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Fosil Kalıntıların Işığında İnsanlığın Başlangıç Aşamalarına Ait Bazı "Hominid" Örnekleri

Güven Arsebük

Keywords: Africa, Australopithecus, evolution, Hominid, Pongid

Anahtar Kelimeler: Afrika, Australopithecus, Evrim, Hominid, Pongid

Günümüz antropolojik verileri, zoolojik anlamda insanın da (*Hominid*'lerin de) insansımaymungiller (*Pongid*'ler) gibi Primat'lar ana takımının bir üyesi olduğu ve zaman içinde bu iki cinsin ortak köklerinden ayrılmak suretiyle her birinin evrimini kendi yönünde sürdürmeye başladığını göstermektedir. Günümüzde, bilim dışı bazı çevrelerce ve belirli amaçlara yönelik olarak zaman zaman ileri sürüldüğü gibi *Pongid*'lerle *Hominid*'ler arasında bir ata-torun ilişkisi yoktur; böylesine bir yaklaşım da yalnızca gerçekleri maksatlı olarak saptırmadan ibarettir. Günümüz bilimsel verileri *Pongid*'lerle *Hominid*'ler arasında doğrudan bir ata-torun ilişkisinin bulunmadığını, yani maymunların hiçbir şekilde insanların atası olmadığını açıkça kanıtlamaktadır. Başka bir deyişle de bizler maymunların zaman içindeki evrim ve değişimleri sonunda bugünkü durumumuza ulaşmış değiliz. Adı geçen bu her iki cinsin arasındaki genetik bağ yalnızca aynı (ortak) kökten gelmiş olmalarından ibarettir. Evrimsel kanıtlar, söz konusu iki cinsin birbirinden bir kere ayrıldıktan sonra her birinin evrimini kendi yönünde ve diğerinden bağımsız bir şekilde sürdürmüş olduğu konusunda kuşkuya yer bırakmamaktadır.

Oldukça geniş kapsamlı bir terim olan *Hominidae*, insanın zaman içinde kökleri kurumuş öncülleri, tüm fosil atalarımız ve günümüzde yaşamakta olan bütün *Homo sapiens* türlerini kapsar. Günümüz paleoantropolojik verileri, *Hominid*'ler (insansılar, fosil atalarımız ve çağdaş insanı içeren zoolojik aileye giren tüm örnekler) ile *Pongid*'lerin (bunların içinde de özellikle genetik anlamda en yakın soydaşımız olan şempanzelerin / *Pan troglodytes*) arasındaki evrimsel ayırımının, Afrika Kıtası'nda, günümüzden yaklaşık 8 ile 7 milyon yıl önceleri arasında kalan zaman dilimi içersinde yer almaya başlamış

Some of the Earliest Hominids in the Light of Fossil Record

This paper (in evolutionary terms) examines the oldest known examples of hominid fossils that have been encountered from the earliest period in which the Pongid-Hominid divergence began to take place and as well as the period immediately following it. Although Pongids and Hominids share a common ancestor in the zoological sense, towards the end of the Upper Miocene the two lines split and each began to pursue its own course of evolutionary development. Because of this, there is no direct ancestral relationship between Pongids and Hominids. Contrary to commonly expressed misconceptions or contentions, human beings did not evolve from apes.

Based on scientific evidence, the Pongid-Hominid separation must have occurred sometime around eight million years ago. Once this split began to take place however, each group followed its own evolutionary path with the results that is evident today. According to a consensus of opinion among anthropologists, the oldest, most characteristic, and most important feature distinguishing Pongids from Hominids is that the former are quadrupedal while the latter are bipedal. Unlike those of Pongids, the Hominids' spines are positioned not horizontally to the gravitational plane but rather vertically at an angle of 90° and this is another evidence for their upright position and walking straight on their two feet. It also must be mentioned that the foramen magnum of the Hominids is not situated behind but directly under their skulls.

Foremost among the fossil finds that point to the begennings of Pongid-Hominid divergence, the oldest so far discovered are those of Ardipithecus kadabba, Sahelanthropus tchadensis, Orrorin tugensis and Ardipithecus ramidus, all of which are from Africa. On the bases of evidence of these finds, all these very early Hominids that lived approximately 7 to 5 million years ago, that is almost immediately after the separation, walked upright on two feet. The anatomical structure of their upper bodies and arms however indicates that they still retained some of their former tree-climbing abilities.

Australopithacinae fossils start appearing somewhat more recently about 4.2 million years ago and, like their predecessors, they also have only been encountered in the "cradle of mankind", which is to say the African continent. The most important of the Australopithecus species discovered so far are (in alphabetical order) A.afarensis, A.africanus, A.anamensis, A.boisei, A.garhi and A.robustus. In addition to being bipedal and walking upright Australopithecinae are closer to Hominids in terms of their dentition, which naturally means that they are more divergent from Pongids on the same basis. Australopithecus endocranial capacity is not very large and corresponds to about a third or so of that of modern humans. But, on the other hand examinations of endocranial casts indicate that their brain structures resembled not those of the Pongids but rather those of the Homo genus, examples of which start appearing in the fossil record soon afterwards. Another important and common feature of Australopithecus fossils is that there was a considerable degree of sexual dimorphism. It now appears that, contrary to what was previously thought by some, Australopithecus species did not have control of fire nor did they have an "osteodontokeratuc culture", which is to say tools fashioned not from stone but from more easily workable organic material like animal bones, teeth, and horns.

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Bronze Votive Rings with Assyrian Inscriptions found in the Upper Anzaf Fortress in Van

Keywords: Urartian, Assyrian, Inscription, Anzaf Fortress, Ishpuini I
Anahtar Kelimeler: Urartuca, Assurca, Yazıt, Anzaf Kalesi, I. İšpuini

PART I

Oktay Belli

Introduction

The Lower and Upper Anzaf Urartian fortresses are located 11 km northwest of the modern city of Van (Map 1). The former was built by the Urartian king Išpuini (830-810 BC) while the latter by his son Menua (810-786 BC) (Belli 1999: 5; 2001a: 39; 2001b: 165; 2003b: 61). The Lower Fortress has a 62 x 98 m rectangular plan and was constructed on an area covering 6,000 m^2. 1900 m above the sea level, the fortress is situated on a rocky cliff that is neither very steep nor rough. It was founded completely for military purposes at the intersection of important military and trade routes coming from Transcaucasia in the North and Northwest Iran in the east, prior to reaching the Urartian capital of Tušpa (Van Fortress). For example, the six edifice inscriptions found there mention that King Išpuini built a strong fortress. The likes of the monumental ramparts of the fortress, of cyclopic construction using huge boulders without mortar or bastions have yet to be found in other parts of the Urartian Kingdom (Belli 2003a: 2).

The Upper Anzaf Fortress, which is located 800 m to the south, is ten times larger than the Lower Anzaf Fortress. It is situated on a cliff 1995 m above sea level and is currently the second highest excavation site in Turkey. The fortress covers an area of 60,000 m^2 and together with the Lower City, whose walls are attached to it, encompasses a total area of 200, 000 m^2 (Drawing 1).

PART II

Ali Dinçol – Belkıs Dinçol

Five bronze rings of a votive chain were excavated in the Great Reception Hall of the palace (see *Part I* for a detailed description of the find spot; see also Figs. 6-7) of the Urartian fortress of Upper Anzaf, where in the temple area other votive rings in form of crescents inscribed with Urartian cuneiform had formerly been found (A. Dinçol – B. Dinçol 1995). Each of the five rings bears a single-line cuneiform inscription covering the space from one loop-shaped end to the other along the geometric pattern consisting of horizontal, vertical and oblique lines or strokes made in relief. The cuneiform signs were not always struck properly and some parts of the lines were badly damaged due to corrosion, so that it is difficult to identify the signs. On some rings the scribe or the metalworker seems not to be able to keep the direction of the line because of the lack of space and was forced to continue to write wherever there is empty surface below or under the decoration. In addition to these hardships in the decipherment, the inscription more or less the same on all five rings, unexpectedly turned up to be in Assyrian with some peculiarities, which are either unique or rarely attested in the Late Assyrian corpus of inscriptions, which will be dealt with later. Each of the rings was very carefully searched for invisible signs under the empty looking surfaces by the conservator Gökçe Eğin under our supervision in our own office at the university for about six weeks with some intervals and many additional signs could be detected. We extend our thanks to Gökçe Eğin and to our student Sezer Seçer for her effords in drawing the rings. We are also thankful to Dr. Hasan Peker for his assistance in photographing. Below we give the transcriptions of the preserved inscriptions on each ring separately:

Ring Nr. 1: (Fig. 8, drawing 3) Ø 11, 1 cm; Ø of the cross-section 1 cm; Length 41, 7 cm.

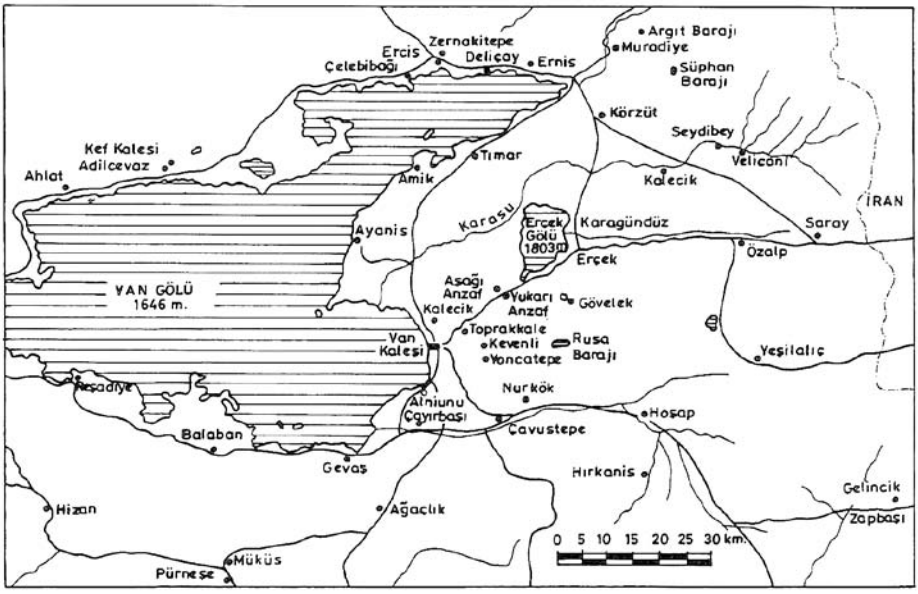
[x-x] ^{D}Hal-[d]i-e ^{m}I[š]-pu-[ú-i]-ni apil $^{m.D}$Sar$_5$-dūru šárru rabū šárru dannu šar$_4$ kiššati šar$_4$ ^{mât}Na-i-ri ^{alu}Ú-te$_9$-ru-hi-e-i tìl-lì an-ni-ú bi-bu [x]-š[i] ana ^{D}Hal-di-e beli-[x x] x [x x]

Van-Yukarı Anzaf Kalesi Sarayında Bulunan Assurca Yazıtlı Bronz Adak Halkaları

Aşağı ve Yukarı Anzaf Urartu Kaleleri, bugünkü modern Van kentinin 11 km kuzeydoğusunda yer almaktadır. Aşağı Anzaf Kalesi Urartu Kralı İšpuini (M.Ö. 830-810), Yukarı Anzaf Kalesi de bu kralın oğlu Menua (M.Ö. 810- 786) tarafından kurulmuştur. Aşağı Anzaf Kalesi'nin tümüyle askeri amaçla kurulduğu, kalede bulunan ve Kral İšpuini tarafından yazdırılmış 6 inşaat yazıtından açıkça anlaşılmaktadır. Yazıtta, güçlü bir kale yaptırdığından bahsedilmektedir. Yukarı Anzaf Kalesi'ni diğer Urartu kalelerinden ayıran en önemli özelliği, kurulduğu tarihten yıkılışına değin sürekli bir yerleşime sahne olması ve genişlemesidir.

Yukarı Anzaf Kalesi kazı çalışmalarının bir başka ilginç ve özgün buluntusunu, 15 no'lu Büyük Kabul Salonu'nun tabanında bulunan çivi yazlı bronz ok ucu ve adak halkaları oluşturmaktadır. Çivi yazılı bronz ok ucu ve adak halkaları, salonun kuzeyinde ve kuzeybatı kapı girişine yakın altıncı ve yedinci sütun kaidelerinin yakınında bulunmuştur. Önce çıkan yangından ve daha sonra da yüzlerce yıldan beri oluşan nemden fazlasıyla etkilenen bronz ok ucu ve adak halkaları, aşırı şekilde oksitlenmiştir. Bir zincirin halkaları gibi iç içe geçtiği anlaşılan adak halkalarının, olasılıkla kaide üzerindeki ağaç sütuna asıldığı sanılmaktadır. Ağaç sütunların yanması sonucunda, bronz halkaların ısının etkisiyle aşırı bir şekilde tahrip olduğu anlaşılmaktadır. Bronz halkaların toplam kaç adet olduğunu bilemiyoruz, ancak 5 tanesi nispeten sağlam olarak ortaya çıkarılmıştır.

Halkalar üzerindeki Assurca yazıtta Sarduri oğlu İšpuini'nin bu adak eşyasını Uteruhi / Witeruhi kentinin hazinesinden çıkardığı ve Efendisi Tanrı Haldi'ye sunduğu yazılıdır.



Map 1 Lower and Upper Anzaf Fortresses and close environs

Fig. 1 Upper Anzaf Fortress from the northwest

Fig. 2 Grand Hall no.15 from the north

Fig. 3 Temple and palace structures from the southeast

Fig. 4 A displaced cuneiform column inscription

Fig. 5 in situ column inscription

Fig. 6 A reversed column inscription and bronze votive rings

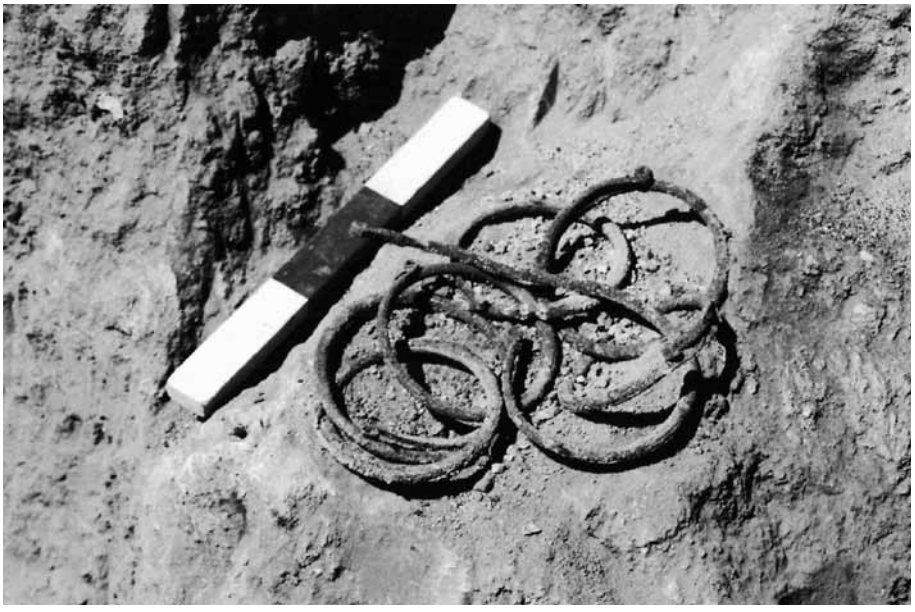
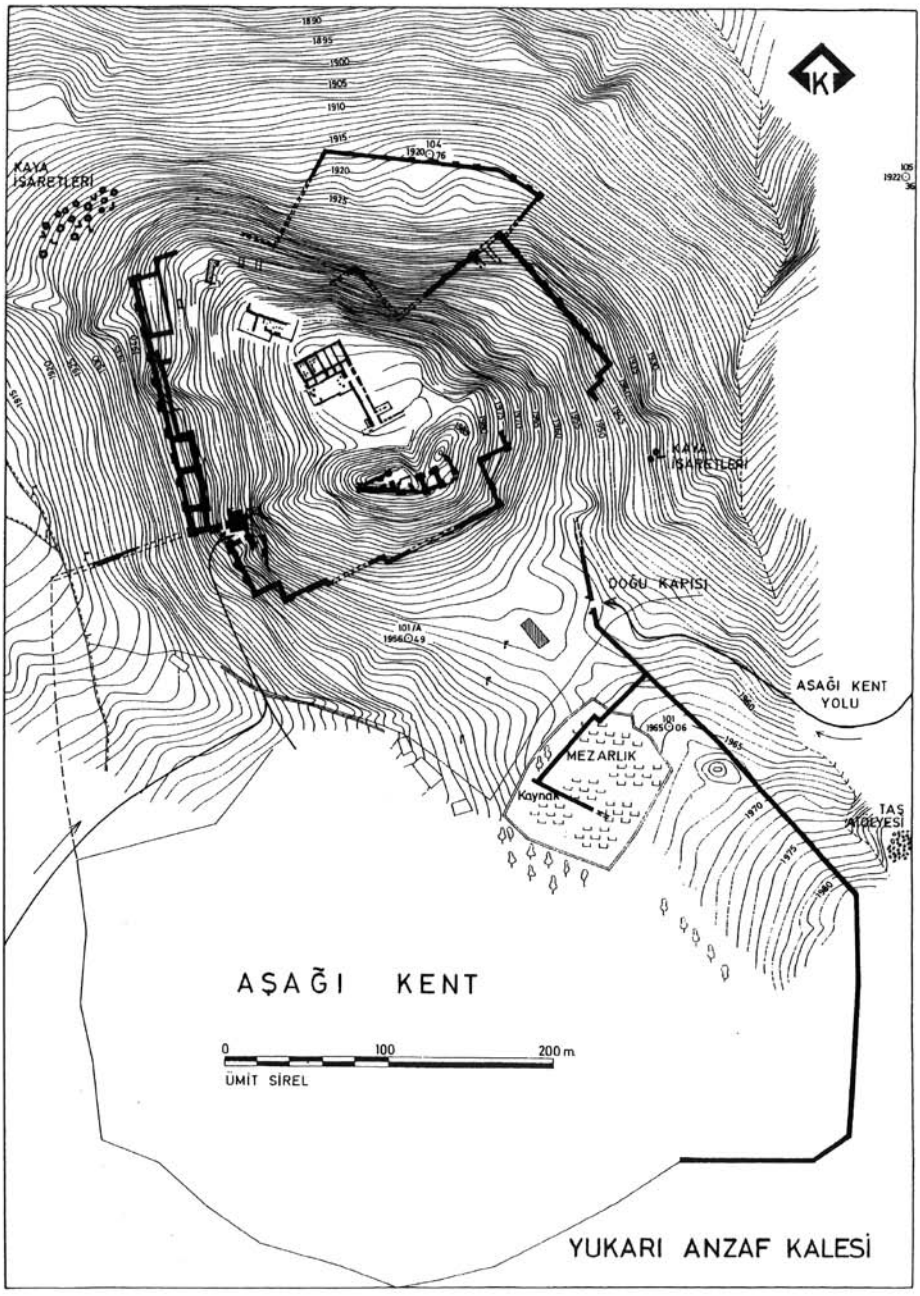
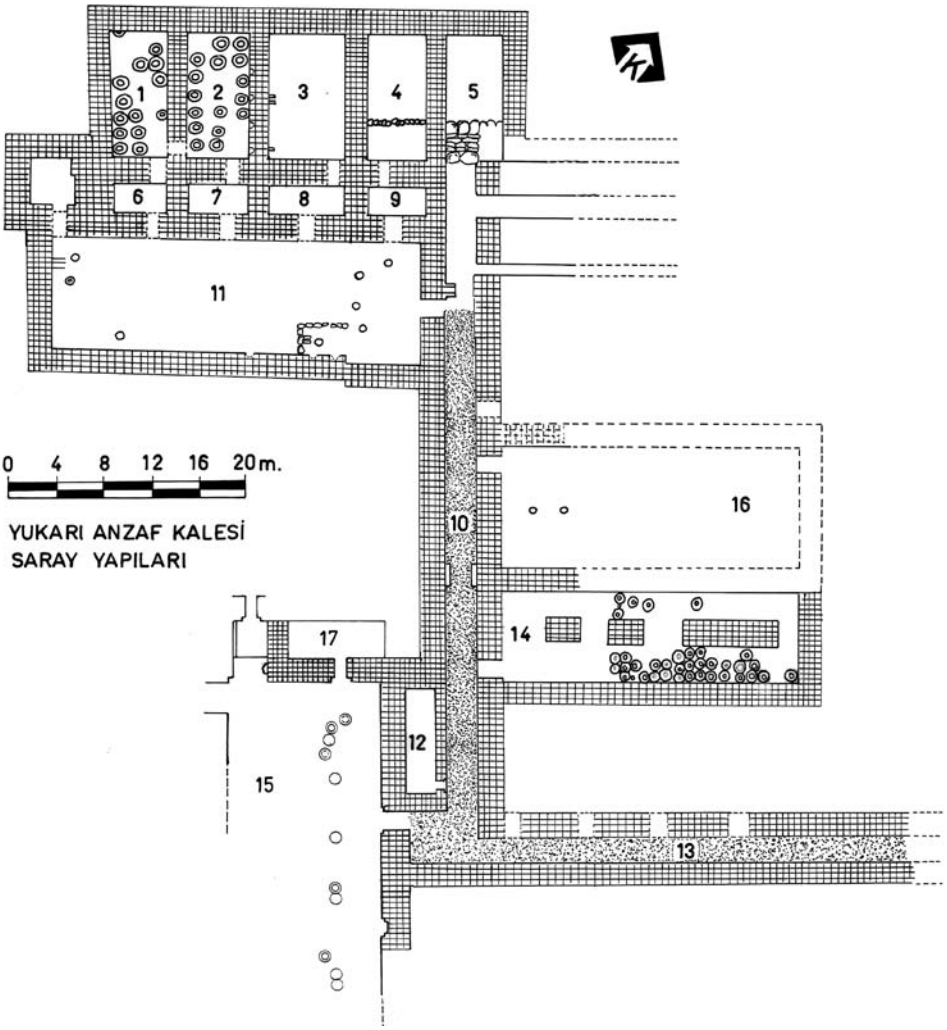


Fig. 7 Appearance of the bronze votive rings when first excavated

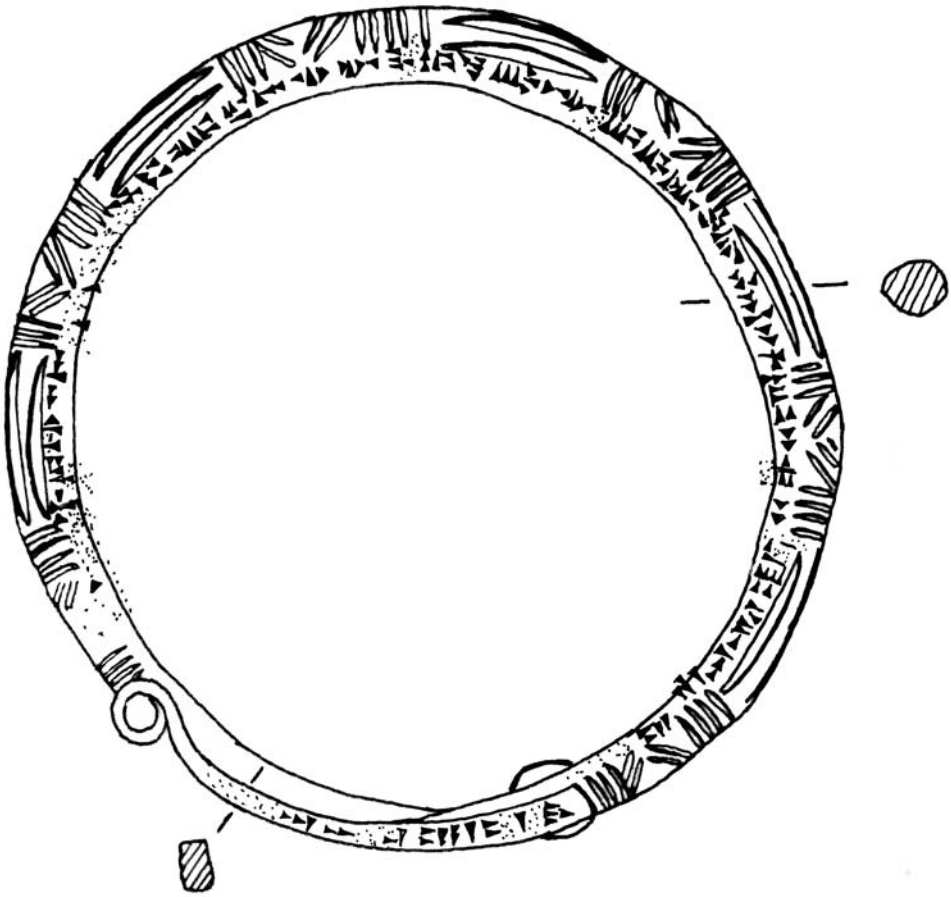


Drawing 1 Upper Anzaf Fortress and the topographical plan of the Lower City



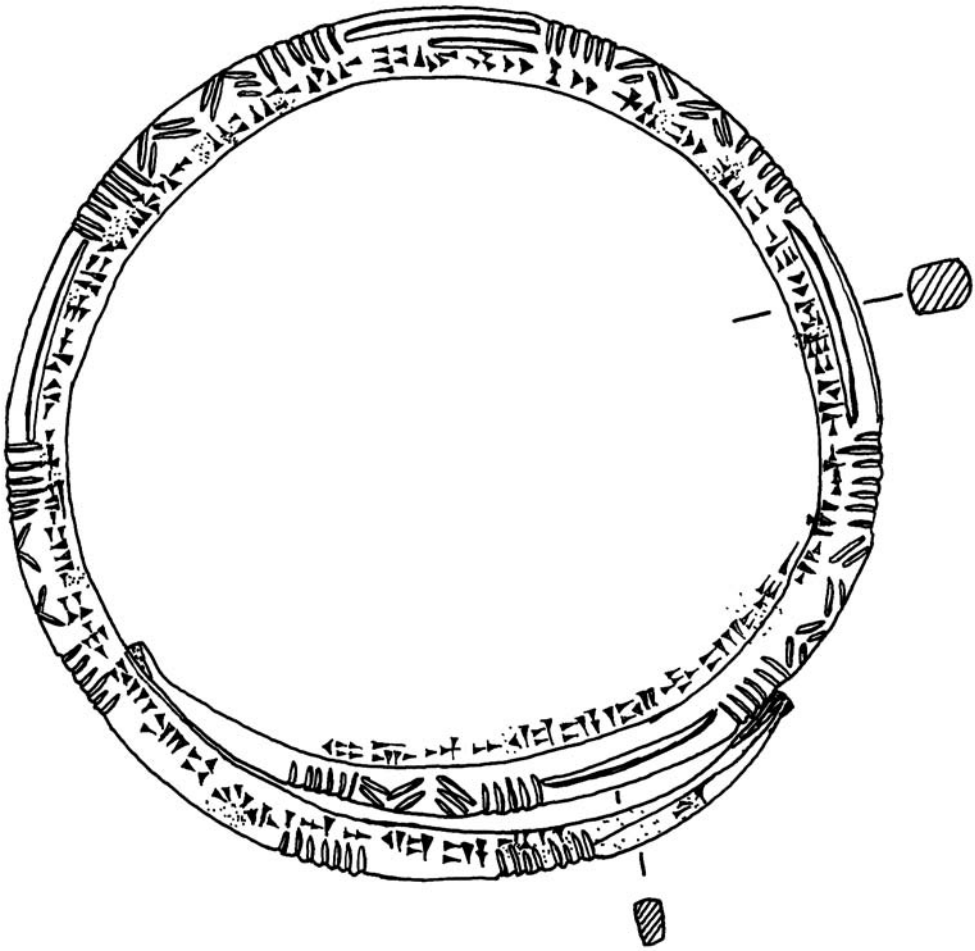
Drawing 2 A general view of the palace structures

Fig. 8 Ring Nr. 1 (1:1)



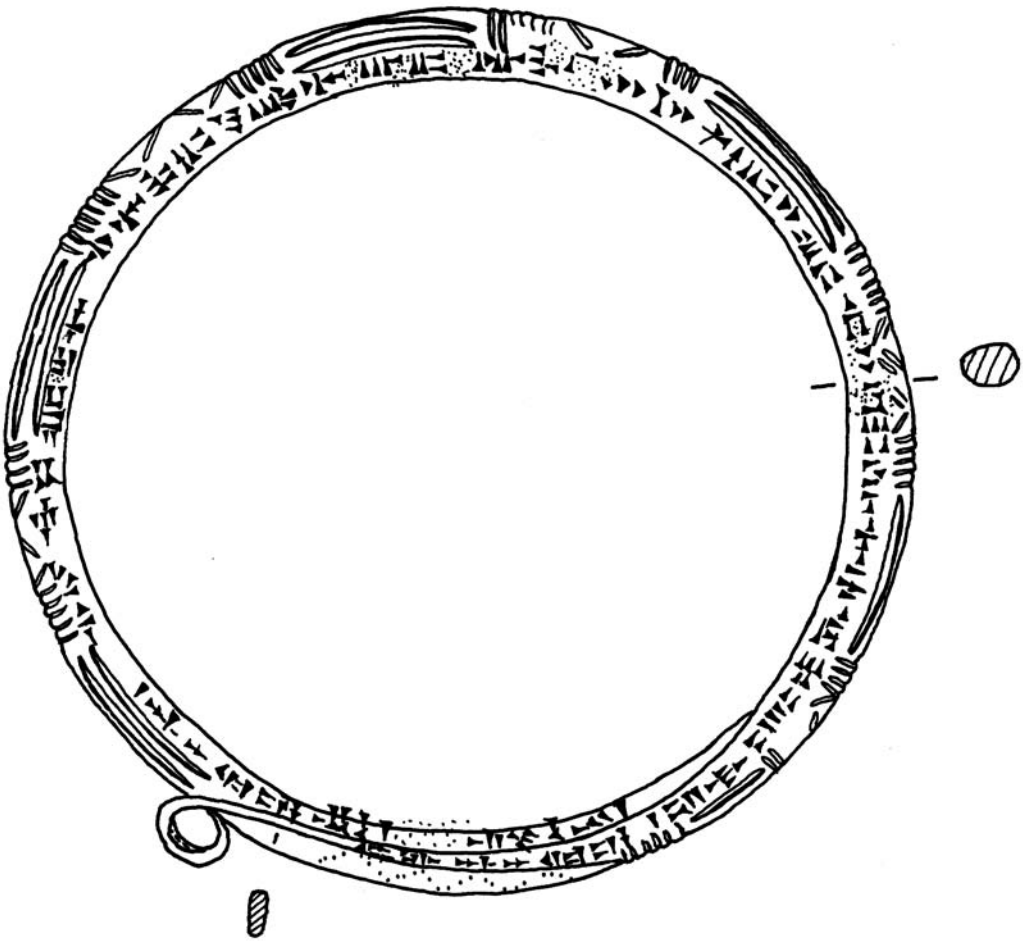
Drawing 3 Ring Nr. 1 (1:1)

Fig. 9 Ring Nr. 2 (1:1)



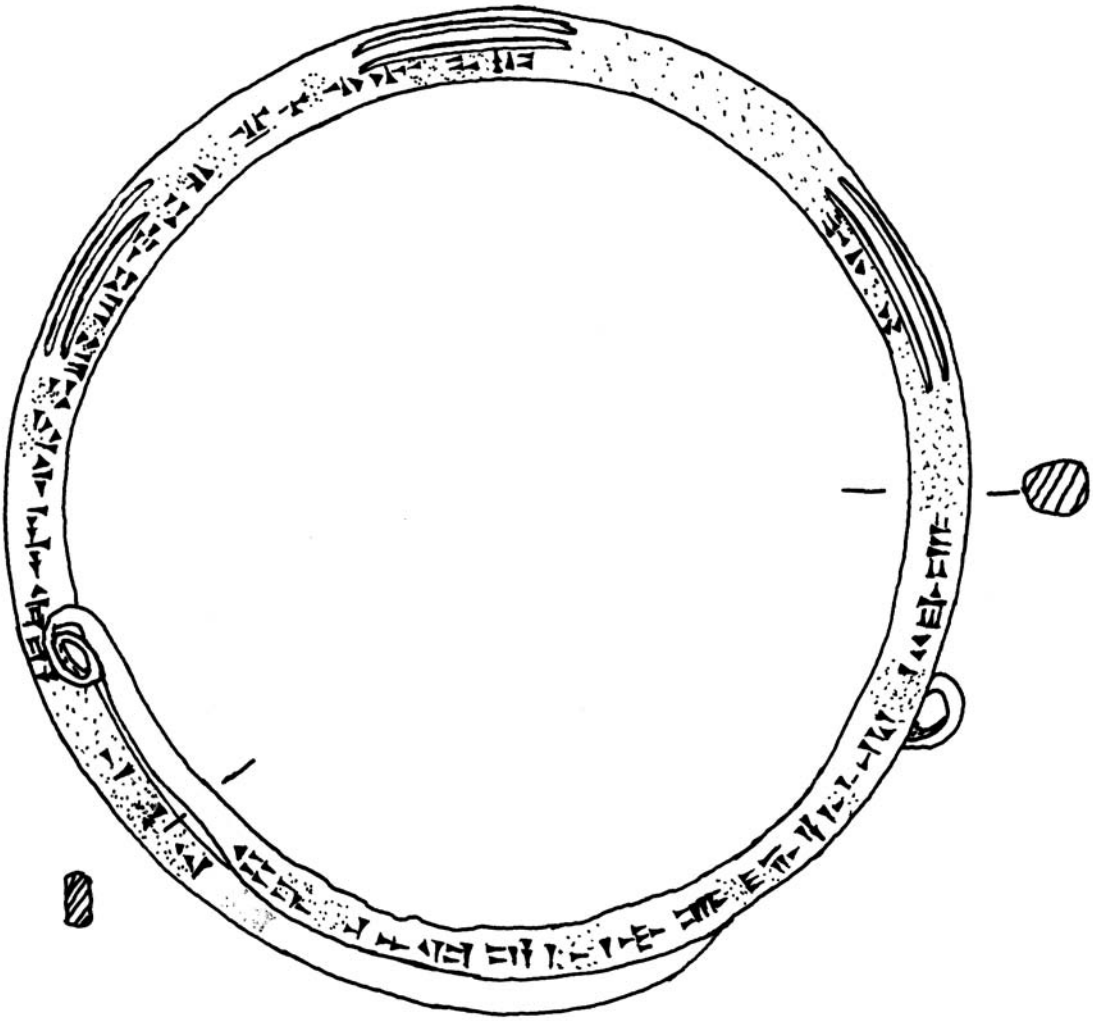
Drawing 4 Ring Nr. 2 (1:1)

Fig. 10 Ring Nr. 3 (1:1)



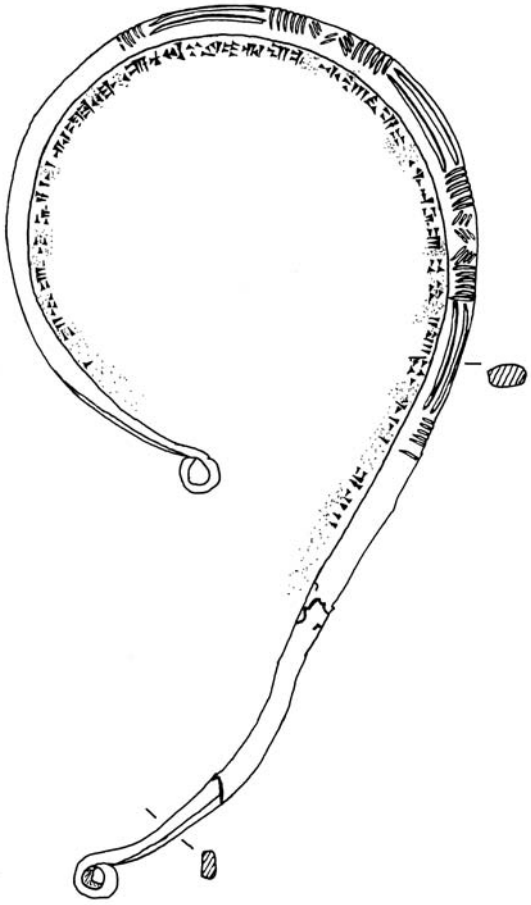
Drawing 5 Ring Nr. 3 (1:1)

Fig. 11 Ring Nr. 4 (1:1)



Drawing 6 Ring Nr. 4 (1:1)

Fig. 12 Ring Nr. 5 (1:2)



Drawing 7 Ring Nr. 5 (1:2)

Fig. 13
Arrowhead (side A)
(1:1)

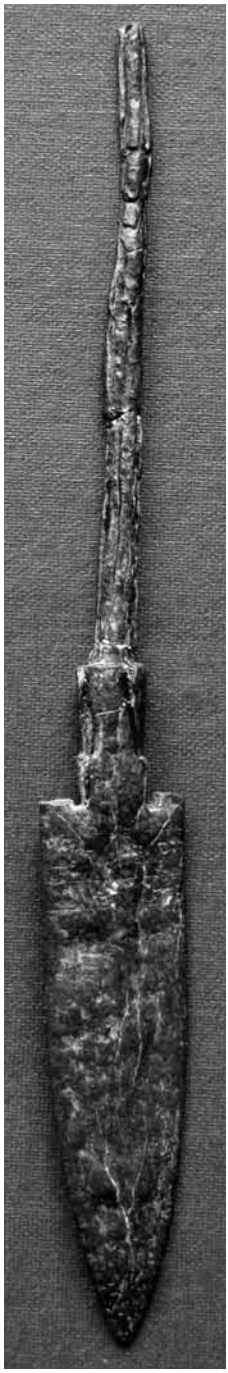
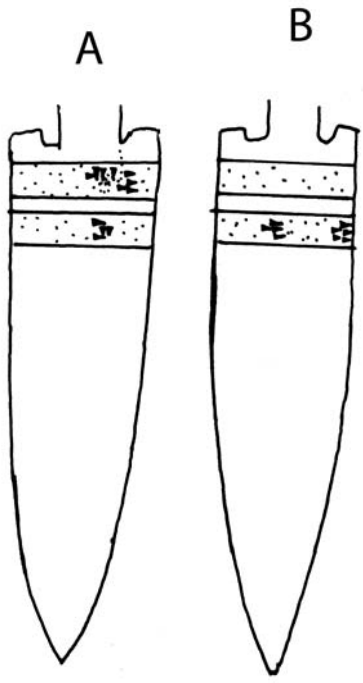


Fig. 14
Arrowhead (side B)
(1:1)



Drawing 8
Arrowhead (side A and B)
(1:1)