

All samples were derived from finely dispersed and divided charcoal; they were collected directly by the staff geologist, D. Berry, and stored in a glass jar until delivered at the laboratory, so that it may be safely assumed that no contamination was incurred. Because of the nature of the sample, its stratigraphic location corresponds more to a diffused area than to a single point, hence the stratigraphic identification has to be understood as a point of reference rather than as an indication of an actual findspot. For an evaluation of the chronological implications see below, 6.3.2-3.

Of other samples and specimens the only ones which can be used in this preliminary report are the clusters of gastropods found in MP13 FT14 and 30 (*DS* 3, 37) and the occasional presence of macerated plant debris (see above 6.2.2.1) both of which confirm the interpretation of the ancient extramural layers as being the result of moat deposition. It remains for later studies to incorporate a full laboratory analysis of all the samples and specimens collected, including more carbon 14 determinations.

6.2.5. The Evidence of Artifactual Evidence: Early Third Millennium Pottery at Terqa (by M. Kelly-Buccellati)

6.2.5.1. Introductory

Third millennium ceramics from Terqa have not been recovered in large quantities anywhere on the site. This is especially true for early third millennium ceramics. The nature of the third millennium stratigraphy excavated so far is an important factor in this since we have uncovered strata associated with the construction of the city walls or immediately inside them, as in Area B. Only in one Operation (MP19) did we excavate in what appears to be early third millennium habitational levels inside but not immediately adjacent to the defensive rings. This stratified material from MP19 levels 1-7 indicated the basic chronological sequence of early third millennium ceramics and corroborated the chronological sequence emerging from the relatively smaller sherd sample coming from the area immediately adjacent to the defensive system.¹ Therefore while MP19 cannot be stratigraphically linked with any of the city walls it does give us additional evidence for their date. The most important in terms of amounts of the early third millennium pottery directly associated with the defensive system came from MP13 FT4 and 6 which are related stratigraphically to CW3; SG60 levels 1-3; SG61 levels 10-16; and SG17 levels 10-18. The complete description of early third millennium ware and shape types is given in 6.2.5.4.

We are in a better position for the study of the later third millennium ceramics since two graves containing whole vessels and some sherd material have been found in Area B (see *TPR* 4 pp. 48-53 and *TPR* 9, forthcoming). Also comparable sherd material was excavated in connection with the activities carried out inside the city walls in Area B and SG17 (see *TPR* 9, forthcoming). In SG17 particularly there was a continuous series of floors against the inner face of CW2 spanning the period from the third into the second millennium.

On the basis of these strata we can see that there is a continuity at Terqa among many of the third millennium wares; this leads us to a situation whereby many of the wares which

¹MP19 was a manhole excavated by the town of Asharah as part of the sewer system. We excavated seven levels at the bottom of this manhole cut and it is from these excavations that the majority of the sherds came.

are characteristic for the later third millennium levels can be seen earlier. The variations from earlier to later strata can be found in the proportions of occurrence of these wares and the methods of manufacture in some cases. We do not have enough shape types from the early third millennium to determine if the shapes in which the pottery is made change within one particular ware from the beginning to the end of the third millennium. During the early third millennium we do have new wares produced (TK, TL, TM, TN, TO). Since there has not been excavated any fourth millennium pottery at Terqa, we cannot determine whether or not any of these wares had been present earlier. From our excavations at nearby fourth millennium Qraya it appears that a ware called HH by us at Qraya. This ware is buff to orange-buff in color and has a wet smoothed surface, usually with a well smoothed surface. This was then maybe an early type of the TM ware.

One final note about the discussion of these ceramics within the context of this Terqa Preliminary Report on the stratigraphy excavated in the 1978 season. It is not our custom in the TPR's on stratigraphy to also discuss artifactual remains—these are rather discussed in separate fascicles. However considering the importance of the defensive system and its complete report in this volume, it was decided to also include the artifactual evidence connected with it here since the pottery does shed some light on the dating of the system.

6.2.5.2. Early Dynastic I Pottery

Notwithstanding the fact that our sample is small, we still were tentatively able to identify some pottery coming from the excavations as ED I.

The major difference between ED I and ED II ceramics is that what appeared to be Scarlet ware occurred in some lots with early third millennium sherds (true also at Mari). There were few body sherds of this ware and no rim sherds; the Scarlet ware however was clearly identifiable because of the bright orange-red color. In some cases the sherds were burnished so that a striated pattern appeared on them (Delougaz 1952, Pl. 2:Kh. IX 196). One sherd from SG17-SG50 Locus 20 had plum red paint on it instead of the usual bright red-orange color. The plum red color may have occurred in firing or may indicate that we have some mixture with Jemdat Nasr pottery. The rest of the sherds from the same locus were early third millennium types.

In what appears to be ED I pottery lots we have much more mica tempered pottery and a predominance of buff wares (especially TD). A type of TJ ware with buff polished exterior and gray-brown interior is found in these levels. This may be a local variant of the ED I gray wares found at other sites. This ware at Terqa is not related to Metallic ware or to Imitation Metallic ware, neither of which occurred in these pottery lots. Highly fired greenish pottery is also more abundant than in later levels (TM ware). The coarse TE ware in shapes with triangular tab handles is found in these levels and continues throughout the third millennium at Terqa.

Since our sample is limited we had relatively few shape types. However one sherd found in MP13 FT16 appeared to be a type of solid footed goblet (Fig. 21). A sherd from a fruit stand decorated with cut out triangles came from SG17 FT10 while a handle from MP11 (Fig. 23) has parallels in the ED I pottery from Khafajah (Delougaz 1952: Pl. 50:f).

While this sample cannot definitely prove that we do have ED I strata associated with the Defensive System it gives us a basis for tentatively considering that we are digging in ED I (for a further discussion of this see below).

ED I (for a further discussion of this see below).

6.2.5.3. Early Dynastic II Pottery at Terqa

During the Early Dynastic II period we had sherds from large jars with a carinated shoulder and straight rims decorated with reserve slip in horizontal lines (only one possible sherd with oblique reserve slip pattern from MP19 has been discovered so far). No evidence for triangular lugs on these jars has appeared. Reserve slip decoration also occurred on smaller shapes judging from the thickness of the body sherds. Another type of decoration on body sherds is the use of incised designs (see Fig. 23). The use of micaceous clays continues into ED II. The TR ware produced in ED II is thinner and redder than earlier with less polished examples occurring.

The shapes associated with this pottery at Terqa are large jars with outturned rims; a variation has a straight neck (Fig. 22). Small cups with string cut bases, and spouted vessels (Fig. 22) have been found.

There appears to be at Terqa a transitional phase in which the production of reserve slip pottery continued while a new type of ceramics, Metallic ware, was first being introduced. The Metallic ware here, while related to the later ED III Metallic ware, tends to be made into thinner, smaller shapes with a higher polish; these shapes can also have the red painted lines on the neck or shoulder of the vessels as in ED III. No Imitation Metallic ware is found with this pottery. Other wares too continued from earlier ED II especially TK, TL and TR wares.

6.2.5.4. Description of Third Millennium Ceramic wares

The later third millennium ceramic ware types which were found during the 1976 and 1977 seasons in Area B and SG17 have been described in *TPR* 9, forthcoming. They are repeated here along with the early third millennium ware types for the sake of clarity and convenience for the reader.

6.2.5.4.1. Later Third Millennium Ware Types

TA Metallic ware – Munsell color is 10YR7/2 Light Gray. The ware also appears in darker grays. It is usually used for thin to medium-walled vessels, 5 mm to 1 cm thick. It has sand-temper, with coarser temper for larger shapes; the surface of vessels is occasionally pitted, with pieces of gypsum showing. Vessels in this ware are high-fired. The exterior is wet-smoothed or burnished, occasionally ring-burnished; these processes are usually carried out while the vessel is on the wheel and wheel-marks often show on the exterior. Some vessels have corrugations around the neck.

TB Metallic ware – Munsell color 5YR7/3 Pink. This ware is the reddish form of TA ware.

TC Metallic ware – Munsell color 5YR7/2 Pinkish Gray. There are red-painted lines around the upper body or neck. This ware is the painted form of TA ware.

- TD – Munsell colors 2.5Y8/2 White or 7.5YR6/4, light brown. Sherds sometimes have a buff exterior and reddish interior. Vessel walls are of medium thickness (up to 1 cm.) and the vessels are wheelmade. The ware is grit-tempered with sand and mica and scattered pieces of larger, darker grits. Firing is medium high with fracture planes parallel the vessel wall (2-2, 5 on the Mohs scale). Vessels are wiped with plant or some other material with short strokes in various directions on the exterior and occasionally on the interior also.
- TE – Munsell color 10YR8/3 Very Pale Brown; colors vary from brick red to buff. Vessel walls are from 1 to 2 cm. thick. This ware has coarse pebble temper and is medium low-fired and crumbly. Vessels are handmade, with uneven interior and exterior surfaces; the exterior is wet-smoothed and can even have a slight burnish.
- TF – Munsell colors 5YR7/2 Pinkish Gray and 7/3 Pink. Vessel walls are thick (1.5-2 cm.). This ware has coarse plant temper with some sand and occasional pebbles. Vessels are low-fired (1.5-2 on Mohs scale) with uneven exterior and interior surfaces, often with plant impressions. The exterior is somewhat wet-smoothed, often with horizontal tabs at the shoulder.
- TG – Munsell color 5YR7/3 Pink; most sherds are more tan and less pink than this and can have a greenish tint. Vessel walls are thin (5-10 mm.) with quite fine sand temper. Shapes made in this ware are high-fired (2.5 on Mohs scale) and have wheelmarks on the interior and especially prominent ones on the exterior.
- TH – Munsell color 7.5YR7/4 Pink. Many sherds are more buff than this. Vessels are thin-walled (1-5 mm.), have fine sand temper, and are high-fired. Small, deep, plain-rimmed bowls are a common shape. The exterior has prominent wheelmarks and occasionally is corrugated.
- TJ – Imitation Metallic ware. Vessels are buff and can have red-painted lines as in TC Metallic ware. Walls are thin (5-10 mm.) and vessels are wheelmade. This ware is usually reddish in section, has grit temper less fine than in Metallic ware, and is lower fired than Metallic ware (2 on the Mohs scale). Corrugated lines can appear around the neck.

6.2.5.4.2. Early Third Millennium Ware Types

- TK – Reserved slip placed on the exterior of vessels in horizontal lines (occasionally in oblique lines); medium fire; thickness varies from 5 mm. to 1 cm.; sand and gypsum temper.
- TL – Chocolate brown in color, but can vary to buff to brown on the surface; 1-2 cm thick; much sand temper with small gypsum particles with some finely chopped straw; can be burnished on the surface. In many cases the vessels made from this ware had been secondarily fired so many times that they were black all the way through. A finer variety of this ware is about 5 mm thick and sometimes has gypsum temper on the surface.

- TM – Buff color on the exterior sometimes also green-buff; can have a red interior; wet smoothed; some mica and sand temper with the addition of finely chopped plant (this plant can at times be seen also on the exterior); this ware is similar to TF ware except that it is less coarse, it is thinner walled and is produced in smaller shapes.
- TN – Scarlet ware; bright orange paint over a buff ground; sand tempered with some mica; medium fire; thickness varies from 5mm to 1cm; sometimes burnished.
- TO – White to buff colored slip over a buff ground; plant temper with some gypsum and some sand temper; high fire; 5mm to 1cm thick.

6.2.5.5. Conclusions

The sample of pottery sherds associated with the defensive system is small making it unlikely that our sample is comprehensive. Our conclusions about their date are therefore necessarily tentative. However there are two factors which should be noted in this connection:

(1) All the ceramics associated with the defensive system form a coherent group. There is no major discontinuity in them which would indicate a major chronological break. Indeed there is a continuous use of some ceramic wares (e.g. TE and TJ) through all the third millennium strata associated with the defensive system; and these link up with the more abundant evidence we already had excavated in 1976 and 1977 from Area B and SG17. Even where there are new wares introduced, as in Metallic ware, we see transitional stages in the pottery distribution, again indicating no major break.

(2) The one C14 date we have for inside City Wall 4 confirms the tentative date we had already given the pottery in the field. There has been no pottery dating to the fourth millennium or earlier associated with the defensive system but this may be due to the sample size. We are beginning to get from the ceramics hints that the site may have been inhabited in the fourth millennium and earlier from other areas of the mound as some possible Ubaid sherds have been excavated in MP19.

6.3 Preliminary Stratigraphic Interpretation

6.3.1. Introductory: Horizons and Phases

The definition of Horizons (HR) and Phases (PH) as used in our system has been given briefly above (6.1.2). We will now sort the data pertaining to the defensive system according to these criteria. Absolute time values are suggested; they are based on a combination of the factors reviewed so far—stratigraphic, typological, physical (C-14)—, but they remain of course simply an indication of ranges. They are not integrated here into established cultural frames of reference (“Early Dynastic,” “Proto-Syrian,” “Early Bronze”), in order to respect the cultural autonomy of the Middle Euphrates region. A correlation between