

The Syrian Expedition

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OF OLD WORLD PREHISTORY

The Oriental Institute activated the so-called Syrian Hittite Expedition in 1931. By 1938, when work drew to a close, the expedition had tested seven sites of the plain of Antioch (or "the Amouq"), excavated at three of these in considerable area, and had also tested two sites on the middle Syrian coast during a short period of political instability in the Antioch region.

The Amouq sequence, established by the staff headed by Dr. C. W. McEwan, comes from a more or less complete succession of levels and periods, from *ca.* 6000 B.C. to perhaps 600 A.D. The greatest concentration of effort was put on the clearance of the so-called Syro-Hittite period, *ca.* 1000 to 600 B.C. The site of Tell Tayinat proved to have been the seat of one of the regional kingdoms of the Levant which arose—as did Israel and Phoenicia—during a time of slackened power in Egypt, Mesopotamia and Anatolia. As Assyria consolidated its power, however, Tayinat was periodically subject to raids and an Assyrian governor's palace was established there *ca.* 740 B.C. Before the characteristic artifactual inventory of the period finally ended, however, Assyrian reliefs (now in the Institute's Mu-