, because what had been labelled «surface level(s)» had not been fully understood.

During the third campaign, excavation was extended to the topmost part of the mound, where a massive stone structure had resisted the erosion which affected the associated level over the rest of Tell Karrana. The results allow a new and final designation of the levels, now from top to bottom.

previous designation	new designation
surface level(s)	Level 1
Level 3	Level 2
Level 2 } Level 1 }	Level 3a-c
—	Level 4
virgin soil	

The cultural horizon displayed by these levels shows an uninterrupted development from a «Late Uruk» tradition to an Early Ninevite 5 one.

The following report strictly refers to the new designations of levels.

CAMPAIGN 1985

Southeastern area

The first objective of the second campaign was to continue the excavation of the older «granary» (Level 3c: AF 57, 53, 58; cf. Fales et al., Fig. 3) and its architectural context.

In the square adjacent to the «granary» on its southern side, a structure was detected, which was only preserved in one layer of mud bricks. Its floor sloped to South-Est (2.82 - 3.18 m below 0, thus approx. 0.46 m above the foundation of the granary). The building consisted of three parallel walls (AF 67, 68, 69: Fig. 2) running from East to West, which were made of mud bricks (15×25-33×8 cm) laid on their long side, and a wall delimiting the structure on the West (AF 74) made of very large bricks (28×60×9 cm) which were laid

on their short side. The orientation of the building was roughly according to the points of the compass. Though there were no finds hinting at the function or dating of the building, it should be dated to the older Ninevite 5 period (Level 3b), because it is later than the Level 3c granary, but older than a burial with a painted Ninevite 5 jar (Fig. 5), cutting two of its walls.

South of the three «granary» walls of Level 3c already excavated in 1984 (Fales et al., 101), a fourth wall parallel to the aforementioned ones was found (Fig. 4). It consisted of three layers of mud bricks of the Riemchen type (15×30×15 cm) laid on their long side like the other three walls (contrary to the statement in Fales et al., 101). The new wall too, showed impressions of reed mattings on its top (Fig. 4), and lumps of clay with reed impressions were found together with seeds between the walls. In a later state of their existence, the walls had been extended to the East by rows of mud bricks laid on their short side. The «granary» walls were placed on a thin layer of ash which was detected over a wider area South and South-West of it. In the courtyard South-West of the «granary», major parts of a globular jar with nose pierced lugs were found lying partly on this ash layer and partly under the wall AF 25/2 (see next paragraph). The red painted decoration showed a cross-hatched band above two rows of cross-hatched triangles (cf. Fig. C:1), a Late Uruk pattern which is well attested as an incised decoration at Karrana 3 and elsewhere. A fifth, poorly preserved wall (AF 93) south of AF 88 probably represented a later addition to the «granary».

The area of the Level 3c «granary» was delimited to the North by a badly preserved thick wall running from East to West (AF 23=44=42), which was repaired and reused in Level 3a-b, at a time when the older «granary» had been replaced by the younger one North of the same wall. The long wall of Level 3a-b, which runs through most of the settlement from South-West to North-East (AF 25/1, continued to the North by AF 41), also replaces an older wall of Level 3c. The older wall (AF 25/2), however, ended South of the southernmost wall of the Level 3c «granary», thus leaving an entrance to the «granary» area from the courtyard East of the wall AF 25. In Level 3b, after the old «granary» had been replaced by the new one further to the North, this passage was no longer needed. It was thus closed by the wall AF 25/1, which was inserted into the renewed wall AF 44=42. The walls AF 44 and AF 25/2 as well as the «granary» had been built on the aforementioned layer of ash, whose altitude was -3.36 to -3.65, sloping to South-East.

In the area South of the Level 3c «granary», traces of the oldest occupation of Tell Karrana 3 (Level 4) were detected. They were sealed by the thin layer of gray ash just mentioned. Level 4 is divided from the natural conglomerate and bedrock by another thin layer of gray ash on a compact whitish floor. The scanty architectural remains yield little more than evidence of small-scale

mud brick structures. A fire-place (AF 105, -3.88 m) built by three flat stones in an up-right position and a horizontal slab was covered and surrounded by ashes and contained sherds of cooking pots. Several burials were dug from this level to the underlying natural conglomerate.

Six burials (No. 10-15) have been found below Level 4 and immediately over or slightly dug into the gabaliya of the southeastern area. Burials of the Late Uruk and Ninevite 5 period seem to concentrate in this part of the settlement. Osteological information again was provided by Dr. P. Caselitz from the University of Hamburg.

Two burials (No. 11 and 12) contained the remains of a fetus or neonatus deposited in a cooking pot or in the cut-off upper part of a pithos-like vessel with the opening closed by a leaning upright stone slab (Fig. 6).

Another grave (Burial 13) contained the skeleton of a 3-5.9 year old child. 81 small greenish frit beads, three white beads, 15 carnelian beads, and a big polished carnelian bead with the engraving of a panther or lioness presumably constituted a necklace (Fig. 7).

These three burials could be dated to Level 4 (for Burial 13 see report on the 3rd campaign). Two more burials (No. 10 and 14) were found below the courtyard East of the wall AF 25 at a depth of -4.04 to -4.10 m. The stratigraphic attribution of these burials is not beyond doubt. Due to the poor state of preservation of the ash layer and the compact light gray clay which covers the tombs at an altitude of -3.84 m and corresponds to the floor of Level 4 observed further to the East in the granary area, it is difficult to ascertain whether the grave-pits of these burials antedate the floor itself or were dug through it.

Burial 10 belonged to a 5.5 to 7.5 year old child, whose corpse had been laid on the right side in a crouched position with the head in the East facing North and the feet in the West. Close to the feet stood a painted Ninevite 5 bowl (Fig. B:1; Fig. 8). Other grave goods were a copper pin, a pointed bone tool, and a copper seal of the Northern «Jamdet Naşr» type representing a horned quadruped (Fig. 9; so against AfO 34 [1987] 198b; kind information of Dr. Ursula Moortgat-Correns).

Not far from it at the same depth, the grave of a 6 to 7.9 year old child was found (Burial 14; Fig. 10). The position of the corpse was the same as that of Burial 10. An undecorated bowl had been placed on the feet. The dead wore a bracelet of small greenish frit beads, one bigger white bead and three pierced shells. A very small fragment of a petrified textile found on the right tibia was analyzed by Dr. Inga Hägg from the Archäologisches Landesmuseum Schleswig. According to her information, the textile was not a woven fabric, but a very fine plaiting or netting.

Burial No. 15 contained the skeleton of a 13 to 14 year old youth buried

with little care and without grave-goods. The orientation was the same as that of Burials 10 and 14. It remains uncertain whether this burial should be assigned to Level 4 or 3c.

Central and western area

Excavation in 1984 had been concentrated on the eastern side of the tell, because the survey had yielded the highest concentration of Ninevite 5 sherds on the East slope. Since the architectural remains in that part of the ancient settlement pointed to economic purposes, it was decided to continue the excavation further to the West in order to investigate the supposed domestic area and thus get a comprehensive picture of the settlement as a whole. Consequently, West of the North-South trench opened in 1984, three new squares (R 16, Q 16 and Q 17W) were excavated down to the last level above virgin soil.

In the North section of R 16, approx. 75 cm below the surface, which here has a height of -1.35 m, a pit dug into a layer of filling contained a collection of predominantly Ninevite 5 gray ware (Fig. A:10-12, 14).

The stone wall AF 4 excavated in 1984 could be shown to be the base of a mud-brick wall which belonged to Level 2 and was connected to the West with a sequence of at least three floors partially divided by thin layers of ash (AF 71, -1.98 to -2.01 m). There was a deepened fire-place on the lowest floor. The area East of the wall AF 4 could be shown to form two square rooms delimited by the already previously excavated walls AF 8 and AF 23/N. The two rooms probably were connected by a doorway, whose sill and pole-hole were still in situ.

Level 3a in Square R 16 showed that the architectural structure of Level 2 in some respects followed the older plan. There was a very poorly preserved mudbrick wall under AF 4 following the same direction (AF 78), connected with a floor (AF 82) at the depth of -2.35 to -2.37 m and a fire-place at the same location as that of Level 2. Similarly, the wall AF 41 of Level 3a, which parallels AF 78 further to the East, has the same position as the wall AF 8 in Level 2.

To an earlier phase of the same level (3b or 3c) should be attributed the walls AF 92, AF 91 and AF 86 (the latter two with stone foundations), that delimit a room of rectangular shape. The floor AF 82 mentioned above leans against the wall AF 86, thus showing that this wall was still in use at the time AF 78 was built.

The floor of Level 3c is reached at a depth of -3.19 to -3.24 m in Square R 16. Due to the sloping of the mound to the West and South, the same level

is reached in Q 16 at -3.26 to -3.31 m and in Q 17 at -3.42 to -3.52 m.

Level 3c showed some interesting architectural features. Particularly worthy of notice are the remains of a room in Square R 16 with a door-sill and a door-socket (AF 100) in the South, and a fragmentary northern wall (AF 90). The tiny wall AF 97, built on the floor of the room (AF 96) and consisting of single rows of bricks laid on their short side, to all appearances served as an inner partition of the room itself. To judge from the quantities of seeds collected here, this structure served as a storage place for grain (Fig. 11).

The area East of this room also had an entrance from the courtyard in the South, which was marked by a big door-sill made of two rectangular flat stones (AF 101 at a depth of -3.55 m). In Level 3b, this door was closed by the extension to the West of the massive wall AF 44 (AF 91).

The area North of AF 44 served as a big fire-place, which yielded thick layers of ash (SU 105, lowest layer at -3.19 m).

West of the room with the small chamber for grain, Level 3c in Square Q 16 yielded a room with a well-preserved very compact gray floor (AF 103) with an oval fire-place delimited by a marked corrugation of the floor itself (Fig. 12). To the South of the wall which delimited this room (AF 98), another structure of the «granary» type was detected on a floor (AF 116) at a depth of -3.42 to -3.52 m. It consisted of five parallel walls (AF 111-115) made of three layers of mud bricks ($13-17 \times 24-26 \times 11$ cm) laid on their short side and covered with plaster. The distance between the walls was 33-38 cm. No seeds have been found, but it contained remarkable quantities of animal bones (cf. J. Boessneck - R. Ziegler, Tierknochen aus dem frühen 3. Jahrtausend vom Tell Karrana 3 (Iraq), manuscript submitted to Sumer). The installation was delimited to the South by a mud-brick wall (AF 110), which — contrary to the five small parallel walls, was succeeded in Level 3b by another wall (AF 89), whose stone foundations were placed immediately upon the mud bricks of its predecessor. The five parallel walls were filled and covered by a floor (AF 104), which bore thick layers of ash.

CAMPAIGN 1986

Eastern area

During the 1984 campaign, a structure of four parallel low walls of mud bricks (AF 19, 20, 16, 21), tentatively identified as «granary», was found in Square T 16. It could be attributed to «Level 2» (Fales et al., 102), now re-labelled Level 3a. Further investigation in 1986 showed that the installation had been changed and renewed repeatedly. The northernmost wall (AF

21) turned out to be a late addition. The other three walls were laid on older walls (AF 16A, AF 20A, AF 19A: Level 3b; Fig. 13): After removal of AF 16, AF 20, AF 19, these older walls proved to be completely covered by the reed impressions which had already been observed where the younger walls did not cover the older ones. The older walls were shorter to the East than the younger ones. In the space later occupied by AF 21, two more walls (AF 120, AF 124), also belonging to this earlier phase of the granary, were detected. The eastern ends of these 5 earlier walls were based on stones, presumably because of the slope which at this point falls steeply. It may be argued here that not only in T 16 but also elsewhere, e.g. in S 15, the present physical shape of Tell Karrana as far as the extension of the flat top and the edges of the steep slope are concerned, did not differ considerably from that in the time of its occupation (contrary to the assumption in: Fales et al., 100).

In order to achieve equal distances between the «granary» walls, fragments of bricks and half bricks as well as layers of plaster of different thickness had been used. According to the state of preservation of the single walls, three or four layers of bricks are discernible. At the eastern end of AF 19, a thick layer of ash was detected which contained burnt bones and sherds.

The level below the «granary» was covered by a layer of ash. Several small mud-brick walls, some of them in the usual North-South orientation, were found, but their plan was unintelligible.

Further to the South, work was devoted to Level 4 below and South of the granary of Level 3c. After removal of the «granary» walls, the underlying stratum was excavated down to a very compact floor of light gray clay (AF 62: -3.82 m). This level had already been reached in a limited deep-sounding during the 1st campaign (see Fales et al., 102a) and on a greater scale South and South-West of the «granary» during the 2nd campaign. Apart from little architectural remains which had been observed already in 1985, two pits — one plastered with sherds and pebble stones — and a horizontal stone slab covered and surrounded by ashes, were found on this floor.

During the second campaign, a carnelian bead with a remarkably elegant engraved representation of a panther or lioness had been found in a burial (No. 13; cf. Fig. 7) which, to judge from the section, belonged to Level 4. Since the grave pit, however, was mostly situated below a balk, it seemed necessary to remove the latter in order to exclude the possibility of any other stratigraphic attribution of the grave. It became evident that the floor on which the «granary» and other architectural features of Level 3c were based, was not cut by the grave pit. Layers of ash and a pavement of sherds and stones sealed the entire area of the burial, before the wall AF 25/2 and an adjacent wall, both belonging to Level 3c, were built. The grave itself was carefully constructed with a wall of four layers of mud bricks (20×14×11 cm) South of the de-

posited body. The wall had been laid immediately on the *gabaliya*. The grave had been closed by two or three layers of bricks. The re-examination of the tomb proved without doubt, that the bead with the representation of a panther or a lioness is to be dated to Level 4 and thus to the Late Uruk period.

Western area

The eastern half of Square Q 17 and the northern half of Square Q 18 were excavated down to virgin soil (Fig. 14). The Level 3c «granary» walls found in Q 17 W (AF 111-114) could be followed to their eastern end. The similarity of the structure with those in the eastern area became even more obvious. Apart from some more bones, seeds of grain could be sampled between the walls and East of them. Immediately South-East of the «granary» a big round structure with an outer diameter of approx. 3 m, built of an outer row of longer and an inner row of shorter mud bricks, appeared (AF 125). It was filled with loose earth, fragments of half-baked bricks, and only very few ash. AF 125 was built at a time when the «granary» ceased to be in use and was filled and covered by the floor AF 104. It can thus be assigned to Level 3b. The wall with the stone foundation AF 89, which was built immediately above the earlier wall AF 110 (southern limit of the «granary») leans against the round structure AF 125. Below Level 3c lies a thin layer which contains few sherds and bones. Beneath this layer, bed-rock was reached at a depth of -3.97 m.

Northern area

Already in 1984, close to the highest point of the mound in Square S 15, two walls consisting of several layers of hallan were excavated (AF 6 = 11, AF 22). Since the related level South and East of the stone building had been eroded completely, these traces of the latest habitation (Level 1) on Tell Karrana could not be dated. In 1986, the areas North and West of the stone-building (Squares R 14, R 15, S 14) were examined. It turned out that a floor paved with hallan slabs covered major parts of the area North of the stone building (AF 121) ca. 30 cm below surface. A medieval tomb carefully built of slabs, some of them regularly cut, had disturbed the floor in the northernmost part of S 14 (Burial 16 = AF 119). It contained the well-preserved skeleton of an adult man, according to the preliminary osteological report of Dr. Caselitz. The body was lying on the right side with the head in

the West facing South. Close to the teeth, a heavily abraded 9th century Islamic silver coin was found, which presumably had been placed under the tongue of the dead. A sherd of incised Ninevite 5 pottery was found immediately on the paved floor, a hint that the building should be dated to the later Ninevite 5 period, also in consideration of the total absence of any later pottery on the site. The orientation of the few preserved walls (AF 117, AF 6 = 11, AF 22) follows that of the older levels, thus indicating a continuity throughout the history of habitation on the mound.

Beneath Level 1, walls made of mud bricks (mainly 30×14×10 cm) were detected (AF 135, 136, 140, 141; Fig. 16), which could be linked to architectural remains already excavated in 1984 (AF 8, 9, 13). The small rooms (one of them 2.20×1.20 m) are similar to those already excavated previously in Squares R/S 16/17. The walls are based at a depth of -1.24 to -1.69 m, sloping to the South-East. Further parts of the same building were found in Squares R 14/15 (AF 163, AF 146-148, AF 151-152), where, however, a clear plan was not discernible due to destruction by a large pit and a medieval burial. A series of small spaces delimited by tiny walls (see e.g. AF 151) nonetheless suggests the presence of some storage installations. To the West of these structures, in Square Q 15, a very well-preserved kiln was found (AF 137; Fig. 18). It was of oval shape, with a major opening to the East and an inner division into two firing chambers by means of a central wall of 6 bricks whose height was preserved for at least 8 layers. A number of slags was recovered inside the kiln.

The importance of the small settlement of Tell Karrana 3 in a wider perspective results from two factors.

First, there are clear indications for an uninterrupted continuity from the earliest to the last levels of habitation, covering the development from Late Uruk painted pottery through an intermediate ware to painted Ninevite 5 and the first appearance of incised and excised Ninevite 5 wares (cf. M. Roaf and R. Killick, *Iraq* 49 [1987] 223). It seems noteworthy that the Late Uruk level of Tell Karrana 3 did not yield any bevelled rim bowls.

Second, the settlement on Tell Karrana 3 is not a village, but a single, unfortified farm house in an area which does not show any traces of an early 3rd millennium B.C. habitation in a circuit of more than 2 km. The closest settlements seem to be Tell Karrana 1 and 2 in the North excavated by K. Toma, where however, according to the excavator's kind information, the Karrana 3 intermediate ware is absent, Tell Fisna in the West (cf. H. Numoto, *Tell Fisna*, apud: H. Fujii, *Working Report on First Season of Japanese Archaeological Excavation in Saddam Salvage Project*, in: *Researches on the Antiquities of Saddam Dam Basin Salvage and Other Researches*, Baghdad

1987, 43-49), and the unexcavated Tell Gumbus in the North-West, where incised Ninevite 5 ware has been reported. The isolation of the settlement together with the signs of a certain wealth of its inhabitants sheds some light on the socio-economic situation in the area during the transitional phase from the Late Uruk to the Ninevite 5 period.

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POTTERY FROM TELL KARRANA
by Elena Rova

The pottery from the 2nd and 3rd campaign does not differ, on the whole, from the pottery recovered during the previous season. The variety of forms and decorative designs, however, was considerably increased.

A few fragments of bowls of excised ware, which was previously absent at Tell Karrana, were unearthed, together with some more sherds of incised ware (Fig. A:13, 15). Unless we suppose a very strong superficial erosion, however, we must admit that the main occupation of Tell Karrana 3 comes to an end before the developed «incised Ninevite 5» period.

The painted Ninevite 5 ware (Fig. A:1-9) is clearly prevalent in the upper levels. Most painted sherds belong to small, round-based bowls, most of them provided with a typical «beaded rim», and to footed bowls. Sherds of both jar rims and walls have also been found, all of them unfortunately very fragmentary. The variety of designs is considerable, «butterflies», «ladders», grids, «arrows» and triangles being the most common designs. Although the great majority of the designs is of geometric kind, a few naturalistic elements (birds, goats) are also present.

A hard, thin, gray-greenish ware (Fig. A:10-14), most fragments of which belong to small round- or pointed-based bowls decorated in the upper part by horizontal grooving (stepped decoration), is often associated with the painted ware, although its outer appearance reminds one of the later incised ware.

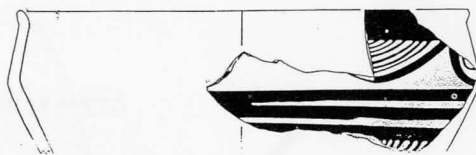
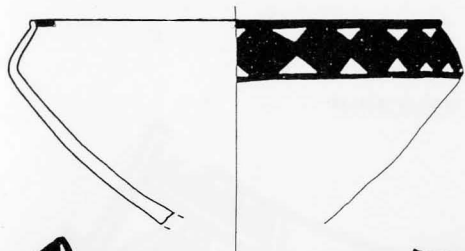
The Ninevite 5 assemblage of Tell Karrana 3 is further characterized by the presence of flat lids provided with differently shaped handles, storage jars, some of them pierced, and globular cooking pots with crescent shaped lugs. Flat bases are almost completely missing, while round bases and pedestal (or low pedestal) feet clearly prevail, and a certain amount of ring bases is also present. All of these types are paralleled at Telul eth-Thalathat, Tell Leilan, Nineveh itself and the recently excavated Mohammed Arab. A very peculiar specimen belonging to this period, a small jar of a thin black ware with slightly polished surface decorated by impressed dots (Fig. A:16), is, however, for the time being unparalleled at other Ninevite 5 sites.

The levels underlying the superficial ones are characterized by a «transitional late Uruk–Ninevite 5» assemblage, which had not been recognized in earlier excavations, although it is probably present also at Nineveh. For the time being this is mainly characterized by the presence of a typical painted

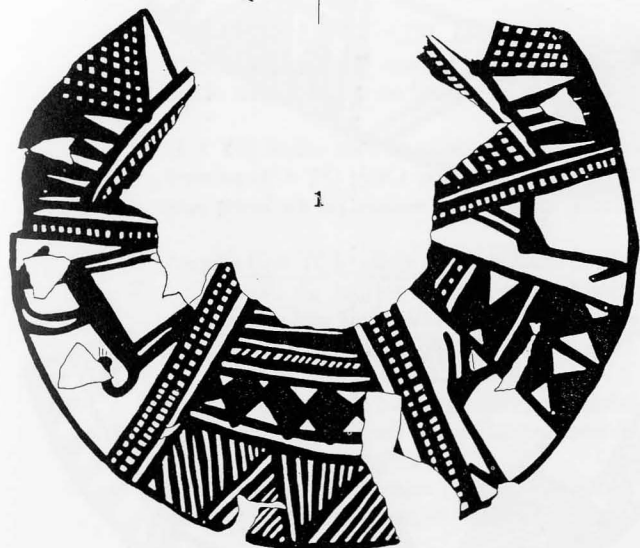
Fig. A: Tell Karrana 3: Ninevite 5 pottery types.

1. SU 126/3+SU 127/...+SU 131/1+3+49+65 (24 fragments joined): carinated, footed (?) bowl. Green fabric (possibly overfired), grit and pottery (?) temper, green smoothed surface. Black (5Y 2.5/2) painted decoration (on the rim also inside). Ø 16,5.
2. SU 50/23+29: carinated bowl (2 fragments joined). Pale yellow (5Y 7/4) fabric, sand temper, pale yellow (5Y 8/3) wet-smoothed surface. Olive (5Y 5/3) and dark olive gray (5Y 3/2) painted decoration. Ø 18.
3. SU 56/3: carinated bowl. Very pale brown (10Y/R 7/4) fabric, sand and chalk temper, very pale brown (10Y/R 89/3) wet-smoothed surface. Painted decoration (on the rim also inside). Ø 14.
4. SU 53/99: carinated bowl. Pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, vegetable and sand temper, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) wet-smoothed surface. Dark brown (7.5YR 4/2) painted decoration (on the rim also inside). Ø ?.
5. SU 50/22+24: painted jar (?) sherd (2 fragments joined). Light brown (2.5YR 6/4) fabric, vegetable and sand temper, white (2.5Y 8/2) slipped surface. Dark reddish brown (5YR 3/2) painted decoration.
6. SU 51/15: painted sherd. Reddish yellow fabric (7.5YR 8/6), vegetable temper, pink (7.5Y/R 7/4) wet-smoothed surface. Weak red (10R 5/4) painted decoration.
7. SU 51/41: painted sherd. Pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, vegetable and sand temper, white (2.5Y 8/2) wet-smoothed surface. Weak red (2.5YR 4/2) painted decoration.
8. SU 129/94: bowl. Light gray (5Y 7/2) fabric, vegetable and sand temper, white (2.5Y 8/2) smoothed surface. Brown (10YR 4/3) painted decoration. Ø ?.
9. SU 127/77: chalice. Light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, straw and chalk temper, white (2.5Y 8/2) slipped surface. Very dusky red (2.5YR 2.5/2) painted decoration. Ø base 9.
10. SU 56/2: chalice. Light gray (5Y 6/1) fabric, sparse pottery temper, light gray (5Y 7/1) smoothed surface. Ø base 6.
11. SU 56/1: bowl. White (5Y 8/1) fabric, no visible temper, white (5Y 8/2) smoothed surface. Ø 9 H. 8.
12. SU 56/59: bowl. Pale yellow (5Y 7/3) fabric, no visible temper, light gray (10Y 7/1) smoothed surface. Wheel marks inside. Ø 6, H. 5,4.
13. SU 53/68: bowl. Light gray (5Y 7/2) fabric, sparse grit temper, light gray (5Y 7/2) smoothed surface. Stepped, incised decoration (notched bands). Ø ?.
14. SU 56/32: bowl. Light gray (5Y 7/1) fabric, no visible temper, light gray (5Y 7/2) smoothed surface. Stepped decoration. Ø 9.
15. SU 127/27: bowl (?) sherd. Light greenish gray (5GY 7/1) fabric, no visible temper, light gray (5Y 7/1) smoothed surface. Incised decoration.
16. SU 139/115: small carinated jar (14 fragments joined+2 not joining) Dark gray (5YR 4/1) fabric, vegetable and sand temper, very dark gray (7.5YR N3) slightly polished surface. Possible traces of spout on the shoulder. Impressed decoration: dots forming a geometric (?) pattern, a few of them might have been filled with a white substance. Ø 7,4.

* All pottery is wheel-made unless otherwise specified.



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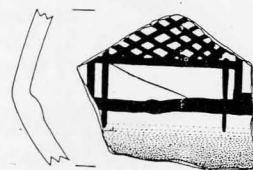
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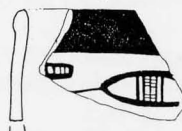
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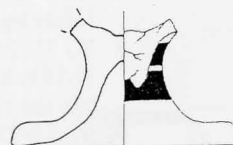
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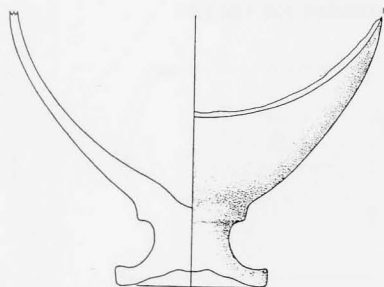
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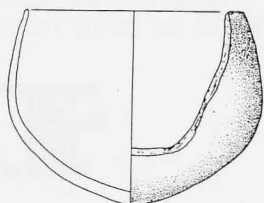
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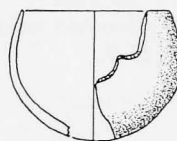
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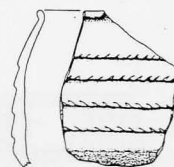
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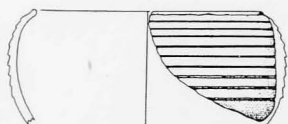
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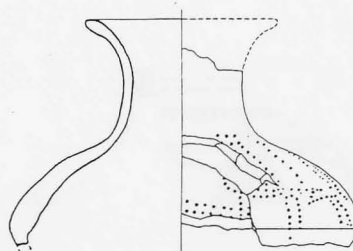
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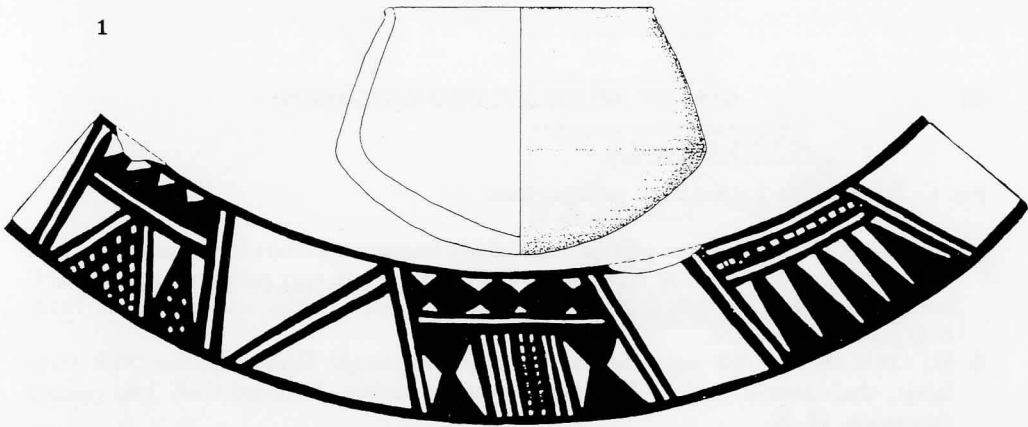
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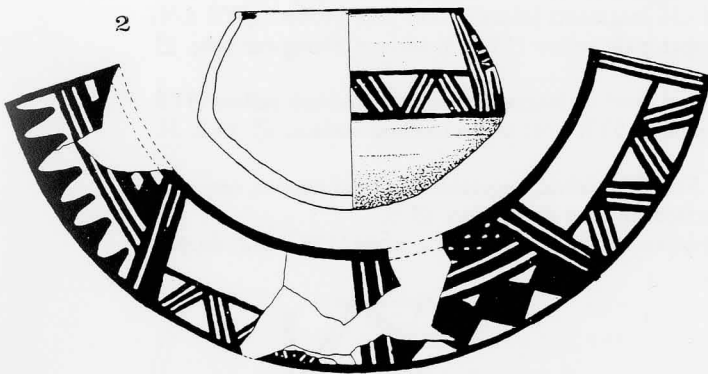
Fig. B: Tell Karrana 3: Transitional pottery types.

1. Inv. 85/1 (SU 103=burial 10): carinated round based bowl. White (10YR 8/2) fabric, vegetable, sand and chalk temper, white (2.5YR 8/2) slipped surface. Dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3) painted decoration. A dark circular mark can be noticed on the lower part of the body. Ø 10,5, H. 10.
2. Inv. 85/4 (SU 80): carinated round-based bowl (8 fragments joined). Pale yellow (5Y 7/3) fabric, sand temper, pale yellow (5Y 8/3) wet-smoothed surface. Olive (5Y 4/3) painted decoration (on the rim also inside). A dark circular mark can be noticed on the lower part of the body. Ø 9, H. 8.
3. SU 127/284+311: bowl. Pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, chalk temper, white (2.5Y 8/2) slipped surface. Weak red (10R 4/3) painted decoration (on the rim also inside). Ø 14.
4. SU 53/97: carinated bowl. Light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) fabric, chalk and grit temper, pink (7.5YR 8/4) wet-smoothed surface. Dark reddish brown (2.5YR 2.5/4) painted decoration (on the rim also inside). Ø 9.
5. SU 53/98: carinated bowl. Pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, vegetable, grit and chalk temper, white (2.5Y 8/2) slipped surface. Red (10R 5/6) painted decoration (on the rim also inside). Ø 12.
6. SU 53/96: carinated bowl. Light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, vegetable, chalk and grit temper, pink (7.5YR 7/4) wet-smoothed surface. Dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) painted decoration (on the rim also inside) Ø 14.
7. SU 127/292+282+291+302: carinated bowl (4 fragments joined). Vegetable, sand and chalk temper, slipped surface. Painted decoration (on the rim also inside). Ø 18. Precise color descriptions are missing, but the color range is similar to that of the previous and following specimens.
8. SU 53/103: carinated bowl. Pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, chalk and sand temper, reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) wet-smoothed surface. Dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) painted decoration (on the rim also inside). Ø 16,5.
9. SU 53/95: carinated bowl. Pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, no visible temper, yellow (10YR 7/6) wet-smoothed surface. Dark reddish brown (5YR 3/2) painted decoration (on thme rim also inside Ø 20 ?).
10. SU 53/69: bowl. Pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, vegetable, grit and chalk temper, white (2.5Y 8/2) slipped surface. Dark red (2.5YR 3/6) painted decoration. Ø 20.
11. SU 127/171: jar. Pink (7/5YR 7/4) fabric, sand and vegetable temper, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) smoothed surface. Yellowish red (10YR 5/6) painted decoration (on the rim also inside). Ø 9.

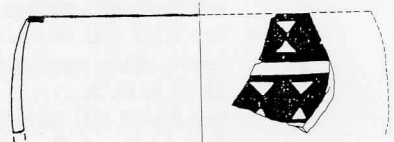
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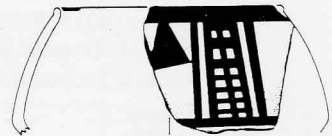
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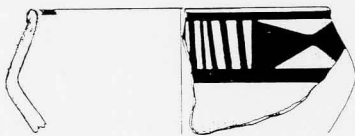
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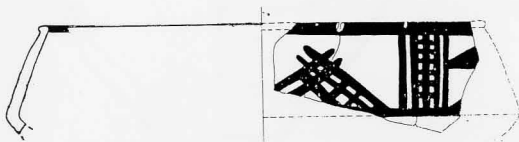
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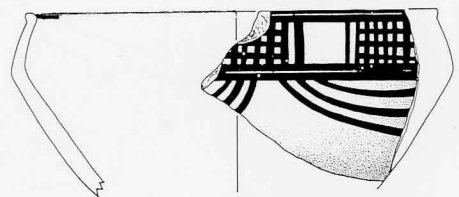
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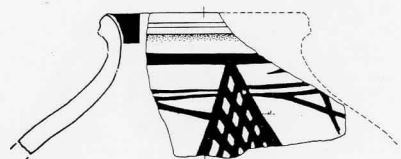
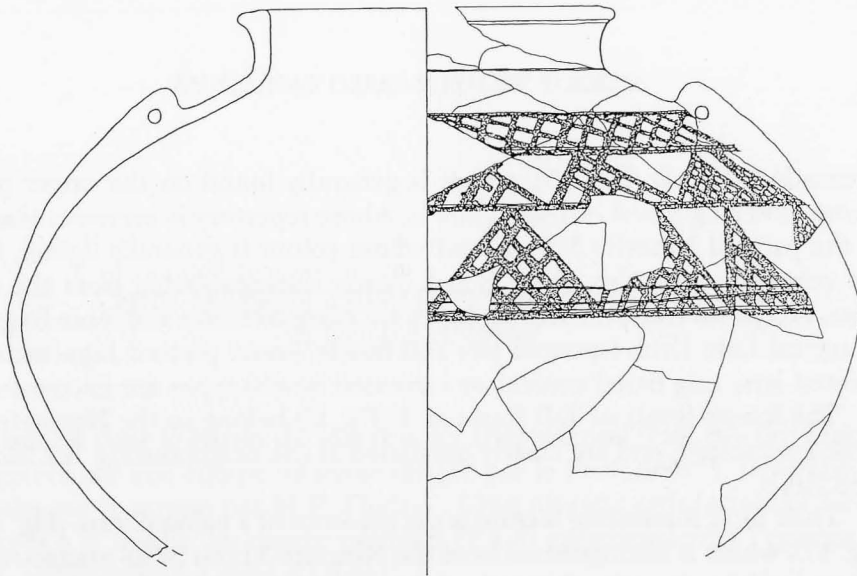
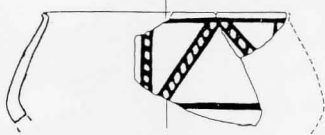


Fig. C: Tell Karrana 3: Late Uruk pottery types.

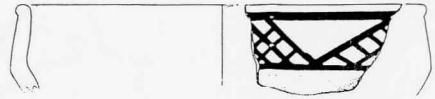
1. Inv. 85/14 (SU 93/1): «nose pierced lug» jar (41 fragments joined+10 not joining). Light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) fabric, sand and chalk temper, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) smoothed surface. Horizontal groove between neck and shoulder, reddish yellow (10YR 8/4) painted decoration.
2. SU 124/6+SU 133/50: carinated bowl (2 fragments joined). Reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, chalk temper, pink (7.5YR 8/4) smoothed surface. Dark-red (10R 3/6) painted decoration. Ø 10.
3. SU 53/65: carinated bowl. Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, grit temper, pink (5YR 7/4) wet-smoothed surface. Red (2.5YR 4/6) painted decoration. Ø 16.
4. Inv. 85/5 (SU 60+81): conical bowl (16 fragments joined). Very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric, chalk, sand and vegetable temper, pale yellow (5Y 8/3) surface. String-cut base. Ø 18-18,5, H. 9.
5. Inv. 85/10 (SU 101/1): carinated footed bowl (9 fragments joined). Reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, chalk and grit temper, pink (7.5YR 8/4) wet-smoothed surface. Ø 14,8, H. 7,5.
6. SU 116/39: bowl. Reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, vegetable and sand temper, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) wet-smoothed surface. Incised decoration. Ø 9.
7. SU 133/49: small jar. Pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, sand and grit temper, white (10YR 8/2) slipped surface. Incised decoration. Ø 10 ?.



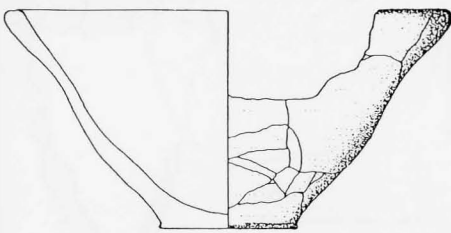
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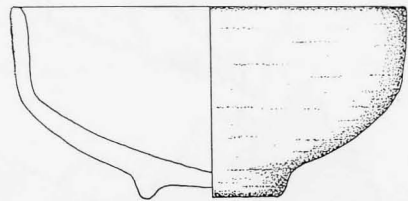
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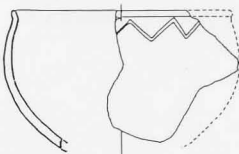
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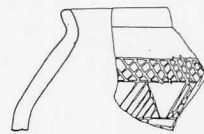
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decoration (Fig. B; Fig. 15), which is generally found on the upper part of round- and ring-based carinated bowls, whose repertory is narrower than that of the painted Ninevite 5 ware, and whose colour is generally lighter. As for the common ware, this phase is not clearly distinguishable from the upper ones, except for the fact that ring bases are more common and more fragments of typical Late Uruk (spouted jars and bowls, «nose pierced lug» incised or painted jars, ring-based conical or carinated bowls) types are encountered.

The lowest levels of Tell Karrana 3 (Fig. C) belong to the Northern Late Uruk assemblage, and are clearly paralleled at the neighbouring Tell Mohammed Arab.

Their most interesting feature is the presence of a painted ware (Fig. C:1-3; Fig. 17), which is distinguished from the Ninevite 5 both by its orange-reddish colour and by its grit- (instead of straw-) tempered fabric, whose design repertory is restricted to a few geometric elements (crosshatched triangles, «ladders», etc.). The lack of any clear breaks within the ceramic sequence of Tell Karrana 3 clearly points to a local origin of the Ninevite 5 assemblage as a development of the northern (local) Late Uruk tradition.

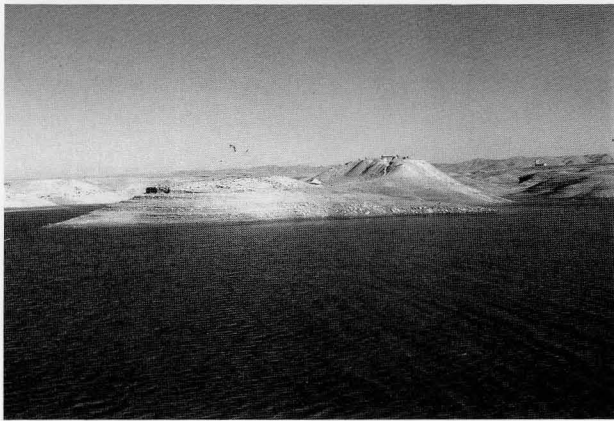


Fig. 1 - View of Tell Karrana 3 from S.W. (late October 1986). The height of the water is considerably lower than in the spring of the same year.

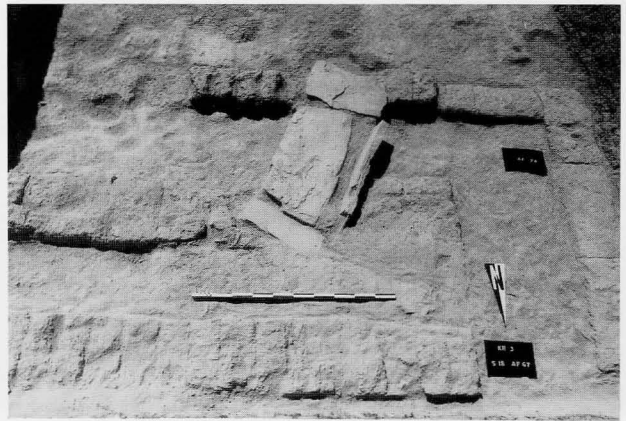


Fig. 2 - AF 67, 68, 69, 74 (Level 3b).



Fig. 3 - Granary walls AF 57, 53, 58, 88 (Level 3c).



Fig. 4 - Reed matting on a granary wall of Level 3c.

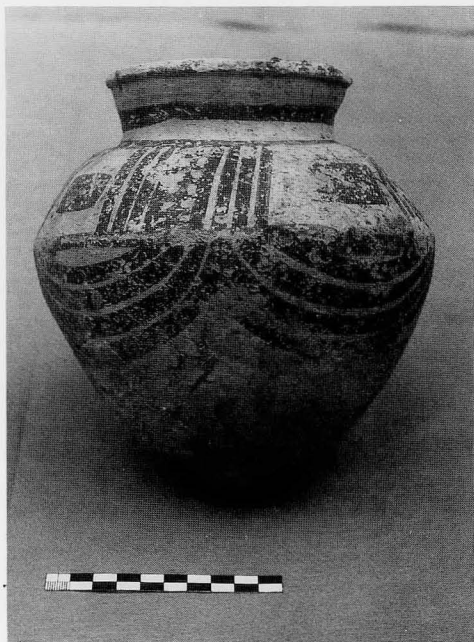


Fig. 5 - Ninevite 5 jar from burial cut into AF 68-69.

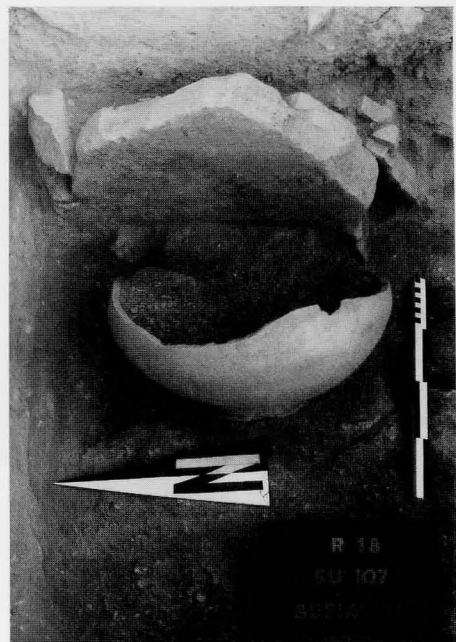


Fig. 6 - Burial 11.



Fig. 7 - Necklace from Burial 13.

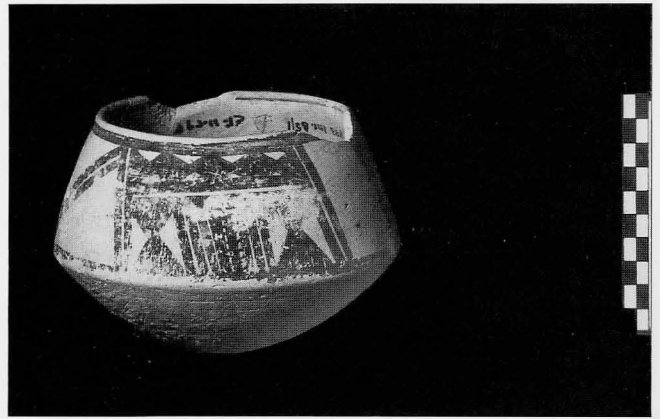


Fig. 8 - «Transitional Ninevite 5» bowl from Burial 10.

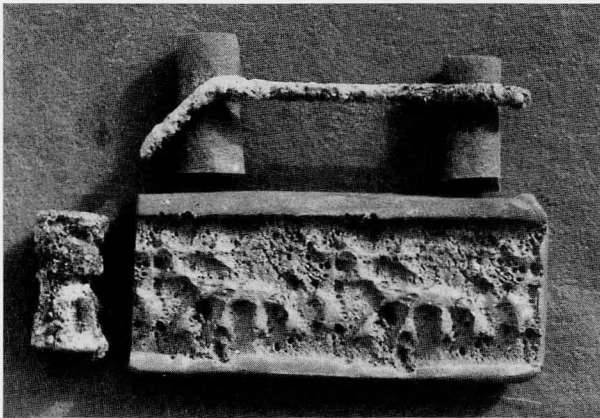


Fig. 9 - Copper pin and copper seal from Burial 10.

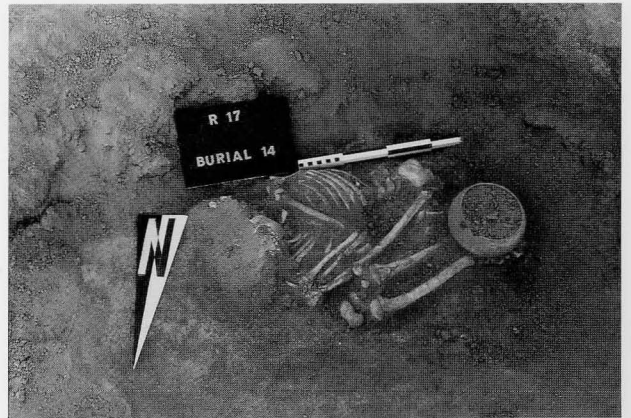


Fig. 10 - Burial 14.



Fig. 11 - Room in Square R 16 (Level 3c).



Fig. 12 - Room in Square Q 16 (Level 3c).



Fig. 13 - Granary walls AF 16, 20, 19 (Level 3a) and AF 16a, 20a, 19a (Level 3b).



Fig. 14 - General view of Squares Q 17-18



Fig. 15 - Selection of «Transitional Late Uruk - Ninevite 5» painted Sherds.



Fig. 16 - Walls AF 135, 136, 140, 141 (Level 2).



Fig. 17 - Selection of Late Uruk painted sherds.



Fig. 18 - Kiln AF 137 (Level 2).