



Bibliotheca Mesopotamica  
Volume Thirty-One

Terqa Final Reports 3

*Cloves and paleobotany,  
scarabs and beads,  
plaques and figurines*

edited by  
Federico Buccellati

## Terqa Final Reports 3

*Cloves and paleobotany,  
scarabs and beads,  
plaques and figurines*

# Bibliotheca Mesopotamica

Primary sources and interpretive analyses for the study  
of Mesopotamian civilization and its influences  
from late prehistory to the end of the cuneiform tradition

General Editor: Federico Buccellati

*Dual editions*

A project of

IIMAS –

The International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies

Publication of this volume has been made possible  
through a contribution from the  
The Shelby White and Leon Levy Program  
for Archaeological Publications

Bibliotheca Mesopotamica

Volume 31

Terqa Final Reports 3

Cloves and paleobotany,  
scarabs and beads,  
plaques and figurines

edited by

Federico Buccellati

with contributions by

Alexander Ahrens

Gregory Areshian

Giorgio Buccellati

Kathleen F. Galvin

Bea Hopkinson

Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati

Mary Stancavage

Malibu

Undena Publications

2020

## Abstract

The book is dedicated to small finds, two of which, the cloves and the scarabs, are of particular importance.

The cloves are, indeed, a very small find which, for all its diminutive size and lack of spectacularity, is of great import for its historical implications. It has also been cited often on the basis of our preliminary reports. It is published here in full, with regard to botanical analysis (K. F. Galvin) and stratigraphic setting (G. Buccellati). The rest of the botanical samples are also published.

A small group of scarabs sheds light on wide range connections in the early second millennium (A. Ahrens). They were found together with a large group of beads in a cache stored next to the altar in the cella of the Temple of Ninkarrak (M. Stancavage).

The figurines (G. Areshian) and plaques (M. Kelly-Buccellati) shed light on a dimension of everyday life that is particularly well documented at Terqa, both typologically and stratigraphically. A detailed publication of the documentary evidence includes an analysis of their functional and stylistic peculiarities.

The site of Qraya, dating back to the Proto-literate period, can be seen as the mother site of Terqa, which begins in the Early Dynastic period and is situated just downstream of Qraya. We report here (B. Hopkinson and G. Buccellati) on an experiment in salt production with material from this site which was carried out at the Terqa Expedition house.

The contribution of the Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications has been decisive in allowing us to bring to a completion a publication that had been stalled for a number of unexpected factors that intervened since the close of excavations.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2020933188

ISBN 978-0-9798937-6-6

Copyright © 2020 by Undena Publications

[www.undena.com](http://www.undena.com)

# Table of Contents

## Foreword (F. Buccellati)

## 1 The cloves (G. Buccellati)

- 1.1 Discovery and preliminary publication
- 1.2 Stratigraphy
- 1.3 Chronology – terminus post quem
- 1.4 Social setting
- 1.5 Chronology – terminus ante quem
- 1.6 Scholarly literature
- 1.7 References

## 2 Paleobotany (K. Galvin)

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Preservation
- 2.3 Sampling
- 2.4 Floral analysis
  - 2.4.1 Domestic Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)
  - 2.4.2 Other Triticum
  - 2.4.3 Domestic Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*)
  - 2.4.4 Other Gramineae
  - 2.4.5 Legumes
  - 2.4.6 Oil Producing Seeds
  - 2.4.7 Fruiting Plants
    - Punica granatum* L.
    - Vitis vinifera* L.
    - Phoenix dactylifera*
    - Olea europaea*
  - 2.4.8 Flowering Plants (Ornamentals)

.Rosa sp.

2.4.9 Reeds and Rushes

2.4.10 Spices

2.5 Conclusions

2.6 References

2.7 Table

### 3 Figurines and Models of Vehicles (G. Areshian)

3.1 The Collection of Figurines and Their Chronological Framework

3.2 The Typology

Introductory Considerations

Anthropomorphic Figurines

Heads of Anthropomorphic Figurines

Miscellaneous Fragments of Anthropomorphic Sculptures

Zoomorphic Figurines

Models of Vehicles and Wheels

3.3 Interpretive Remarks

3.4 The Catalogue

### 4 Plaques (M. Kelly-Buccellati)

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Iconographic organization of the Terqa Plaques

4.3 Single figure plaques

4.4 Multiple figure plaques

4.5 Complex plaques

4.6 Conclusions

### 5 Beads (M. Stancavage)

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Bead Typology

The cache

Ovoid.

Spherical.  
Pear Shaped.  
Biconical or Double Conoid.  
Cylindrical.  
Date-shaped.  
Rhomboid.  
Square.  
Discoid.  
Elliptical.  
Miscellaneous.  
Outside the cache  
Broken  
Spacers.  
Pendants.  
5.3 Materials  
5.4 Stratigraphic Considerations  
5.5 Implications  
5.6 Acknowledgments  
5.7 Table  
Figures

## 6 Scarabs (A. Ahrens)

Introduction

6.1. The Scarabs: Typological Analysis, Parallels and Date of Manufacture

6.1.1 Double scarab TQ5-194

6.1.2 Scarab TQ5-195

6.1.3 Scarab TQ5-196

6.1.4 Scarab TQ5-197

6.1.5 Scarab TQ5-198

6.1.6 Scarab TQ5-199

6.1.7 Scarab TQ5-200

6.1.8 Scarab TQ5-201

6.1.9 Scarab TQ5-210

6.2. The question of workshops

6.3. Amuletic function and meaning of the scarabs

6.4. Historical and chronological observations

Bibliography

Figures



## 7 Appendix. The Qraya Salt Experiment. Reenacting Salt Production Processes of Protohistoric Mesopotamia (B. Hopkinson and G. Buccellati)

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The project: chronicle and authorship

7.1.2 - General historical and archaeological setting

7.1.3 The beveled rim bowls

7.1.4 - Bouara and salt sites in Syria

7.1.5 The site of Qraya

### 7.2 The experiment

7.2.1 Overview

7.2.2 Stage 1: Procurement

7.2.3 Stage 2: Purifying

7.2.4 Stage 3: Boiling

7.2.5 Stage 4: Drying

### 7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 Uses

7.3.2 Shipping of salt

7.3.3 Results

### 7.4 References