



Bibliotheca Mesopotamica  
Volume Thirty-Four

Terqa Final Reports 4

*Tell Qraya on the Middle Euphrates*  
*Final Report of the 1981 Season*

Daniel Shimabuku

## Terqa Final Reports 4

*Tell Qraya on the Middle Euphrates  
Final Report of the 1981 Season*

# 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 A. 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 34

Terqa Final Reports 4

# Tell Qraya on the Middle Euphrates

Final Report of the 1981 Season

Daniel Shimabuku

Malibu  
Undena Publications  
2020

## Abstract

Tell Qraya is predominantly a late-fourth millennium B.C. archaeological site astride a natural conglomerate rock promontory on the west bank of the Euphrates River, just five kilometers north of the large second millennium B.C. city of Tell Asharah (ancient Terqa). In 1981 systematic excavation of a major square and test trenches uncovered three Protoliterate building phases.

This excavation report offers a comprehensive record of the stratigraphy, features such as burials, walls, hearths, and fire pits, and all categories of artifacts such as pottery, other ceramic objects, chipped stones, bone tools, stone objects, bitumen objects, and unbaked clay objects. In addition to an abundance of classical Protoliterate material of all kinds, including cylinder and stamp seals, are painted pottery and other atypical findings that may be indicative of inter-cultural contacts rather than being intrusion from an earlier Ubaid period.

The excavations at Qraya were undertaken in conjunction with the work being carried out at Terqa, and under the same permit. This was not only because of logistics, but also because the site of Qraya may plausibly be considered as the one from which Terqa took its origin, given their close proximity in space and their neat juxtaposition in time.

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:  
ISBN 978-0-9798937-7-3  
Copyright © 2020 by Undena Publications  
[www.undena.com](http://www.undena.com)

# Table of Contents

## 1 Introduction

1.1 General description of Tell Qraya and significance

1.2 Summary of the 1981 Season

1.2.1 Extent of Excavations and Protoliterate Habitation

1.2.2 Protoliterate Phases and the Architectural Building Sequences

1.2.3 Ubaid Occupation

1.2.4 Protoliterate Material

1.2.5 C14 Dates

## 2 Excavation and Stratigraphy

2.1 Datum point

2.2 Soundings (test trenches)

2.3 Stratigraphy – ARE (the main 10 by 10 meter square) and SDG R13

2.3.1 ARE North Baulk

2.3.2 ARE East Baulk

2.3.3 ARE South Baulk

2.3.4 ARE West Baulk

2.3.5 SDG R13 West Baulk and South Baulk

## 3 Protoliterate Phases and Building Sequences

3.1 Phase I

3.1.1 Burials in ARE

3.2 Phase II

3.3 Phase III

3.4 Phase IV – Building Sequence 1

3.5 Phase V – Building Sequence 2

3.6 Phase VI

3.7 Phase VII – Building Sequence 3

3.8 Phase VIII

## 4 Protoliterate Materials

### 4.1 Sealings

- 4.1.1 Human and animal figures in a complex scene
- 4.1.2 Human figures
- 4.1.3 Winged lion
- 4.1.4 Antithetical lions
- 4.1.5 Lions
- 4.1.6 Running animals
- 4.1.7 Intertwined snakes
- 4.1.8 Lozenges in brocade style
- 4.1.9 Petals or grains in brocade style
- 4.1.10 Stick seal without impression

### 4.2 Pottery

#### 4.2.1 Ware Types

- 4.2.1.1 Plain, standard Protoliterate (W1)
- 4.2.1.2 Wet-smoothed (W2)
- 4.2.1.3 Reserved slip (W3)
- 4.2.1.4 Combed (W4)
- 4.2.1.5 Coarse, chaffy (W5)
- 4.2.1.6 Gritty, yellow (W6)
- 4.2.1.7 Red ware (W7)
- 4.2.1.8 Gray ware (W8)

#### 4.2.2 Protoliterate Pottery Typologies

##### 4.2.2.1 BRBs

##### 4.2.2.2 PLBs

##### 4.2.2.3 Bowls

- 4.2.2.3.1 Tapered rim bowls (B1)
- 4.2.2.3.2 Tapered rim with out-turned lip bowls (B2)
- 4.2.2.3.3 Rounded rim bowls (B3)
- 4.2.2.3.4 Banded rim bowls (B4)
- 4.2.2.3.5 Ledge rim bowls (B5)
- 4.2.2.3.6 Horizontal-cut rim bowls (B6)
- 4.2.2.3.7 Rail rim bowls (B7)
- 4.2.2.3.8 Non-BRB with beveled rims (B8)
- 4.2.2.3.9 Bell-beaker rim bowls (B9)

#### 4.2.2.4 Hole-Mouth Bowls

- 4.2.2.4.1 Classic hole-mouth bowls (HMB1)
- 4.2.2.4.2 Beveled rim hole-mouth bowls (HMB2)
- 4.2.2.4.3 Out-turned/everted lip hole-mouth bowls (HMB3)
- 4.2.2.4.4 Ledge rim hole-mouth bowls (HMB4)
- 4.2.2.4.5 Horizontal-cut rim hole-mouth bowls (HMB5)

#### 4.2.2.5 Everted Rim Pots

- 4.2.2.5.1 Rounded everted rim pots (ERP1)
- 4.2.2.5.2 Tapered everted rim pots (ERP2)
- 4.2.2.5.3 Flaring everted rim pots (ERP3)
- 4.2.2.5.4 Under-grooved everted rim pots (ERP4)
- 4.2.2.5.5 Ledged everted rim pots (ERP5)
- 4.2.2.5.6 Additional examples of round-belly pots

#### 4.2.2.6 Low-Necked Pots

- 4.2.2.6.1 Out-turned rim low-necked pots (LN1)
- 4.2.2.6.2 Vertical rim low-necked pots (LN2)
- 4.2.2.6.3 Under-cut rim low-necked pots (LN3)
- 4.2.2.6.4 Folded rim low-necked pots (LN4)
- 4.2.2.6.5 Rolled rim low-necked pots (LN5)

#### 4.2.2.7 Necked Pots

- 4.2.2.7.1 Flaring rim necked pots (MHN1)
- 4.2.2.7.2 Horizontal-cut rim necked pots (MHN2)
- 4.2.2.7.3 Ledge rim necked pots (MHN3)
- 4.2.2.7.4 Banded rim necked pots (MHN4)
- 4.2.2.7.5 Bowl rim necked pots (MHN5)

#### 4.2.2.8 High-Neck Pots

- 4.2.2.8.1 Flaring high-neck pots (HN1)
- 4.2.2.8.2 Straight high-neck pots (HN2)
- 4.2.2.8.3 Trumpet high-neck pots (HN3)
- 4.2.2.8.4 Ledged-rim high-neck pots (HN4)
- 4.2.2.8.5 Additional examples of pithoi-shaped pots

#### 4.2.2.9 Bases

- 4.2.2.9.1 Flat bases (Base1)
- 4.2.2.9.2 Concave bases (Base2)
- 4.2.2.9.3 Round bases (Base3)
- 4.2.2.9.4 Ring bases (Base4)

#### 4.2.2.10 Pottery Features

- 4.2.2.10.1 Spouts
- 4.2.2.10.2 Handles
- 4.2.2.10.3 Lugs
- 4.2.2.10.4 Knobs
- 4.2.2.10.5 Incisions and Impressions



- 4.2.2.10.6 Holes
- 4.2.2.10.7 Reserved slip designs

- 4.2.2.11 Pottery Types
  - 4.2.2.11.1 Trays/Basins
  - 4.2.2.11.2 Basin Rings
  - 4.2.2.11.3 Vats
  - 4.2.2.11.4 Mortars
  - 4.2.2.11.5 Miniatures
  - 4.2.2.11.6 Egg-shell thin pots
  - 4.2.2.11.7 Lids

#### 4.2.2.10 Additional Examples of Painted Pottery

### 4.2.3 Pottery Marks

#### 4.2.4 Pottery Re-used as Tools

- 4.2.4.1 Sherd Scrapers
- 4.2.4.2 Bitumen Utensils
- 4.2.4.3 Other Pottery Re-used as Tools

### 4.3 Other Ceramic Objects

- 4.3.1 Clay Sickles
- 4.3.2 Clay Ladles
- 4.3.3 Strainers
- 4.3.4 Spindle Whorls
- 4.3.5 Pottery Sherd Discoid/Roundels
- 4.3.6 Clay Tokens
- 4.3.7 Clay Cones

### 4.4 Unbaked Clay Objects

- 4.4.1 Bottle Jar Stoppers
- 4.4.2 Large Flat Jar Lid-covers
- 4.4.3 Concave Jar Lid-covers
- 4.4.4 Clay Discs
- 4.4.5 Clay Spools
- 4.4.6 Clay sling shots
- 4.4.7 Portable Hearths
- 4.4.8 Kneaded clay lumps

## 5 Other Pottery

### 5.1 Third Millennium

### 5.2 Third to Second Millennium Transition

### 5.3 Second Millennium

#### 5.3.1 Second Millennium Bowls

#### 5.3.2 Second Millennium Pots

#### 5.3.3 Second Millennium Vats

#### 5.3.4 Miscellaneous Second Millennium Bases

#### 5.3.5 Miscellaneous Second Millennium Bodies

### 5.4 Pottery Oddities

## 6 Pottery Manufacturing

### 6.1 Incomplete pottery

### 6.2 Unbaked and Under-fired pottery

### 6.3 Over-fired (vitrified) pottery

### 6.4 Red pigments

### 6.5 Pieces of chalk

## 7.0 Lithics

### 7.1 Flints

#### 7.1.1 Flint Tools

##### 7.1.1.1 Fan scrapers

##### 7.1.1.2 Perforators

##### 7.1.1.3 Knives

##### 7.1.1.4 Blades

#### 7.1.2 Flint Debitage

### 7.2 Obsidian

## 8 Bone Tools

8.1 Perforators

8.2 Polishers

8.3 Other modified bones

## 9 Stone Objects

9.1 Stone Vessels

9.2 Stone Tools

9.2.1 Querns

9.2.2 Hand grinders

9.2.3 Pounders

9.3 Other Stones

9.3.1 Pivot stones

9.3.2 Mortars

9.3.3 Palettes

## 10 Bitumen Objects

10.1 Spheroids

10.2 Knobs with stick hole

10.3 Doughnuts

10.4 Slabs

10.5 Wedges

10.6 Other large pieces

## 11.0 Unusual Objects

11.1 Metal Pin

11.2 Shell Roundel

11.3 Stone Beads

11.4 Bitumen Bead

11.5 Pottery Ringlets

11.6 Ceramic Palette

11.7 Chalk Vessel

11.8 Eye Amulet

11.9 Animal Figurines

12 Index of Drawings

13 Index of Photographs

14 Index of Lots

15 References