

**Audio-Visual Modules
Documentary Series
3**

Terqa 1978

by

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and**

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**Undena Publications
Malibu 1979**

The Module System. As part of the publication program of the results of the Joint Expedition to Terqa, the slide/tape modules offer the following multiple features: (1) A selection of the most important color illustrations from the excavations which may be used, much like a volume of color plates, in support of the published reports of the expedition. (2) An integrated audio-visual presentation which, by means of a synchronized tape narration, presents in unified lecture form the major results of each season. (3) A collection of slides which may be used individually for inclusion in lectures on the archaeology, history and geography of the Ancient Near East.

Modules will be between 15 and 30 minutes in length; as more are produced, they will be available as interchangeable units for comprehensive slide presentations of a diversified internal structure.

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ISBN: 0-89003-076-6

Equipment. Modules may be used in two different ways—manually with an audible beep, or with electronic synchronization for automatic slide advancement.

For the first version, a combination of any slide projector and any Phillips type cassette recorder is acceptable. For the second version, it is necessary to have: (1) a Kodak Carousel or Ektagraphic projector with remote control, (2) a stereo playback Phillips type cassette recorder, and (3) a Kodak Carousel Sound Synchronizer Model 3 (tape recorder connection is a standard American phono-jack); or alternately (1) a Tiffin show/corder, and (2) a remote control projector with appropriate Tiffin adaptor cord.

Content. Divided into two major parts, with an introductory sequence, this third module documents mainly the intensive search to trace the ancient city wall, and the discovery of an important archive room.

The extensive defensive system encircling the ancient city of Terqa presented a huge area to analyze. In what turned out to be a fortunate turn of events, large trenches for sewers were dug all over the tell by the government. The excavation team spent the season in further excavation and stratigraphic analysis of these cross-sections of the ancient city wall.

The “archive of Puzurum” was found in the burnt debris of a storage room in a house in Area C. Extreme care and meticulous documentation yielded the story of a man who lived in a house in this quarter of ancient Terqa. Puzurum’s business dealings and traces of his family life were revealed in the rubble.

Along with presentation of these themes, artifactual evidence, excavation and photographic equipment are discussed. The module is for a single projector, and about 20 minutes in length.

Slides. A total of 123 color slides are listed in detail in this booklet, with a black and white print of each slide.

99 slides are photographs taken in the field, while the remaining 24 are original graphics, including maps, charts, diagrams and titles.

Credits. Photographs by Brenda Huffine, Jean-Jacques Desplanches and Olivier Rouault.

Graphics by Jean-Michel Gaborit, Mike Pixley and Tim Seymour.

Script by Giorgio Buccellati.

Booklet by Renata M. Liggett.

Narrator: Reuben Swartz.

Funds for the 1978 season of the Terqa Archaeological Project were graciously provided by a major grant from the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation of Pasadena. The UCLA field school, associated with the excavations, was funded by a grant from the Chancellor's Associates at the University of California at Los Angeles, initiated by Chancellor Charles E. Young.

Bibliography. For a fuller presentation of the results of the excavation see:

GIORGIO BUCCELLATI

"The Fourth Season: Introduction and the Stratigraphic Record."
Bibliotheca Mesopotamica, Vol. 10. TPR 10. Malibu, Undena Publications, 1979.

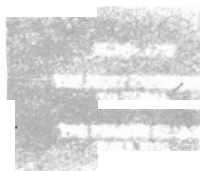
Forthcoming in *Bibliotheca Mesopotamica*:

MARILYN KELLY-BUCCELLATI

"The Archive of Puzurum—The Seal Impressions."

OLIVIER ROUAULT

"L'archive de Puzurum—Les Tablettes."



1. Black out slide.

2. Title—Terqa 1978.



3. Authors.



4. Looking NE towards Ashara environs, the desert escarpment contrasts sharply with the fertile valley of the Euphrates.



5. The Euphrates floodplain cultivated in plots south of modern Ashara.



6. This view of the tell, taken in the early morning from the east bank of the river, shows Ashara, the modern town, resting on the ancient city of Terqa. The minaret belongs to the abandoned mosque.



7. Looking W from the floodplain. Excavation Areas B and C can be seen on the left of the tell, and Area E to right center.



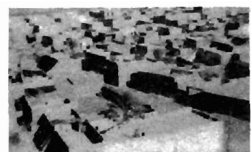
8. The map of Syria, outlined in red, shows ancient Terqa in close proximity to Mari.



9. In a storage room (STCA1) in a burned house in Area C, identification tags are being placed on features prior to photography. The archive of Puzurum was found in this room.



10. Title—City Wall.



11. Looking E toward the Euphrates across the rooftops of the modern houses built atop the ancient tell.



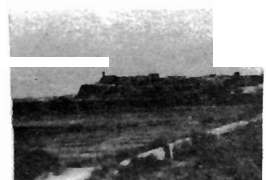
12. SE aerial view taken by airfoil shows the tell rising above the cultivated floodplain. Note the densely packed houses, the municipal park at upper center and the water tower at upper right.



13. The white dotted line suggests the ancient perimeter of the city wall in the mosaic aerial photo. The artist's reconstruction of the phases of the city wall are part of an outdoor poster display in the archaeological park at Ashara.



14. Mass of ancient mudbrick lies unexposed in Area A. Viewed from S, it formed part of Terqa's massive defensive wall system.



15. Thick cultural deposits heighten the tell, viewed across the fields from the north. Modern excavation and construction has partly removed some of the deposit.



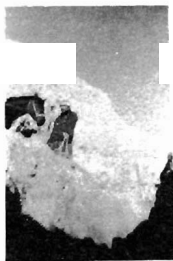
16. View to the SE of the eroded mass of mudbrick which is the top of the city wall in Area B. The large pit is a well, with a smaller, round drain to the right.



17. In the NW sector of the tell, MP13 provided a glimpse of the city wall in section. Masonry (FT1) is visible in the E face of the trench behind the water pipe. The red clay (FT41, 42) at the bottom of the excavation is virgin soil.



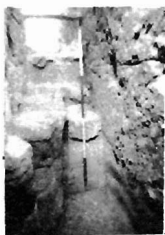
18. View to the W at dawn of the massive remnant of the city wall in Area B.



19. A detail shot looking up at the height of the phase 2 and 4 wall remains in Area B.



20. NW view of the city wall in Area B, with tell rising at Area C in the background. The man with the horse stands next to SG52, a trench cut to expose the join of the ancient plain with the face of the wall.



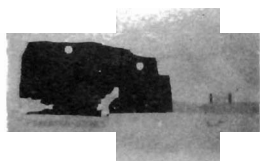
21. Excavations in MP11, LC12, N of MP13, reveal boulders fallen from the glacis of the first phases of the city wall. Stratified deposits under the stones rest atop virgin soil.



22. Aerial view of Area D shows trenches MP10 and MP13+ in upper right corner. MP11 is below MP13+. MP12, already filled in, runs along street in center of photograph.



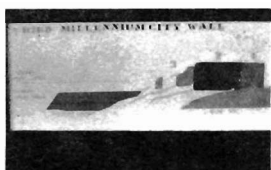
23. Facing E in MP11, LC10 toward the plastered face of the Phase 2 city wall (FT36), with floors rising up to it. In foreground, a dense red clay layer (FT54) caps layers of fill placed against the wall.



24. Diagram of two phases in construction of Terqa's defensive rings. The stones show positioning of boulder glacis at base of wall. Floor deposition shows cultural usage. (=DS2, 50)



25. Drawing of three phases of the defensive system depicts also the boulder glacis. Further excavations revealed presence of a walkway between outer and middle walls.



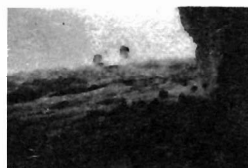
26. Diagram of sequential wall construction and position of the moat. The early phases of the city wall were built upon rubble strata which allowed them to be dated.



27. Airfoil composite photograph shows Area B and municipal park in foreground, with a suggested reconstruction of the defensive system superimposed around the mound and the modern tower.



28. A map of major third millennium sites in Mesopotamia shows Terqa situated on the main trade route, the Euphrates, between Ebla and Kish.



29. Looking up the vertical section cut in MP11, LC1. The stones (FT26) jutting out from the strata are the remnants of a stone pavement associated with the base of the city wall dating to the late 4th or early 3rd millennium.



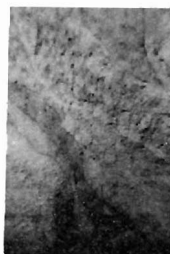
30. View from MP13 E into SG61, where mudbrick of the 4th phase of the city wall overlies strata of cultural remains over a deep deposition of water-laid silts and clays.



31. Entire length of MP13, through SG61, with SG60 to the extreme E. Claw-like marks in foreground at top of trench are from backhoe which initially dug the trenches.



32. Photomosaic and diagram of S wall section of MP13+.



33. SE view of mid-3rd millennium moat deposition outside Phase 3 city wall in MP13, LC3, FT4.



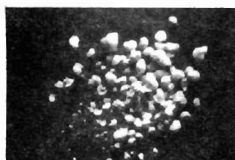
34. City Wall 3 with its moat floor (FT3) in foreground in MP13.



35. Stratigraphic detail outlined on walls of MP13, with figures showing rise of moat from bottom to base and top of city wall.



36. First figure stands atop masonry of City Wall 3 in MP13, while second stands at base and third at bottom of the excavated moat. View toward W.



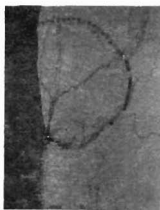
37. Excavated shells of ancient freshwater gastropods from the MP's. These snails are indicative of gently flowing water, as in a channel or moat.



38. Third millennium vessel from SG11 (TQ4-89).



39. A third millennium bottle of "metallic ware" from the wall of MP12. (TQ4-11) LC2.



40. A contour map of the tell with findspots of third millennium ceramics connected by a solid red line. Distribution of this pottery approximates perimeter of ancient Terqa.



41. Map of Area D showing MP trenches cutting across at least three phases of the ancient defense wall.



42. Aerial view of NW quadrant of Ashara showing Area D, including SG17, SG60, SG61, MP13, MP12 (filled), MP11 and MP10.



43. An aluminum bipod, used for taking overhead photographs, is here shown to visiting Syrian officials.



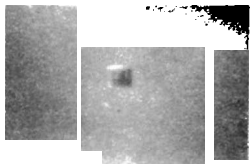
44. The "giraffe", a mechanism for taking overhead shots, is here suspended over Area B for a group photo of excavation team.



45. J.J. Desplanches, J.M. Gaborit, and S. Reimer mount giraffe assembly atop vehicle for easy transport.



46. Earlier aerial photographs of MP13 were taken by R. Anderson perched atop a tethered ladder.



47. The airfoil "kite" in the air with camera suspended on a line just



48. Expedition members R. Anderson and M. Chavalas prepare to send camera aloft with another type of kite.



49. Airfoil approaches maximum altitude over Ashara (upper left).

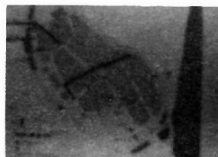


50. The airfoil is launched near the minaret across from Area E.

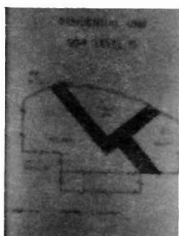


51. Retrieving the airfoil on the cliff edge in Area C. Platform-mounted camera is suspended below.

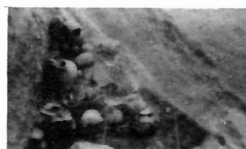
52. Title—The Archive



53. General maps of Terqa with areas excavated through 1978. Archive located in Area C in the residential quarter.



54. Plan of SG4 Level 15, rooms of residences before complete excavation. (Duplicate of DS2 no. 17, 1977).



55. Cache of vessels uncovered in ST4 storage or pantry room in 1976 (=DS1, 99).



56. Plan of residential quarter in Area C across street from a public building. The archive room STCA1 is the complete room with a doorway in the blue-shaded single residence.



57. Plan of the public building, street and private houses as excavated in Area C, 1978.



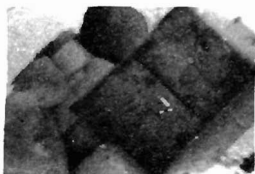
58. Aerial view of same features in Area C. Islamic pits from the medieval period obscure walls of large public building. Archive room visible in left center.



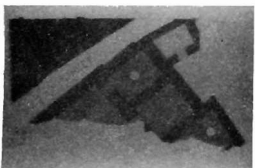
59. Area C from above, with Area B to the right.



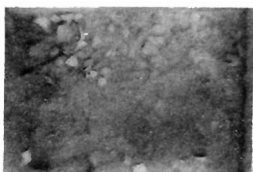
60. Detail of pitted surface of the excavation of the public building. The charred remains of beams cover the floor. Two figures walk along the partially excavated ancient street. The residences are to the N, across the street. No definite chronological associations between buildings on either side of the street have been made as yet.



61. Partially excavated archive room, STCA1, with burnt debris filling the walls of the room. A large Islamic pit to the W cuts into the wall.



62. Plan of archive room, STCA1, and pantry room, STCA3. Residence unit STB shown in gold to the N.



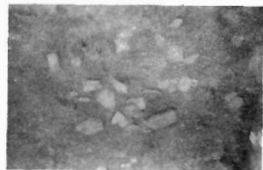
63. Beginning of excavation of burnt refuse in STCA1. Note pockets of ashy debris.



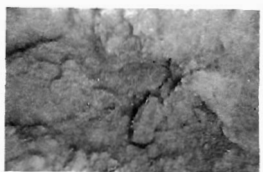
64. Excavations showed a sequence of collapse of burnt material above original floor and subsequent leveling and reuse of the room, as shown in this model.



65. A small trench lowered in NW corner to determine nature of debris stratum. Half of a cuneiform tablet found here in 1977, LC9 (TQ3-T1).



66. Burnt rubble in collapse stratum of STCA1. In center, oxidized clay of roofing material shows bright orange, while perimeters of room show charcoal and ash-stained debris.



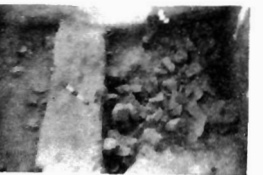
67. Amid bricky debris, a clay tag (TQ4-T80) used for a label on a box. Locus (LC) 26, Level (LV) 7



68. Detail of a modern mud and wood beam roof on a shed in Ashara. Burning of this structure would produce debris very similar to that found in STCA1.



69. View NW as excavation of collapse stratum proceeds. A small baulk is left in the center to ensure close control in this microstratigraphically excavated room. Jumbled bricks, potsherds and ash streaks lie above the covered floor.



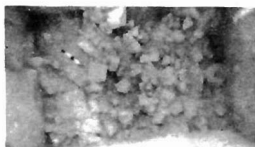
70. Detail of scattered brick in N half of room, baked hard by fire. Note the ash deposits along walls in upper right.



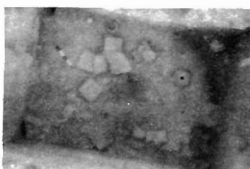
71. Detail of rubble-mudbrick feature in center top may have been a hearth. View is N half of room.



72. Relate again the model of destruction of the room to the photographs of burnt debris.



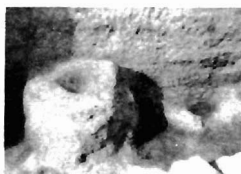
73. Overhead view of STCA1, showing densely packed sherd, brick and plaster debris. The large pottery sherds were probably stored as such, since no joining pieces were found.



74. The excavated living floor of the archive room, with artifacts, including tablets, in place.



75. Detail of bricks on floor of room.



76. Two mudbrick installations (higher one plastered, other set into the floor) are possibly hearths, due to concentration of ash and charcoal found inside.



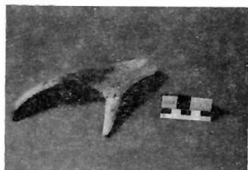
77. Overhead with objects and tablets repositioned at stratigraphic level found.



78. Silver crescent (TQ4-38) LC9, LV1; and hematite duck weight (TQ4-42) LC15, LV3. The silver piece may be a kind of amulet known in Sumerian as a “moon crescent” weighing 1/4 to 1/3 of a sheqel.



79. The hematite duck weight (TQ4-42) is less than 2 cms long and weighs exactly 1.5 gms.



80. A piece of deer antler was also found in the archive room (TQ4-S322) LC47, LV8.



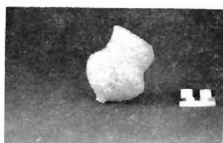
81. A large bowl from STCA1 (TQ4-209) LC51, LV3-5.



82. A large oval basin (TQ4-208) is a type used for bathing, although no drainage facilities were found in the room. Apparently the “bathtub” was stored in pieces (note fire-blackened sherds) LC38-45-46, LV3-6. 68cm by 78cm by 63cm.



83. Second millennium goblet from near the floor (TQ4-59).



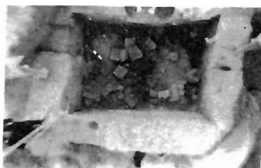
84. Second millennium jar, reconstructed from many broken pieces, from Area E, TQ4-37.



85. Assemblage of artifacts from STCA1, including vessels, tokens, lids, door socket, etc.



86. Large quantity of sherds from archive room suggests an area used for storage. A total of over 5,000 sherds yielded very few complete vessels, although analyzed by expert restorers.



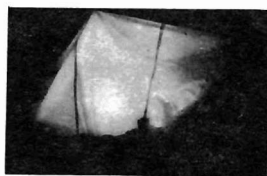
87. Bipod shot of STCA1. Plastic is for protective covering.



88. Work in the archive room was often a dawn-to-dusk operation. View is to the south.



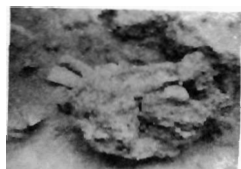
89. A rainproof plastic tent became necessary to protect the exposed burnt strata.



90. As the end of the season approached, work in the archive room continued well into the evenings.



91. Complete cuneiform tablet found wedged between broken sherds (TQ4-T60). Fragments of its envelope can be seen scattered to the sides. The text is a land sale by one "Yassi-el". LC20, LV5.



92. Here the edge of a fragile tablet is excavated encased in a block of fire-baked clay (TQ4-T153).



93. Complete epigraphic inventory of tablets, envelopes, tags, seal impressions, bullae, tokens and fragments found in the archive room.



94. Major tablets from STCA1 after cleaning and restoration. All are land sale contracts, except for the two at lower right—a loan contract and two lists.



95. A contract in excellent condition records the land sold by a man named "Haşibum" (TQ4-T63). LC21, LV5.



96. The reverse of the above contract lists the witnesses to the sale (TQ4-T63).



97. On the side of the tablet, cylinder seal impressions mark the presence of the witnesses, whose names are also inscribed in smaller characters. (TQ4-T63).



98. The upper edge holds the impression of a fabric, and the inscription reads “the hem of the garment of Hašibum”; an accepted Mesopotamian substitute for a personal seal. (TQ4-T63).



99. The well-preserved tablet (TQ4-T60), shown *in situ* above (DS3, 91) after cleaning. The buyer on most contracts is one “Puzurum” to whom we assume ownership of the house STCA.



100. The text of a tablet runs often over all edges. The lower edge of a contract may contain the date formula, allowing us to date a text to the month and even the day of a king’s reign. (TQ4-T60).



101. A seal impression rolled lengthwise down one edge. It seals the document and secures a witness. (TQ4-T60).



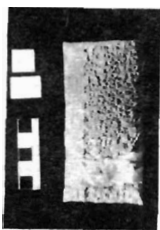
102. The reverse of a contract of one "Yasmah-Dagan", recording many witnesses to a land sale. (TQ4-T95), LC50, LV4.



103. The above contract with one of its two envelopes. Here, the envelope is placed around a cast of the tablet (TQ4-T95).



104. The tablet on the left with its inner and outermost envelopes, carefully reconstructed. One envelope reproduces the text of the contract, while the outer one is rolled with cylinder seals. (TQ4-T95, T97, T173).



105. A contract, a land sale, by Iddin-kakka (TQ4-T144). LC21, LV7.



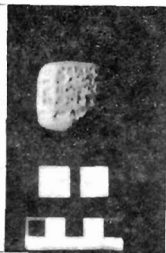
106. The inside of a piece of envelope shows a negative impression of the cuneiform script on the tablet it once held. (TQ4-T97).



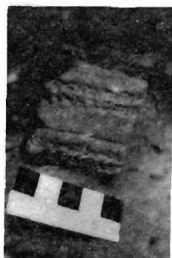
107. This cylinder seal impression, a fragment of an envelope, shows seated and standing figures with various symbols (TQ4-T68). Experts can date such sealings by stylistic elements.



108. This tablet shows the reverse of a rough draft of a document (TQ4-T19+).



109. This small tablet is a list of names, including the son of Puzurum. (TQ4-T88), LC47, LV3.



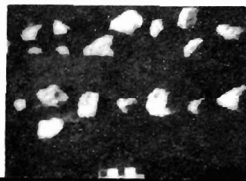
110. The reverse of the loan text, *in situ*. It records the loan of six sheqels of silver to Puzurum by the temple. We attribute the archive to this man. (TQ4-T55), LC22, LV3.



111. The obverse of above tablet (TQ4-T39) was found one meter away, LC21, LV4. Here, inside the two parts, we can see how originally two pieces of clay were put together; fingerprints can be seen inside.



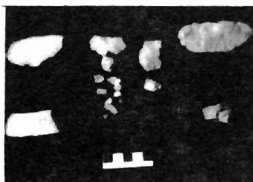
112. The two parts of the tablet were stored broken and apart, as evidenced by different degrees of burning. The percussion point is evident; the broken tablet indicated the loan was paid.



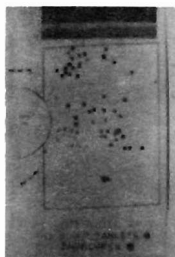
113. Bullae, used to seal jars, often had seal impressions.



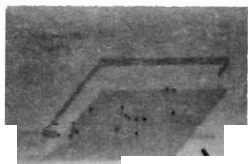
114. A bulla with fingernail impressions. (TQ4-T71).



115. Tags, used to seal boxes, are flat pieces with sealings. At lower left is an odd geometric seal pattern; several tags with this impression were found in STCA1.



116. Chart shows distribution of tablets and envelopes by level in Puzurum's archive. Congregation of tablets was mainly in northern half of room.



117. Diagram shows findspots of tablets in collapse debris below re-use floors.



118. View E toward the Euphrates down partially excavated street between the residences and public building.



119. A full moon over the Euphrates, viewed from the walls in Area C.

120. Institutional Credits

The Joint Expedition to Terqa
The Institute of Archaeology, UCLA
Calif. State University, Los Angeles
with the participation of
Johns Hopkins University
The University of Arizona
L'Université de Poitiers

121. Institutional Credits

Excavations made possible through
a grant from the
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Foundation

122. Institutional Credits

Field School supported by special
grants from the
Chancellor's Office
and the
Office of Educational Development
UCLA

123. Personal Credits

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