

*THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE ARCHEOLOGICAL
RECONNAISSANCE EXPEDITION*

From August 1961 to January 1962, the Oriental Institute had in the field an Archeological Reconnaissance Expedition whose main purpose was to appraise at first hand the recent archeological developments and potentials in the Near East, especially in those countries where the Institute has had no long-range projects in the recent past. Members of the Expedition were Professors P. P. Delougaz, H. G. Güterbock, Helene J. Kantor, and Mr. James E. Knudstad.

The Mobile Reconnaissance

While awaiting the permit to explore in eastern Turkey, members of the Expedition made several field trips north, south, and west of Ankara (see Route Map, Nos. 1-5). On September 17th the whole party started on its detailed archeological exploration between Ankara and its final destination in Khuzestan (see Map). It was planned to visit as many active excavations as possible and the Expedition succeeded in seeing no less than fifteen (marked with solid triangles on the Map), several of them in the very last day, or days, before they closed at the end of the season. The digs visited ranged in date from the Chalcolithic period (Guzeolova, No. 16; Yanik Tepe, No. 20) of the fourth millennium B.C. or earlier, to the Islamic period (Diyarbakir), and from simple village dwellings to monumental temples and palaces.

In addition to excavated sites, the Expedition visited and photographed many Early Islamic architectural monuments still standing. Its members studied the collections not only of the world-famous museums in Istanbul, Ankara, and Tehran, but also visited the accessible provincial museums and storehouses containing antiquities. Not of the least importance was the renewal of contact with scholars of the countries visited and with foreign scholars who work in those countries, and the acquaintance with the programs and progress of the various institutions concerned with archeology.

The Archeological Reconnaissance Expedition helped to obtain an up-to-date picture of the archeological situation in the Near East which is necessary for the development of the Institute's own

archeological program. Such a program is indeed being developed and certain parts of it will materialize in the near future.

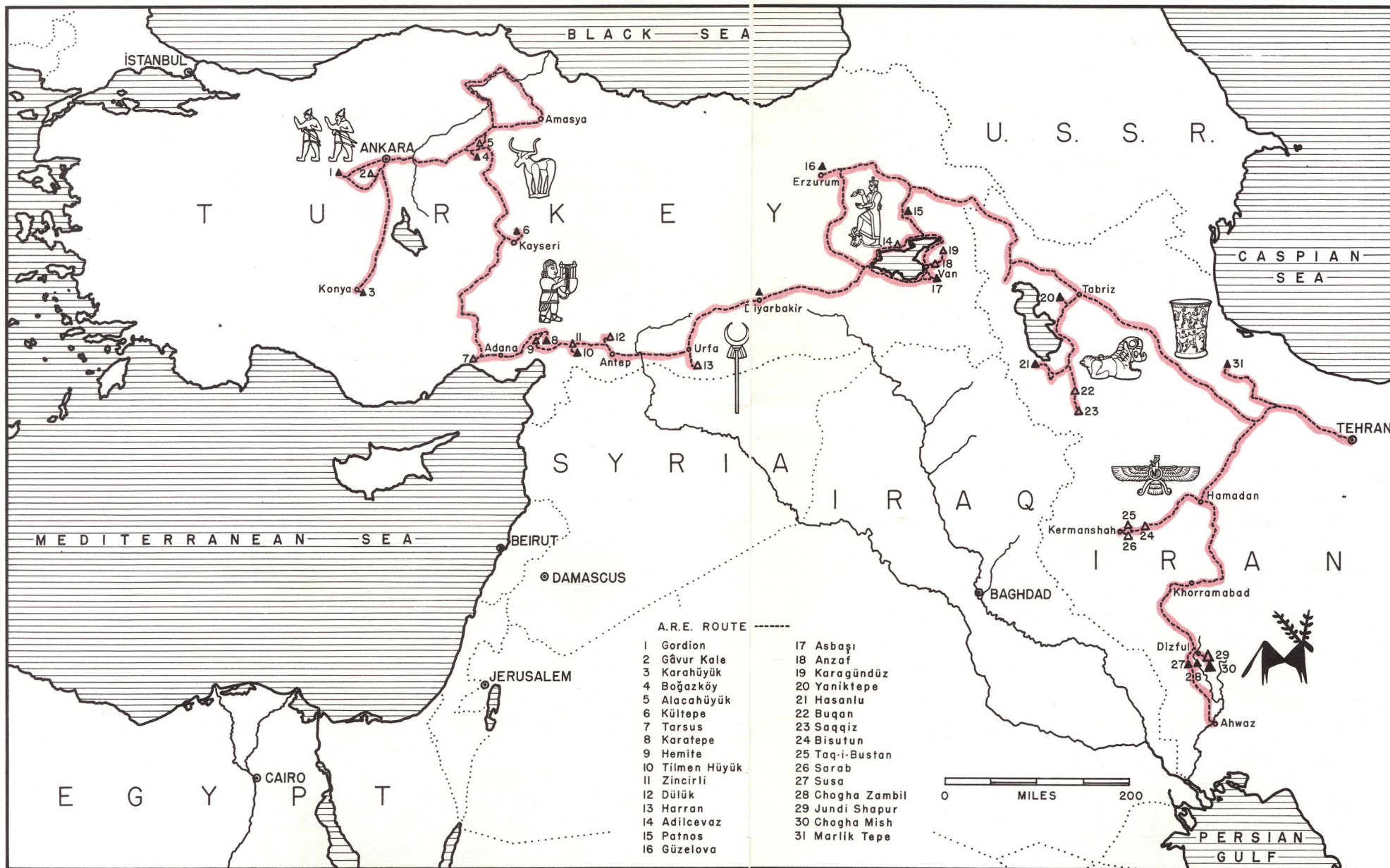
Test Excavations in Khuzestan

In Tehran the Expedition obtained permission to excavate at the sites of Chogha Mish (No. 29) and Jundi Shapur (No. 30) in Khuzestan, two sites previously singled out as particularly interesting by Professor Robert M. Adams when making a survey of ancient irrigation in Khuzestan. This work was to be a joint undertaking with the University of Tehran. From Tehran Professor Güterbock had to return to Turkey.

Excavations at Chogha Mish began on November 6th and lasted with a force of between eight and twenty-five men until December 18th. After the first week Mr. Knudstad had to leave to join the Nubian Expedition. This and the fact that the time of our University of Tehran colleagues was fully absorbed by their spectacular discoveries at Marlik Tepe (No. 31) precluded excavation at Jundi Shapur this season.

Trench IV between two spurs at Chogha Mish, seen from the south

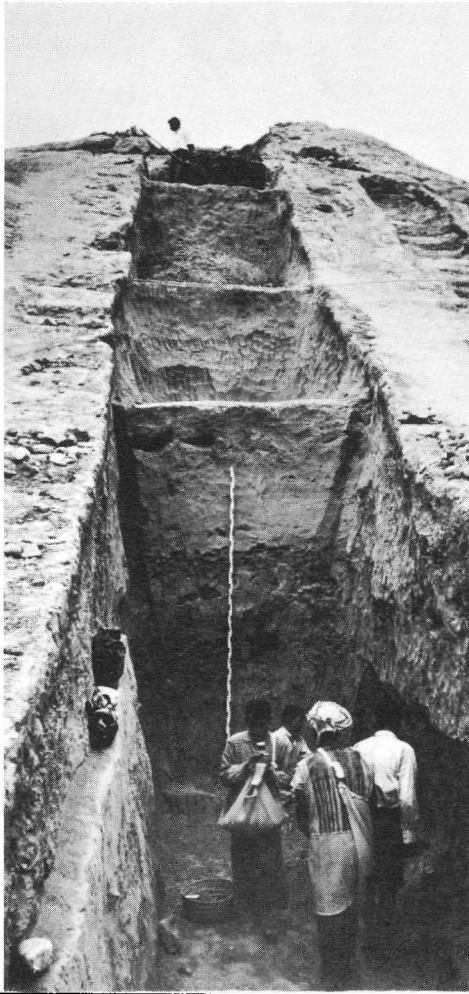




Map showing the route of the Oriental Institute Archeological Reconnaissance Expedition in Turkey and Iran in the autumn of 1961

Chogha Mish consists of two distinct parts, a series of high ridges to the north with the highest point about twenty meters above the plain and lower “terraces” to the south. The total area now thickly strewn with potsherds covers about sixty-four acres. Several trenches dug in the ridges near the summit revealed early occupation which shows very close affinities with the Protoliterate period in Mesopotamia—the period in which the earliest writing was invented. Below this level lie many meters of debris indicating that the site was settled on a large scale in prehistoric times, probably in the fifth millennium B.C. Thus Chogha Mish is most promising for a detailed study of the origins of civilization in a crucial region.

P. P. DELOGAZ
Field Director



*Trench II at Chogha Mish,
seen from the east*