

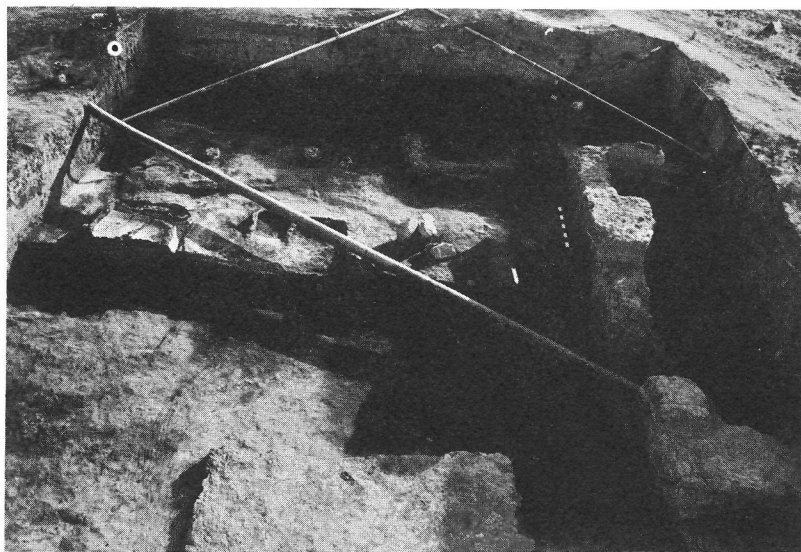
The Euphrates Valley Expedition

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For the second time in two years we spent almost three months digging at Korucutepe, one of the eight major prehistoric sites to be submerged by the building of a dam at Keban on the Euphrates. The Turkish government has encouraged foreign teams to help in this salvage effort, and so German, British and American (University of Michigan) teams have worked closely with three Turkish groups in piecing together the material record of eastern Anatolia's past.

More even than last year students have been involved in our efforts. Thanks for this are due to the Ford Foundation, which provided traineeships for six students of the universities of Chicago and California, Los Angeles, and to the generosity of the University of Amsterdam. The latter provided two students together with a faculty member (Philo Houwink ten Cate) and shared the other expedition expenses as well. The National Science Foundation, which has been



Patio with hearth platforms and sunken fireplaces, about 2600 B.C. The irrigation pipes are modern. *Photo by Diederik Meijer*

involved in our archeological salvage work in the Syrian and Turkish Euphrates valleys since 1964, enabled the senior staff to come out for instruction of the students and direction of the operations.

Adding some fancy to the facts, we might give the successive occupations of our site the following names: the village community, the military stronghold, the administrative center, and the lordly manor.

THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY (ABOUT 2900–2600 B.C.)

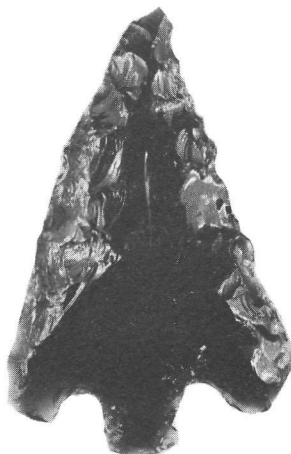
At the north edge of the table-shaped mound, excavation has gradually revealed the domestic part of a large prehistoric village establishment. East of the mud-brick walls that we think enclosed the residential quarters, a walled patio contained a spacious array of clay and mud-plaster household appointments that must have been the dream of a third-millennium B.C. housewife: three or four rectangular hearth platforms; circular, sunken fireplaces; a circular fireplace raised like a table top, with traces of a portable horseshoe-shaped hearth; a fixed horseshoe-shaped hearth; and two grain bins. Holes filled with charcoal near the corners of the rectangular platforms mark the spots where posts held up the roof. Over all of this a ceiling made of oak beams and rushes had burned and collapsed, burying the inventory of the patio. Either an earthquake or warfare must have been to blame.

As roofs are nowadays made of cultivated poplar trees and the wild oak stands of eastern Turkey have long been reduced to scrub, the use of full-grown oaks hints at richer natural resources available in the prosperous third millennium B.C. The rushes indicate that marshy conditions may have prevailed at the time. It seems quite possible that the early settlers of our area were faced with the double challenge of draining a swamp and cutting down the primeval forest—a task for which they had not been equipped until the advent of the Bronze Age about 3000 B.C.

The local villages of the third millennium depended heavily on agriculture (we had learned before that cattle-grazing was another mainstay of their economy). Many thousands of charred grains of

Obsidian arrowhead (ca. $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.),
about 2600 B.C.

Photo by Dorothy Brooks Koopman



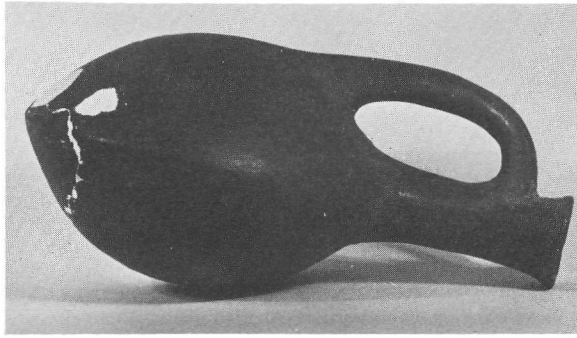
bread wheat and two-rowed barley were recovered in and around the storage jars and cooking pots crushed by the roof fall just described.

Part of these hand-turned, highly burnished black vessels as well as the red or brown eating and drinking bowls found on the "table" nearby have been painstakingly mended and give us the complete, very limited range of Early Bronze II pottery shapes. On the burned floor there was an almost complete goblet in the dainty, technologically much more advanced ware that was made in northeast Syria and north Mesopotamia from 2600–2150 B.C. approximately.

In the Early Bronze Age tool kit one can also see a survival of early village techniques, which produced spectacular barbed arrowheads of obsidian, side by side with pins made by the new process of copper or bronze casting.

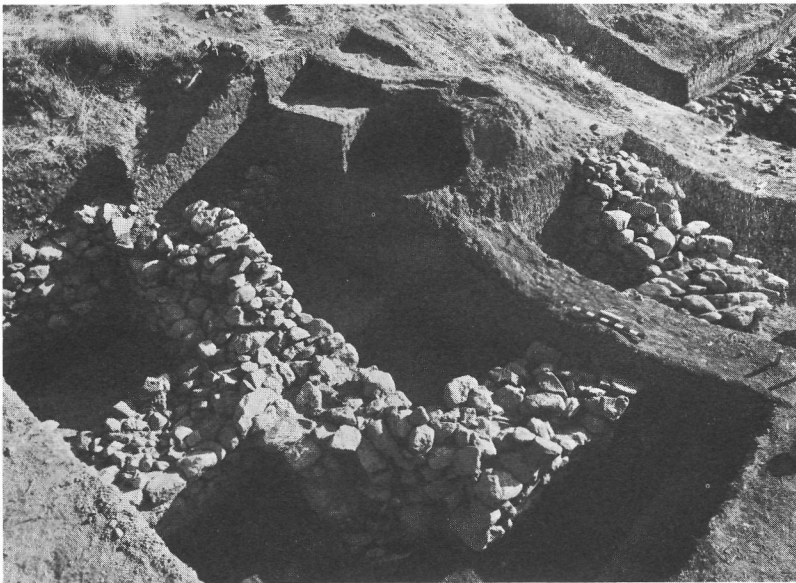
THE MILITARY STRONGHOLD (ABOUT 1700–1600 B.C.)

An area with a diameter of 500 ft. was surrounded by a double stone foundation, packed with mountain clay to support a mud-brick and wood city wall 18 ft. wide. At intervals of 48 ft. we found square towers 24 ft. wide. At two points such towers flanked a sloping passage which may have served as a sally port. The best preserved of these perilously overhanging walls stand up to 10 ft. over a floor that slopes down into ground water and off toward the fields beyond the mound.



Brown, burnished lentoid flask (ca. $8\frac{5}{8}$ in.) found in passage of fortification system, about 1700-1600 B.C. *Photo by Dorothy Brooks Koopman*

The pottery we found in the city wall system consists mostly of wares not known outside of eastern Anatolia, such as the technologically highly perfected “gray wheel-marked” ware. Only occasional finds like that of a graceful “lentoid flask” of Old Hittite type have



Stone-founded tower and parallel walls of fortification system, about 1700-1600 B.C. *Photo by Dorothy Brooks Koopman*

helped us assign it a tentative date between 1700 and 1600 B.C., which finds confirmation in the results of radiocarbon tests.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER (ABOUT 1400-1150 B.C.)

In the fourteenth century B.C. Hittite power reasserted itself. Our area (the country of Ishuwa, governed by elders) lost its independence and became a vassal kingdom under the Hittite Empire. This historical situation is reflected in the archeological record at our site. The possessions which the new inhabitants of Korucutepe broke, discarded and lost down their drains or between the stones of their pavements do not differ greatly from those found, for instance, at Tarsus on Turkey's south coast, another Hittite Empire stronghold.

Within the levels strewn with Hittite orange pottery we think we can now distinguish a fourteenth-century B.C. occupation from the terminal Hittite Empire phase of the thirteenth century B.C. The first is represented by a street lined with mud-brick, wood and stone houses containing such pottery finished with a slip or a burnish. Bronze pins and needles are another common find.



Turkish worker cleaning fallen ceiling beams of Hittite Empire house, fourteenth century B.C. *Photo by Maurits van Loon*

The thirteenth-century complex is known from the trash pits that we painstakingly emptied in the center of the mound. They contained quite a few decorated marble spindle whorls and much pottery without surface finish, exceptionally decorated in relief (see cover).

The organic remains from the Hittite trash pits merely showed a continuation of the same agriculture-based economy as before. Our grubbing in Hittite garbage had an ulterior motive. Thirteenth-century B.C. officials would secure shipments by stamping their personal seal, containing their name and title, on conical lumps of clay and upon receipt these *bullae* would be discarded. To our collection of 12 examples from last year another two were added this year. Among the persons whose seal impressions were found there is a royal couple: "Ari-Sharuma, the king, and Kilush-Khepa, the princess." He is known from Hittite sources as King of Ishuwa; his wife may have been a Hittite princess.

THE LORDLY MANOR (ABOUT 1150-800 B.C.)

Excavation on the west slope has given us some fascinating insights into what happened after the fall of the Hittite Empire about 1150 B.C. Into soil still thick with Hittite "platter" sherds, a monumental mud-brick building with inch-thick plaster was sunk. Its red and gray mud bricks on stone foundations can be followed around the mound edge for 30 ft. The top courses of brick had burned and fallen, covering an iron knife or sickle and some of the most interesting storage jars we have had thus far. Some were turned on the fast wheel according to Hittite mass-production methods, others are slow-wheel or even hand-turned and decorated with diagonal incisions or with pairs of "breasts."

What was the origin of the technically backward people who supplanted the Hittites at Korucutepe? Some fragments of similar vessels have been found on the citadel of Palu, which was conquered about 800 B.C. by Menua, king of Urartu and prince of Van, according to an inscription he carved on the rock. The gradual or sudden replacement of local populations by people from the eastern mountains or beyond would not be without parallels in more recent history.