

# TWO STRUCTURES FROM MEZRAA HÖYÜK DATING TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BC

## MÖ III. BİN YILIN İKİNCİ YARISINDA MEZRAA HÖYÜK'TE AÇIĞA ÇIKAN İKİ YAPI

Derya YALÇIKLI \*

### Makale Bilgisi

Başvuru: 11 Aralık 2015

Hakem Değerlendirmesi: 29 Ocak 2016

Kabul: 5 Şubat 2016

### Article Info

Received: December 11, 2015

Peer Review: January 29, 2016

Accepted: February 5, 2016

**Keywords:** Early Bronze Age, Anatolia, Syria, Euphrates, Seal, Pottery

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Erken Tunç Çağı, Anadolu, Suriye, Fırat Nehri, Mühür, Seramik

### ABSTRACT

*Mezraa Höyük is located north of Turkish-Syrian border on the east bank of Euphrates within the borders of Şanlıurfa district, south of the modern town Birecik. The mound remains inside the Karkamış Dam reservoir impact area. On the summit of the mound ruins of two structures, partly disturbed by the Middle Age architectural layers, were recovered. These buildings date to the end of the 3rd millennium BC (Early Bronze Age III/IVA). Excavations showed that the buildings were abandoned following a sudden and severe destruction and were never rebuilt again. The location of these structures, their architectural planning and building techniques as well as the items, such as seals and rich ceramic repertoire allows us to interpret them as a building complex which probably belonged to a ruler of the whole region or the center itself. These findings constitute one of the earliest indicators of the existence of a prosperous class in Mezraa Höyük along with some social changes that begun in the region.*

\* Asst. Prof. Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Çanakkale, Türkiye, E-posta: dyalcikli@comu.edu.tr

**ÖZET**

*Türkiye-Suriye sınırının kuzeyinde, Fırat nehrinin doğu yakasında Karkamış Barajı etki alanında kalan Mezraa Höyük, Şanlıurfa ili, Birecik ilçesinin güneyinde yer alır. Mezraa Höyük'ün Tepe alanında Ortaçağ mimari tabakaları tarafından tahribata uğramış olan iki yapıya ait kalıntılar açığa çıkarılmıştır. MÖ III. bin yılın sonuna (Erken Tunç Çağı III/IVA) tarihlenen bu yapıların ani gelişen bir felaketle son bulduğu ve onarılmayarak terk edildiği saptanmıştır. Yapıların konumu, mimarideki planlama ve inşaat tekniği ile yapılardan ele geçen mühürler ve seramik buluntular, Mezraa Höyük'ün tepe üzerinde yer alan yapılarının bu bölgenin veya merkezin yöneticisine ait bir yapı topluluğu olabileceğini düşündürmektedir. Bu veriler, bu dönemde Mezraa Höyük'te zengin bir yönetici sınıfının varlığını ve bölgede başlayan sosyal değişikliklerin ilk işaretlerinden birini oluşturmaktadır.*

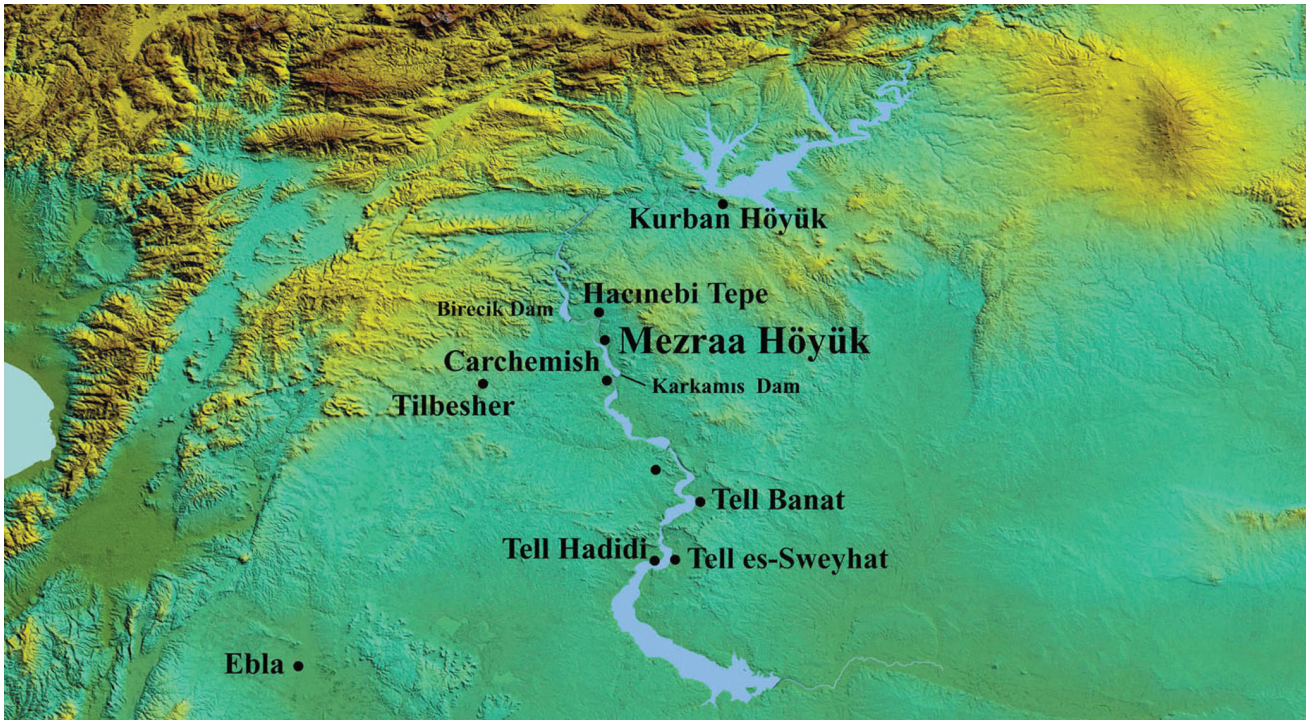


Figure 1: Map Showing the Location of Mezraa Höyük / *Mezraa Höyük'ün Yeri*

## INTRODUCTION

Mezraa Höyük is located 7 km to the south of Birecik in the district Şanlıurfa to the north of the Turkish-Syrian border. The valley, where Mezraa Höyük is located, is flooded by the water from the Kargamış Dam (Fig. 1). The mound is situated on the north bank of the Euphrates. This low and flat mound is 13 m high and has a dimension of 180 x 140 m (Fig. 2).

An initial survey on Mezraa Höyük was carried out by G. Algaze and his team between 1987–1990<sup>1</sup>. In 1998–1999 salvage excavations have been investigated within the territory to be flooded by the dam in the frame of the “Salvage Project of the Archaeological Heritage of the Ilisu and Carchemish Dam Reservoir” conducted by the “Center for Research and Assessment of the Historic Environment” of the Middle East Technical University in Ankara<sup>2</sup>. Subsequently, between 2000–2002 and 2005–2007 salvage excavations were carried out under the co-directorship of the Şanlıurfa Archaeological Museum. Today the excavations at Mezraa Höyük are being carried out as a project of the Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University.

The excavations have been carried out at three different sectors of the mound; East slope, South east slope and the Northeast sector on the summit (Figs. 3-4).

A total of seven architectural levels dating from the Late Chalcolithic period (Uruk) to the Early Bronze Age were identified in trenches P14/15 at the southeast slope. Above these lies another stratum dating to the Middle Ages.

As for the east slope trenches R/11-12, four architectural levels dating to the second half of the Early Bronze Age have been identified. Above these some architectural elements from the Middle Bronze Age have been revealed, which were destroyed by the building activities during the Middle Ages. The final Middle Age settlement in the east of the mound is composed of three architectural levels dating to the 11th – 13th centuries.

On the mound summit (northeast sector) the trenches M-N/12 revealed seven architectural levels. The top of the mound was used as a cemetery until recently. The graves were dug into the Middle Age debris. Level IV dating to the Iron Age is situated right beneath the Middle Age settlement consisting of two levels dating to the AD 11th and 13th centuries. Conceivably, the Iron Age deposit was damaged by the Middle Age settlement. Levels V and VI lying under these are dated to Early Bronze Age III-IV and level VII to Early Bronze Age I-II.

<sup>1</sup> Algaze/Breuninger/Knudstad 1994: 48, Fig. 7.51.

<sup>2</sup> Ökse/Engin/Tekinalp/Dağ/Görmüş 2001: 213–232.



Figure 2: Mezraa Höyük from the South / Güneyden Mezraa Höyük'ün Görünüşü

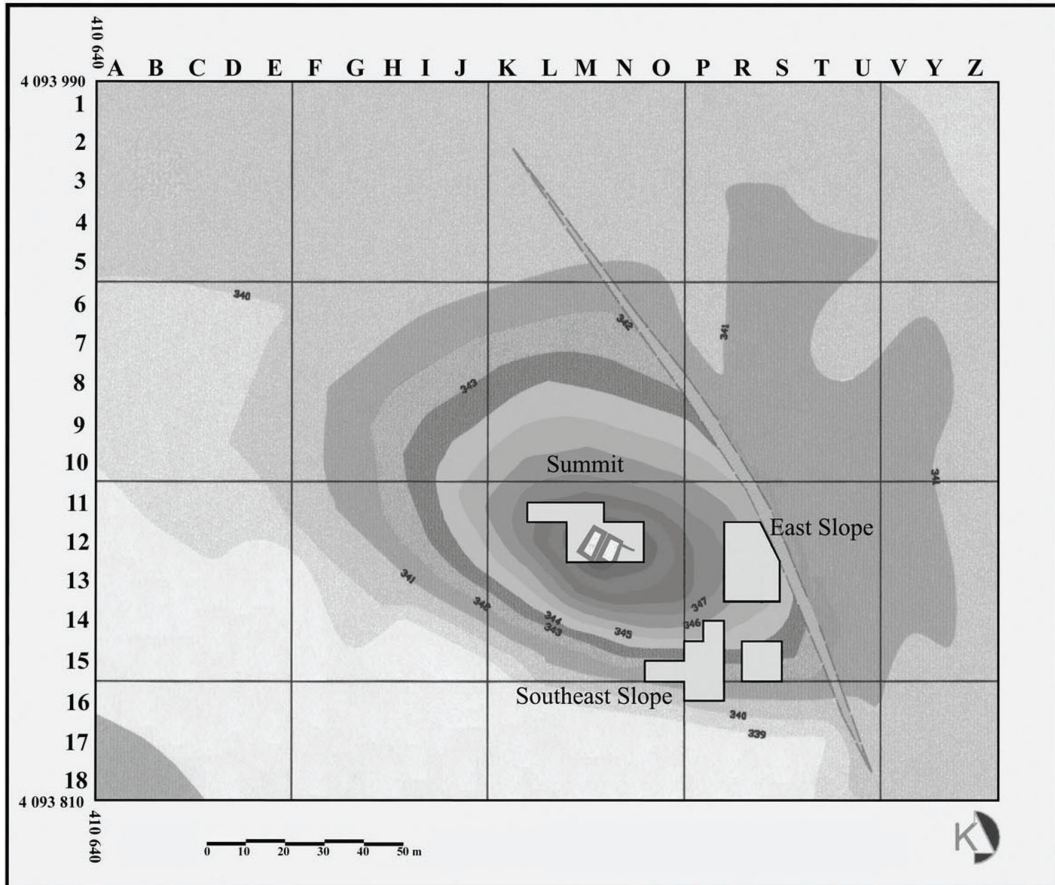
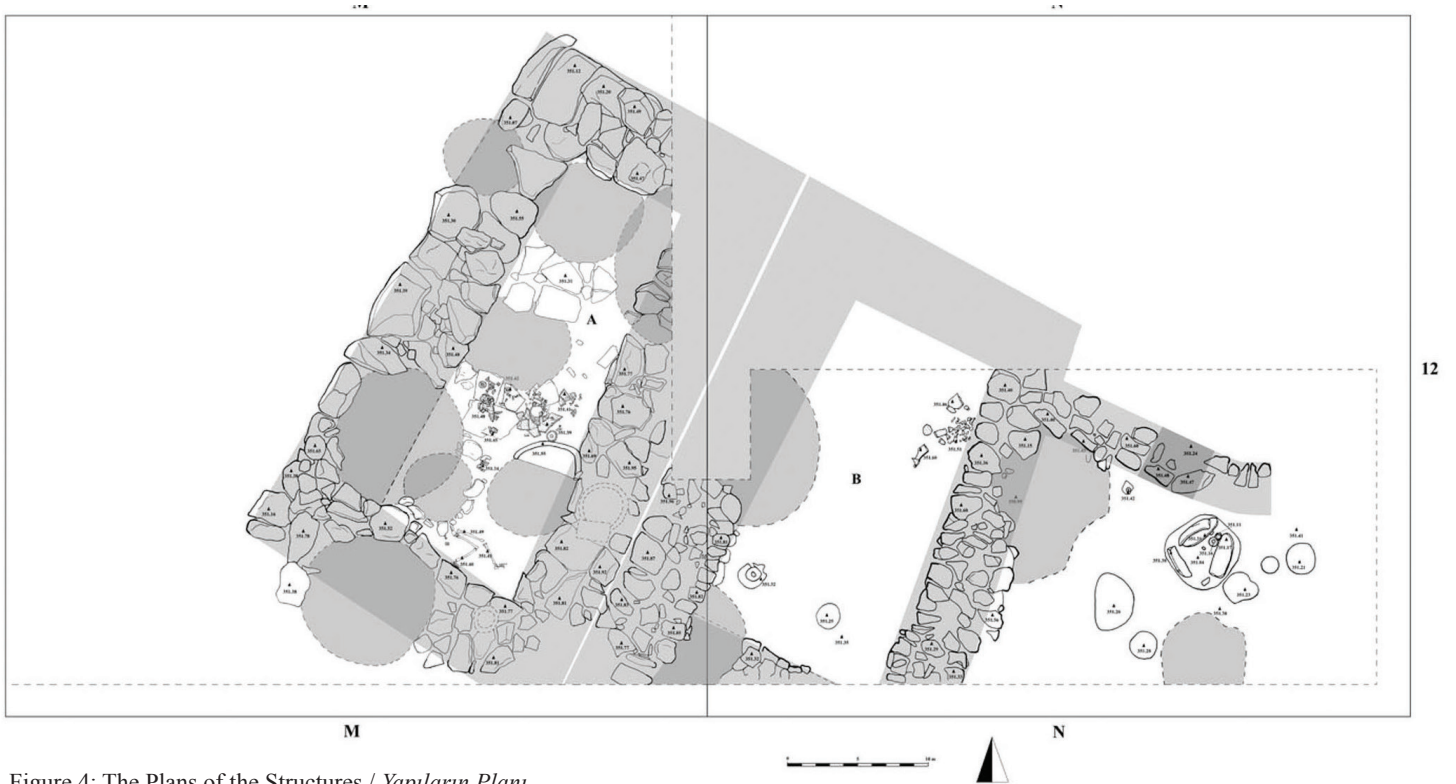


Figure 3: Topographical Map of Mezraa Höyük / Mezraa Höyük'ün Topografik Haritası

## TWO STRUCTURES FROM MEZRAA HÖYÜK DATING TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BC

Figure 4: The Plans of the Structures / *Yapıların Planı*Figure 5: Structure A / *Yapı A***THE STRUCTURES ON THE SUMMIT**

On the densely settled mound summit two structures dating to the second half of the Early Bronze Age have been uncovered. Both structures were damaged by the Middle Age building activities. These structures were uncovered at first in Trench M12 in 2002<sup>3</sup>, and Structure B was excavated in 2006–2007.

The structures are situated on the highest part of the mound. Both structures are rectangular in plan, adjoining each other with their long axis oriented in northeast-southwest directions. The structure to the west (Structure A) is a single chamber, and the structure to the East (Structure B) is composed of two chambers; only a small portion of the eastern chamber is unearthed (Fig. 4). The other parts of these structures suffered erosion and agricultural activities.

**Structure A:** The Structure A on the northeast-southwest axis with outer dimensions of 8.2x4.9 m and inner dimensions of 6x2 m was completely explored. The thickness of the walls of Structure A varies between 1.2-1.4 m. The foundations are built by two rows of large stones. Only limited information about the superstructure of the walls are available, since these were used as floors during the Iron and Middle Ages. The collapsed mud-brick

<sup>3</sup> Yalçıklı/Tekinalp 2004: 379; 2011: 125–126.



Figure 6: Skeleton Found in Structure A / *Yapı A'da Saptanan İskelet*

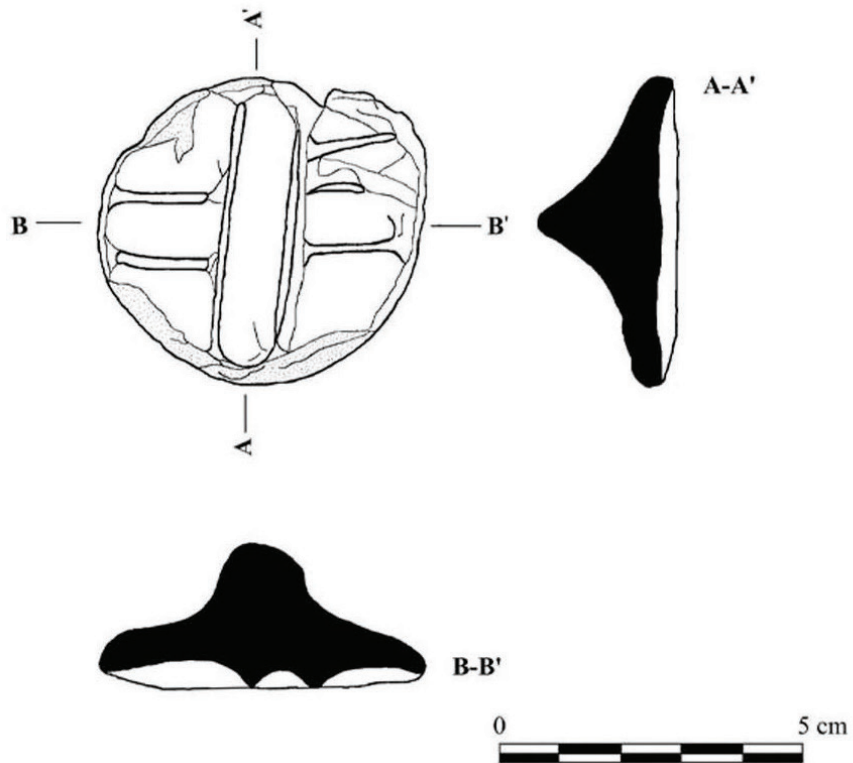


Figure 7: Seals / *Mühürler*

## TWO STRUCTURES FROM MEZRAA HÖYÜK DATING TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BC

walls on the floor of the building point to the existence of a superstructure by mud-brick. The middle part of the east wall leans slightly towards the west. The pear-shaped storage bins from the Middle Ages damaged the walls and floors. The diameters of eight storage bins uncovered so far vary from 1.2 to 2.3 m. The floor of the structure was paved by large flat stones (Fig. 5). Although the most parts of the structure witnessed severe damage, about the half of a hearth attached to

the eastern wall has been uncovered. On the floor at the souther part of the structure, a skeleton has been uncovered that lies in west-east directions with its legs open. The upper part of the skeleton was damaged by a later silo (Fig. 6). On the stone paved floor, one cylinder seal, one stamp seal (Fig. 7) as well as pottery including beakers (Fig. 8.1–13), bowls (Fig. 8.14–15), bottle (Fig. 8.16), jars (Figs. 8.17, 9.1–11) and base fragments were collected (Fig. 9.12–18).

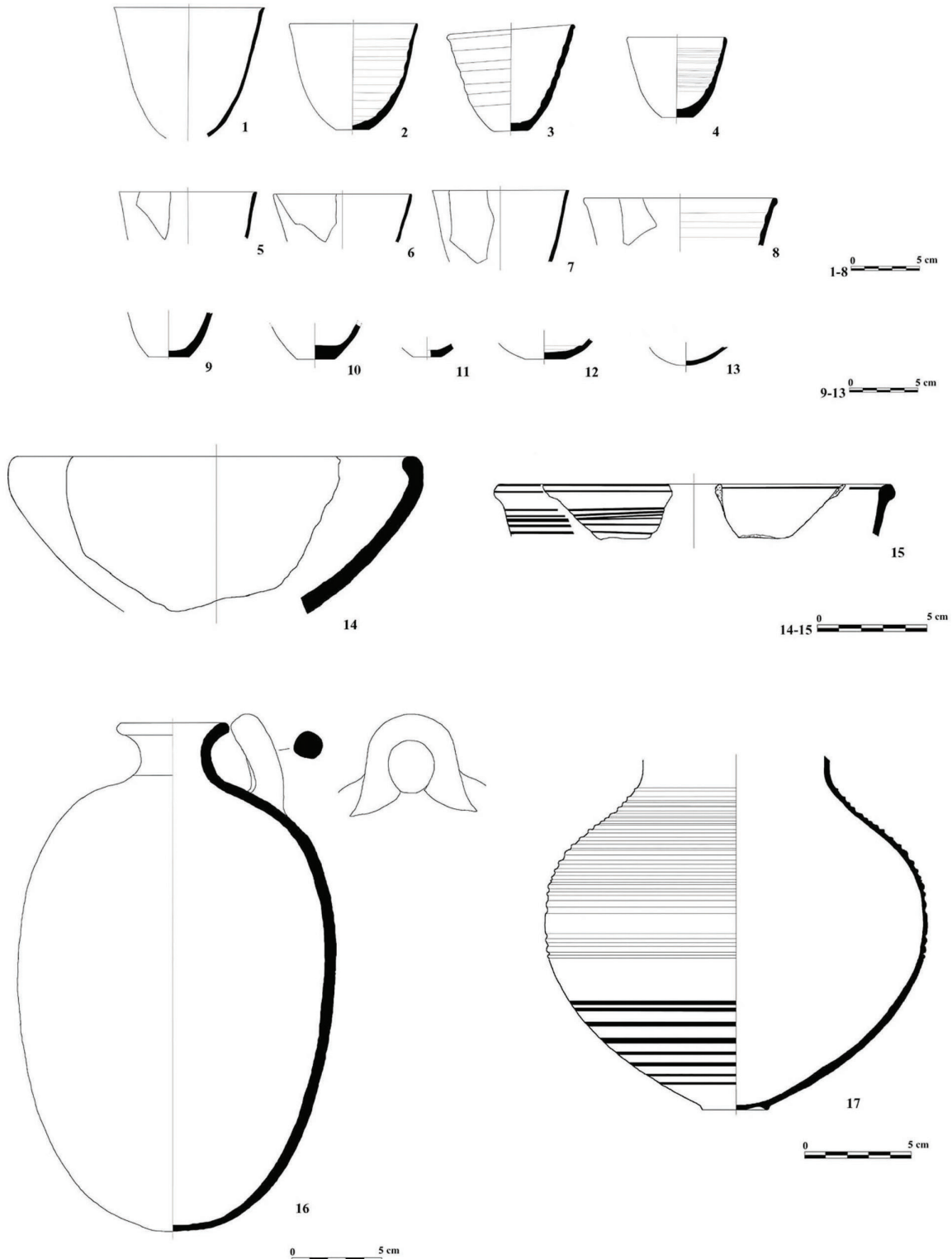


Figure 8: Pottery from Structure A / *Yapı A'dan Seramik Buluntular*

**Structure B:** Structure B, located to the east of Structure A, consists of two separate chambers called ‘West Chamber’ and ‘East Chamber’. The western contour of the structure was built adjacent to and runs parallel to the East wall of Structure A. The total thickness of both walls measures 2.4 m.

**The West Chamber:** The West Chamber is represented by only a part of 4.8 m in length. The rectangular chamber is oriented in northeast-southwest direction. The short side has dimensions of 5.2 m from the outer contours, and 2.7 m from the inner. The wall thicknesses range between 1.2-1.4 m. The large stones of the eastern

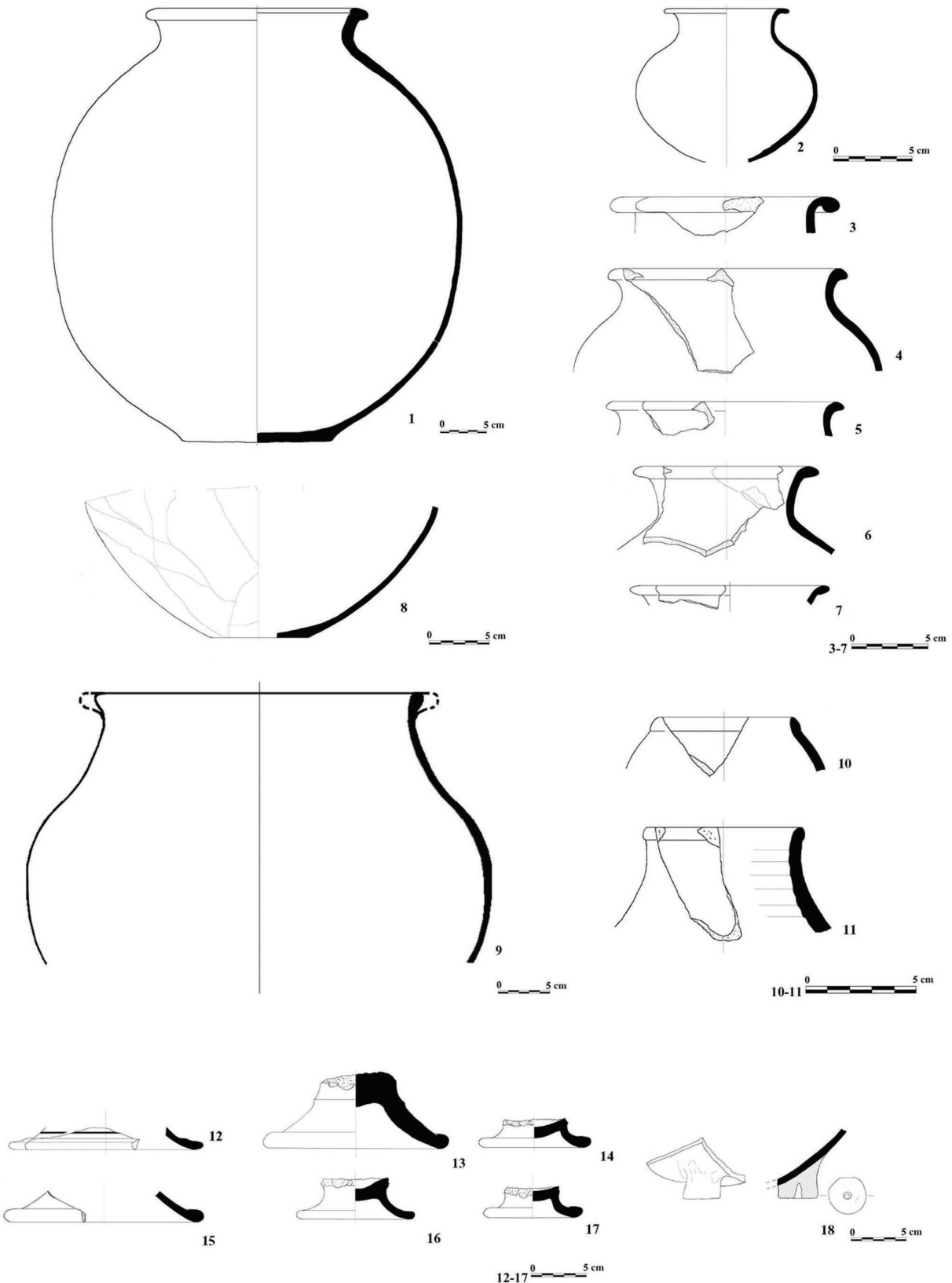


Figure 9: Pottery from Structure A / *Yapı A'dan Seramik Buluntular*



## TWO STRUCTURES FROM MEZRAA HÖYÜK DATING TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BC

wall are preserved up to five rows; the wall was damaged by a recent pit on the northeast section. The collapsed mud brick superstructure lies on the floor. Contrary to the stone paved floor of Structure A, the floor of the West Chamber is compacted clay. The floor was damaged by two Middle Age storage bins.

Among the finds recovered on the floor one grinding stone, jars (Figs. 9.1, 6–8), beakers (Fig. 10.1–4) and fragments of tripods feet are collected (Fig. 10.9). A pit has been dug into the floor.

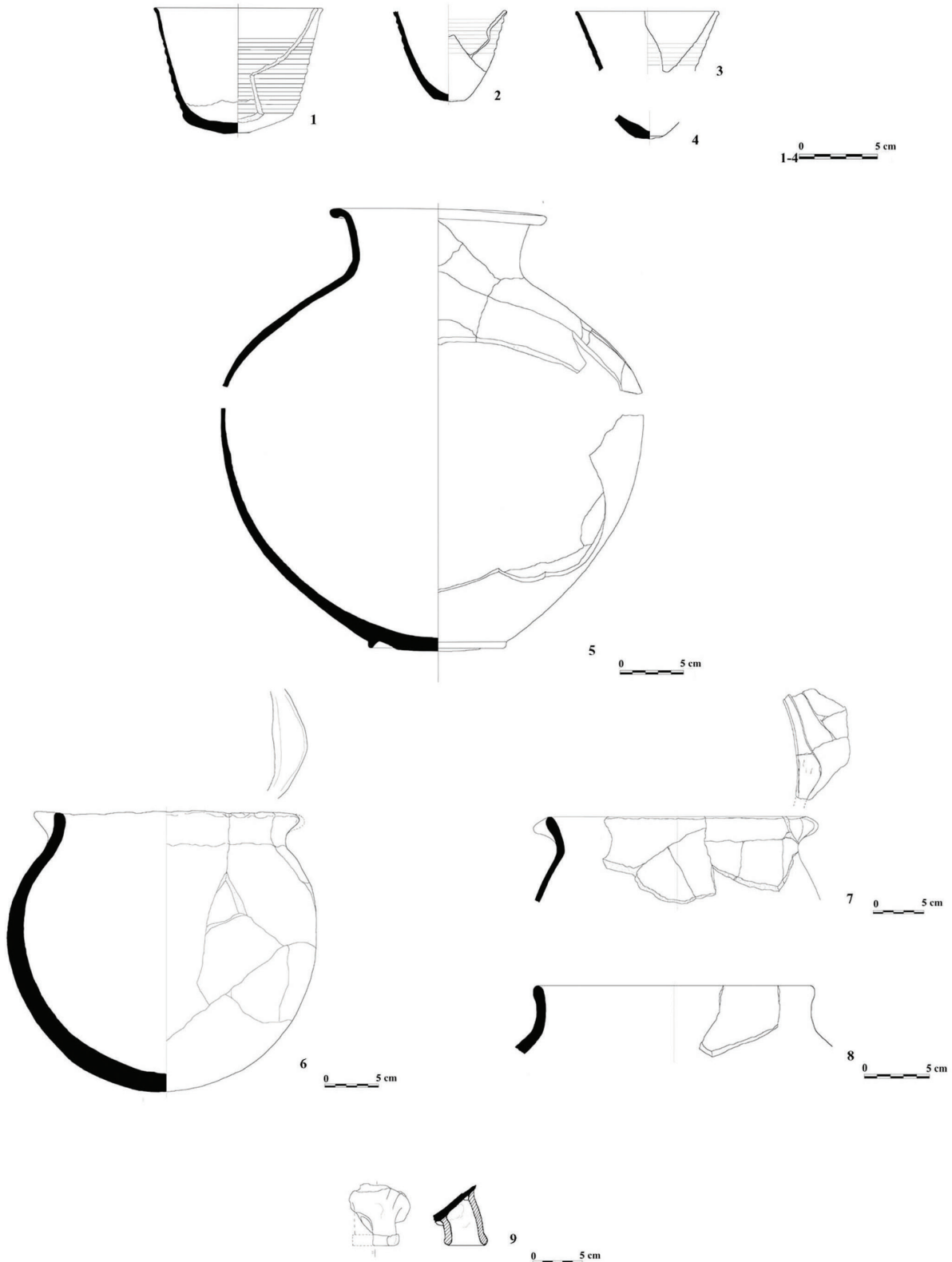


Figure 10: Pottery from Structure B, West Chamber / *Yapı B Batı Mekan'dan Seramik Buluntular*



Figure 11: Structure B, East Chamber / *Yapı B Doğu Mekan*

**The East Chamber:** This chamber is bordered by the eastern wall of Structure B and by another wall in East-West orientation (Figs. 4, 11). The northern wall of the chamber is connected to the eastern wall of the West Chamber in right angles. The Northwest corner of this wall was also damaged by a Middle Age storage bin. The northern wall is 3.4 m long and 0.6 m thick. The eastern continuation of the wall is damaged. Only the western and northern walls of the Chamber were preserved; the other walls are still uncovered. The compacted clay floor is heavily damaged by Middle Age deposits and a silo. On the southern side of the northern wall, a stone door-jamb is found. In the same area a threshold had been created by two 1m-wide flat stones placed horizontally next to each other. Thusx this part of the building seems to have a door providing access from outside. Several pits of varying dimensions were cut into the floor. There were remains of ash and pebble Stone fills in pits which might have been connected to cooking facilities. In one of those pits four basalt grinding stones, one large bowl, one jar and four miniature vessels were placed (Figs. 12, 13.1–6). The pit might possibly have been closed, in order to be used as a cache<sup>4</sup>. In this pit a number of basalt grinding stones were stored which also

provides us clues about the agricultural practices at the site. Deposited grinding stones indicate that the structure was not out of use during sowing or harvesting seasons. A similar practice of storage in pits is known from Hacinebi Tepe in the Late Uruk period<sup>5</sup>. In Pit 84, situated at the north east of the summit, tokens, small and medium rimmed jar stoppers, jar rim sealings and carefully shaped clay slabs have been deposited, indicating that such pits were used as a safe for important and valuable belongings. In Tell es-Sweyhat on the Euphrates, findings that were considered as important were also deposited in pits in the middle of the Early Bronze Age<sup>6</sup>.

In smaller pits in the East Chamber no finds are recovered. The finds recovered on the floor determine an area for daily activities. The pot sherds collected on the floor include conical cups (Fig. 13.7–14), bowls (Fig. 13.15–18), jar (Fig. 14.1–9) and bases (Fig. 14.10–13).

## SMALL FINDS

**Structure A:** The cylinder seal found in this area is preserved as four pieces; the seal is made of bone<sup>7</sup> (Fig. 7). On the seal

<sup>4</sup> According to the pit and its content, it might have been a grave or might have been used for ritual (votive) purposes; however, since no bones were found in the pit, it could not be used as a grave. On the contrary, Middle and Late Bronze Age graves in southern Levant contain ground stone tools (see Ebeling 2002: 149–51). The existence of miniature vessels in a large pot might indicate a votive pit; however, this thought can only be proved when similar instances come to light in other centers.

<sup>5</sup> Stein/Bernbeck/Coursey/Mc Mahon/Miller/Mısır/Nicola/Pitmann/Pollock/Wright 1996: 232, Fig. 20; Pittman 1999: 48.

<sup>6</sup> Zittler 1997: 48; Cooper 2006: 116.

<sup>7</sup> Seals and Bulla which have been retrieved during the Mezraa Höyük excavations are in press (Yalçıklı D. “Mezraa Höyük’te Bulunan Mühürler ve Mühür Baskısı” in A. Öztan, ed., *Uğur Silistreli Armağan Kitabı (Memorial Book)*, Ankara University, Ankara).



Figure 12: Pit and Grinding Stones / *Çukur ve Öğütme Taşları*

an agricultural theme is depicted. The scene is composed of two oxen pulling a plow, a person sitting on the plow and another person controlling the oxen. The scene continues with a scorpion placed above a quadruple, probably a dog. The plow is depicted in detail. A horizontal line takes place on the shoulders of the oxen and the yoke is represented by four vertical lines. The plow itself is composed of five horizontal cylindrical furrows. The horizontal line under the oxen represents the field being plowed. The individuals are stylistically similar to each other; these are depicted with schematic forms and heads bowed down, flat bodies, fork-shaped hands and feet. All extensions of their bodies are somewhat pointed. Likewise, the oxen are also given in schematic style with triangular heads. The scorpion at the end of the scene has body parts that resemble fork-shaped hands of the individuals. The body parts of the scorpion resemble fork-shaped hands of the human figures. The dog-like animal has been depicted similar to the head and tails of the oxen. If we consider that the erected tail of the animal is curved and according to the shape of the head, we can suggest that this figure represents a dog.

Similar agricultural scenes on cylinder seals are known from several sites<sup>8</sup>. At Hassek Höyük a seal with a plowing scene was found<sup>9</sup>. Another example with a

possible agricultural scene is known from Amuq Phase H<sup>10</sup>. The seal from Mezraa Höyük differs from the other examples showing the preparation of fields for sowing with a plow. The scorpion on the seal is also similar to those from Tell Brak<sup>11</sup>, Tell Huera<sup>12</sup> and Tell Leilan<sup>13</sup>. The schematic style and thematic flexibility of the animal and human representations on the Mezraa seal, specifically the heads, hands and feet forms, bear common characteristics with seals from other contemporary sites like Norşuntepe<sup>14</sup>, Gre Virike<sup>15</sup>, Amuq, Tell Brak, Jerablus-Tahtani<sup>16</sup>, Tell Selenkahiye<sup>17</sup>, Tell Huera and Tell Leilan. These common features show a common style in northern Syria; Amiet<sup>18</sup> names this style “cylindres prédynastiques schématiques”, or even defined local northwest Syrian style<sup>19</sup> dating to the Early Dynastic III period<sup>20</sup>. The spatial distribution of such seals largely overlaps with the distribution area of the Metallic Wares.

<sup>10</sup> Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 388, Fig. 297.5.

<sup>11</sup> Matthews 1991: 152, Figs. 1.4,5, 2.14–15.

<sup>12</sup> Marchetti 1998: Fig. 2.17.

<sup>13</sup> Parayre 1990: 8557, Fig. 28.4.

<sup>14</sup> Schmidt 2002: 113, Pl. 86.1365.

<sup>15</sup> Ökse 2002: 275–76, Fig. 7.K9/0009/S/02.

<sup>16</sup> Peltenburg/Campbell/Croft/Lunt/Murray/Watt 1995: 70.

<sup>17</sup> van Loon 2001: Pl. 12.11a–b.

<sup>18</sup> Amiet 1961: 33.

<sup>19</sup> Mazzoni 1984: 34; Collon 1987: 20–23; Ökse 2006b: 555.

<sup>20</sup> Marchetti 1998: 130–34.

<sup>8</sup> Collon 1987: 145–48 Figs. 615–619.

<sup>9</sup> Bhem-Blancke 1981: 25, Pl. 11.2.

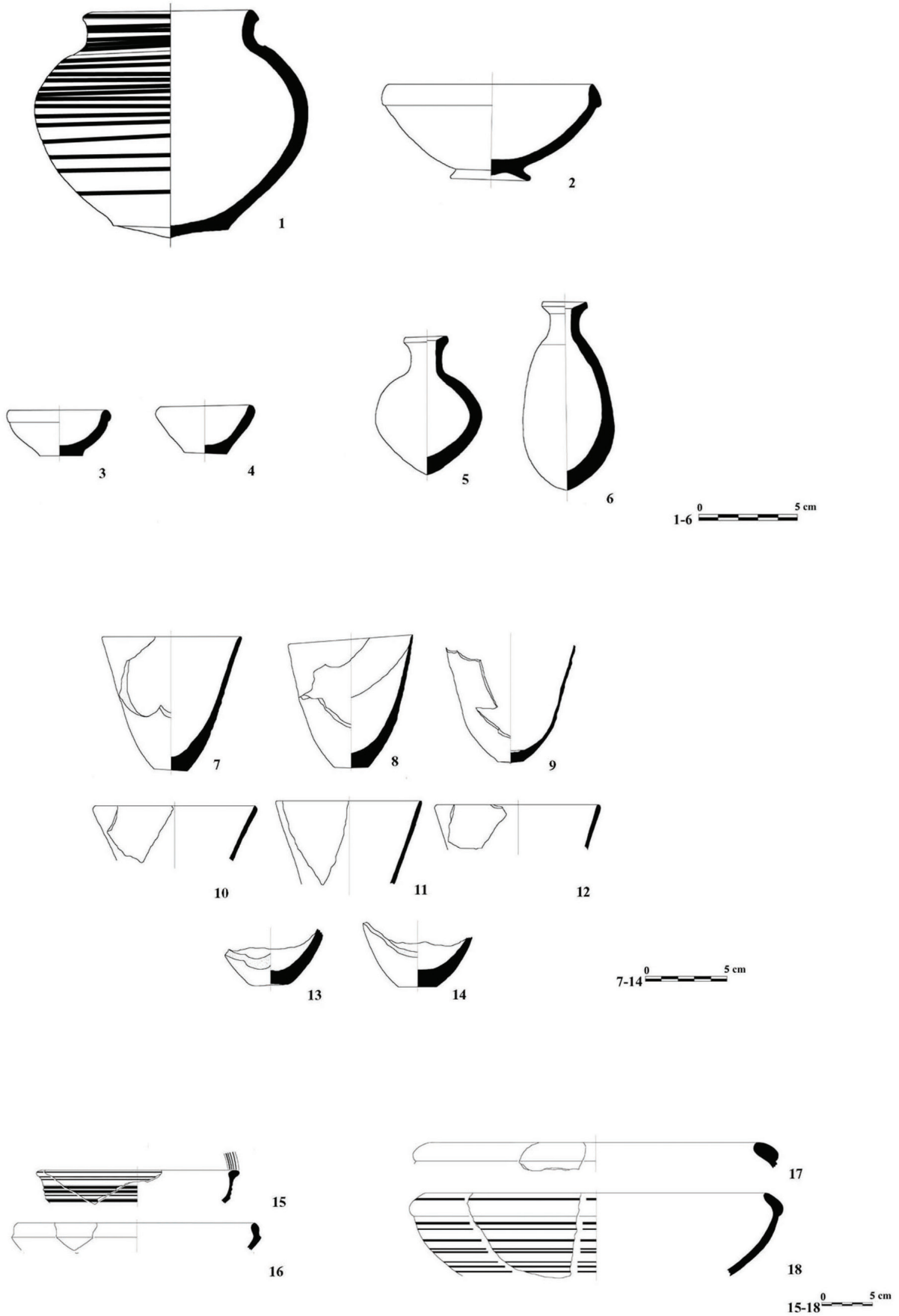


Figure 13: Pottery from Structure B, East Chamber / *Yapı B Doğu Mekan Seramik Buluntular*

## TWO STRUCTURES FROM MEZRAA HÖYÜK DATING TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BC

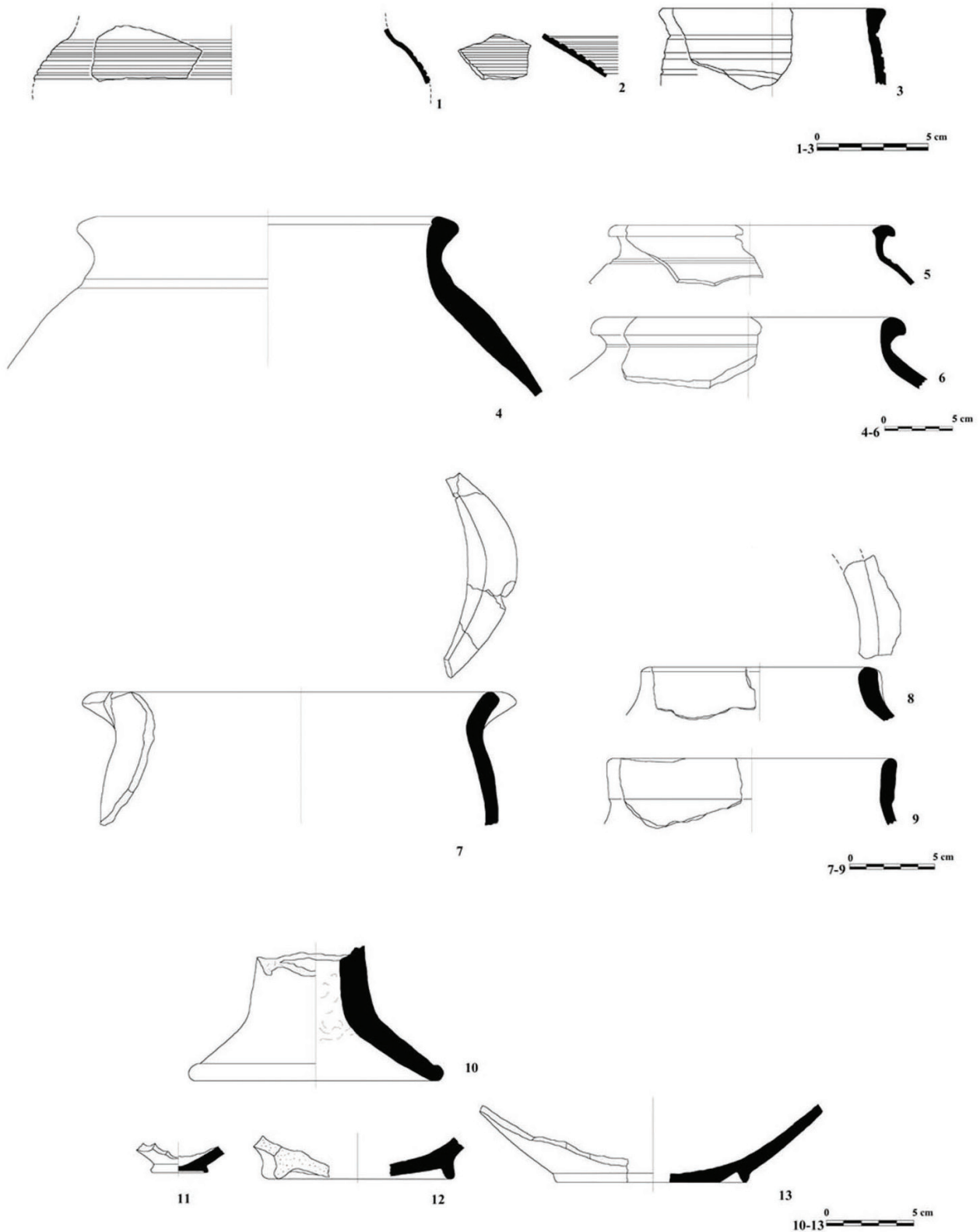


Figure 14: Pottery from Structure B, East Chamber / *Yapı B Doğu Mekan Seramik Buluntular*

One disc-shaped stamp seal is made of terracotta (Fig. 7) bears a pointed lug on one side and a geometrical motive on the other. The motif is composed of two lines on the right and three lines on the left which run perpendicular to two other lines in the middle. A similar scene is known

from the Early Bronze Age level at Gritille<sup>21</sup>. Both seals are made of terracotta and have larger sizes, indicating that they may have been used in daily practices such as sealing pottery and doors or decorating textiles.

<sup>21</sup> Ellis/Voigt 1982: 325, Pl. 43, Fig. 12.

A large variety of ceramics were found in Structure A. One of the most important types of ceramics from this area is the large and small sized jars which are identified as 'Standard Ware' (Fig. 9.1–8, 10–11). In this group, large sized jars and rims, base fragments of these are numerous. Among other jar types, highly burnished jars with triangular handles take place (Fig. 9.9). A ring-based jar with horizontal grooves on its shoulder and upper body and a horizontal band made with burnishing tool on its lower body (Fig. 8.17) as well as a bottle with an oval body and a horizontal handle (Fig. 8.16) represent different types in the assemblage. "Euphrates Metallic" type beakers, their rim and base fragments (Fig. 8.1–13), undecorated bowls with inturned rims and pattern burnished bowls with outturned rims (Fig. 8.14–15) are among the ceramic types. One of the significant ceramic groups is represented by pedestal bases with broken edges which were levelled with care (Fig. 9.12–17). It can be suggested that these pedestal bases were used as lids for narrow-mouthed jars. One tripod piece is also observed among the base fragments (Fig. 9.18).

**Structure B, East Chamber:** A metallic jar with horizontal pattern burnishing (Fig. 13.1), a bowl (Fig. 13.2), miniature bowls (Fig. 13.3–4) and bottles (Fig. 13.5–6) are among the ceramics from the pit in Structure B. "Euphrates Metallic" type beakers, body sherds and base fragments belonging to such beakers are one of the major groups of ceramics found from this area (Fig. 13.7–14). Bowls decorated with burnishing tool or undecorated bowls (Fig. 13.15–18), jar fragments with horizontal grooves on their upper bodies (Fig. 14.1–2), similar to those found in West Chamber, large jars belonging to Standard Ware (Fig. 14.3–6) and rim sherds belonging to pattern burnished jars with triangular handles on the rim (Fig. 14.7–9), ring bases (Fig. 14.11–13) and one pedestal base (Fig. 14.10) are among the most important ceramic findings from the East Chamber.

**Assessment of the Ceramic Findings:** "Euphrates Metallic" type beakers constitute the largest number of ceramic group in these structures (Figs. 8.1–13, 10.1–4, 13.7–14). These kind of ceramics are called 'Euphrates Ware'<sup>22</sup> and are represented by well-fired, wheel-made, thin-walled, brown and reddish brown colored beakers which include low amounts of mica and lime. Their distribution is widespread especially in the Middle Euphrates region. Since these wares are made out of clays that include lime, they are not fired in very high temperatures in order not to turn the fired ceramics into slags. As a result, one cannot describe their firing as 'very hard'<sup>23</sup>. Similar cups were uncovered at Samsat<sup>24</sup>,

Tepecik<sup>25</sup>, Kurban Höyük<sup>26</sup>, Hayaz Höyük<sup>27</sup>, Gre Virike<sup>28</sup>, Harabebezikan<sup>29</sup>, Oylum Höyük<sup>30</sup>, Titriş Höyük<sup>31</sup>, Harran<sup>32</sup>, Tall Bi'a<sup>33</sup>, Tell Matsuma<sup>34</sup>, Jerablus-Tahtani<sup>35</sup>, Tell Hadidi<sup>36</sup> and are dated to Early Bronze Age III/IV<sup>37</sup>.

Among the ceramic finds small and large sized jars constitute an important group (Figs. 9.1–7, 10.5, 14.4–6). Large sized jars as well as rimsherds and base fragments belonging to these jars are quantitatively high in this group. These wares are wheel-made and are tempered with fine sand, few lime particles and mica. Their colors range from pinkish buff to reddish brown. Similar jars were recovered from Titriş Höyük as well<sup>38</sup>. These ceramics belong to the same group which are variably labeled as "Simple Ware"<sup>39</sup>, "Plain Simple Ware"<sup>40</sup>, "Standard Ware"<sup>41</sup> or "einfache Ware"<sup>42</sup>. These were mass-produced in northern Syria and southeast Anatolia (Euphrates Basin) during the 3rd millennium BC.

Jars with triangular handles and pattern burnish found in all three spaces (Figs. 9.9, 10.6–8, 14.7–9) find their close parallels at Titriş Höyük<sup>43</sup>, Gre Virike<sup>44</sup>, Harran<sup>45</sup>, Amuq J<sup>46</sup>, Tell es-Sweyhat<sup>47</sup> and Hammam et-Turkman<sup>48</sup>. Oval shaped bottle with horizontal handle is similar to that from Amuq<sup>49</sup>.

The undecorated or pattern burnished bowls are similar to standard wares (Figs. 8.14–15, 13.15–18). The ones with horizontal bands made with burnishing tools are similar

<sup>25</sup> Esin 1979: 87 Pl. 57.1.

<sup>26</sup> Algaze/Evins/Ingraham/Marfoe/Yener 1990: Figs. 77.C, 78.C.

<sup>27</sup> Thissen 1985: Fig. 3.2.

<sup>28</sup> Ökse 2001: Fig. 19.b; Ökse 2006a: Fig. 42.6; Engin 2007: 273 Fig. 18.5.4–7.

<sup>29</sup> Bilgen 2001: Figs. 20–21.

<sup>30</sup> Özgen 1989/90: 23, Fig. 1.1.

<sup>31</sup> Algaze/Mısır 1994: Fig. 8.

<sup>32</sup> Prag 1970: 78, Fig. 7.36–37.

<sup>33</sup> Strommenger/Kohlmeyer 1998: Pl. 159.7.

<sup>34</sup> Tsunaki 1995: Fig. 27.12.

<sup>35</sup> Peltenburg/Campbell/Croft/Lunt/Murray/Watt 1995: Fig. 28.2.

<sup>36</sup> Dornemann 1988: 38 Fig. 20.21.

<sup>37</sup> Rova 2011: Tablo 4:038, 5:038; Falb, Porter, Prub 2014: 167–174; Sconzo 2015: Table 4-6; Finkbeiner/Novák/Sakal/Sconzo 2015: 433-36: EME 3-4, 2625-2236 BC.

<sup>38</sup> Matney/Algaze/Pittman 1997: Fig. 17.B–F.

<sup>39</sup> Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 406.

<sup>40</sup> Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 264; Thissen 1985: 76, 80–81; Algaze/Evins/Ingraham/Marfoe/Yener 1990: 311.

<sup>41</sup> Orthmann/Rova 1991: 71.

<sup>42</sup> Kühne 1976: 73; Abay 1997: 27.

<sup>43</sup> Matney 1997: Fig. 18.E.

<sup>44</sup> Engin 2007: 277 Fig. 18.8.5–9.

<sup>45</sup> Prag 1970: 78 Fig. 8.54–55.

<sup>46</sup> Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: Fig. 345.2.

<sup>47</sup> Holland 1977: 53 Fig. 5.8,10.

<sup>48</sup> Curvers 1988: Pl. 113.36.

<sup>49</sup> Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 410, 413 Fig. 315.1, Pl. 40.10.

<sup>22</sup> Orthmann/Rova 1991: 73.

<sup>23</sup> Fitz 1984: 124; Schneider 1994: 99–109.

<sup>24</sup> Abay 1997: Fig. 181.e.

## TWO STRUCTURES FROM MEZRAA HÖYÜK DATING TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BC

	beakers	bowls		jars			bottles	bases			Total
	Metallic	Ring Burnished Ware and caliciform	Simple Ware	Ring Burnished Ware and caliciform	Simple Ware	Black Burnished Ware	Ring Burnished Ware and Simple Ware	Ring Burnished Ware	Simple Ware	tripod	
<b>Structure A</b>	13	1	1	1	10	1	1	1	5	1	35
<b>Structure B</b>	12	3	5	3	4	6	2		4	1	40
		4	6	4	14	7		1	9	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>25</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>			<b>75</b>

Figure 15: Distribution of Pottery from Structures A and B / *Yapı A ve B Seramik Buluntuların Dağılımı*

to the ones which are called “Grey/Bruff Spiral Ring Burnished Ware”<sup>50</sup> or “Graue Ware mit Spiralglättung”<sup>51</sup> that have a wide distribution in the Middle Euphrates Basin. Similar bowls are known from Horum Höyük<sup>52</sup>, Harran<sup>53</sup> and Tell Hadidi<sup>54</sup>.

Structure A and East Chamber of Structure B contain grooved jar fragments (Figs. 8.17, 14.1–2). Similar jars are known from Amuq<sup>55</sup>, Tell Hadidi<sup>56</sup>, Oylum Höyük<sup>57</sup>, Tell Matsuma<sup>58</sup>, Tell Bi’a<sup>59</sup> and Gre Virike<sup>60</sup> during the Early Bronze Age III/IV periods.

### Form Distribution of Ceramic findings:

The total number of ceramic findings is 75 (Fig. 15). Twenty five “Euphrates Metallic” type beakers and jars with 67% comprise the most common group among these findings. Twelve and thirteen beakers uncovered at Structures A and B represented by nearly equal numbers. Other common groups of pots are either handmade or wheel made. In this group, wheel-made Plain Simple Ware are in majority whereas Ring Burnished Ware and Caliciform pots are less common. The number of bottles are limited. Compared with these groups, the bowl group is quantitatively behind and consist of vessels of Ring Burnished Ware, Caliciform and Plain Simple Ware. Another well known bowl type described

as “Champagne-cup” or “Fruid Stands” is represented only by a piece of a pedestal<sup>61</sup>. These types are frequently found in the graves around Carchemish region, though these are rare in household inventories.

“Euphrates Metallic” type beakers have a ratio of 33% among the ceramic findings in places whereas there are nine Ring Burnished Ware and Caliciform bowls with a ratio of 9.1% in total. These proportions show us that ceramic forms used in these two forms are concentrated on “Euphrates Metallic” type beakers and jars. A similar ceramic distribution observed in several sites around the Carchemish region shows a cultural relationship with the region on the eastern side of Euphrates.

One particular example (Fig. 8.16) among bottles, has an oval body, round base and a horizontal grip that could be hold with an index finger, differentiating it from other bottles known in the region. The closest parallel of this type of grip is seen in Amuq I phase<sup>62</sup>. This parallel indicates the relations of Mezraa Höyük with the Amuq region in the west.

Like in other sites of the region, the caliciform assemblage indicates the relation between Ebla and Middle Euphrates Region. The relations of the Middle Euphrates region with Mezraa Höyük and Ebla have been increased towards the end of the Early Bronze Age which had become obvious with pots with two or three stripes around their rims and Caliciform pots often found on the East Slope level VI. Such ceramic findings are not retrieved from the structures described as level “V” on the summit. Considering the ceramic material in these structures, we see that they are contemporary

<sup>50</sup> Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 450.

<sup>51</sup> Strommenger 1970: 46.

<sup>52</sup> Marro/Tibet/Ergeç 1998: 288, Pls VII.1–2, VIII. 1–3.

<sup>53</sup> Prag 1970: 78 Figs. 7.10; 8.39–40, 48.

<sup>54</sup> Dornemann 1977: Fig. 18.10.

<sup>55</sup> Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 370 Figs. 286.13, 315.1, 410, 413 Pl. 40.10.

<sup>56</sup> Dornemann 1988: 38, Fig. 7.27.

<sup>57</sup> Özgen 1989/90: 23 Fig. 1.5.

<sup>58</sup> Tsunaki 1995: 88 Fig. 11.6.

<sup>59</sup> Strommenger 1993: 29 Fig. 19.

<sup>60</sup> Ökse 1999: Fig. 7.21.

<sup>61</sup> Falsone/Sconzo 2007: 79–84; Porter 2007: 5.

<sup>62</sup> Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 410 Fig. 315.1.

with those in Kurban Höyük IV<sup>63</sup>, Tilbeshar IIIC<sup>64</sup>, Gre Virike IIA<sup>65</sup>, Tell Ahmar<sup>66</sup>, Qara Quzak Level IV<sup>67</sup>, Tell Banat Period III<sup>68</sup>, Tell Shiyukh Tahtani Phase 11-12<sup>69</sup>, Jerablus Tahtani 2B fortified settlement<sup>70</sup>, Tell Hadidi 2<sup>71</sup>, Amuq I<sup>72</sup>, Tell Mardikh IIB1- Ebla Palace G<sup>73</sup> and Umm el-Marra Period V<sup>74</sup>.

In East Slope excavations at Mezraa Höyük, we did not come across a parallel layer of settlement to level VI of the summit, dating to the Early Bronze Age IVB<sup>75</sup>. We assume that structures which belong to Early Bronze Age IVB and expected to be found in that specific point that has a comfortable and dominating view over its surroundings have probably been destroyed by the later four settlements dating to the Iron Age and Middle Age.

During the excavations we have often asked ourselves and been asked to by other colleagues the same question: could these structures be graves just like those in Tell Banat or Gre Virike? During the digging process of a granary situated on the south corner of the Structure A dating to the Middle Ages, a skeleton with a damaged upper part has been recovered *in situ*. The preserved part of the skeleton shows that the individual was lying on its left, as he/she died. Its legs lie apart from each other and one of the legs is more wriggled. The position of the skeleton reflects that the individual was not placed as if in a grave; the position shows that she/he lies as originally fallen.

A hearth half destroyed by a Middle Age granary, unearthed at Structure A, and pot sherds laid on the flat stones next to that hearth show us that this place was used as a living area. Additionally, there were similar bowls and pots with cooking pits, grinding stones and storage pits found in Structure B. Among other findings were the threshold stones that belong to the backyard door which connected Structure B to the outside and a Stone door-jamb belonging to another door next to it.

<sup>63</sup> Algaze/Evins/Ingraham/Marfoe/Yener 1990: 311–367.

<sup>64</sup> Kepinski 2005: 149–50; 2007: 305.

<sup>65</sup> Ökse 2011: 271.

<sup>66</sup> Roobaert/Bunnens 1999: 164–166.

<sup>67</sup> Pereiro 1999: 118–119.

<sup>68</sup> Porter 2007: 6,11–12.

<sup>69</sup> Sconzo 2007: 274–77.

<sup>70</sup> Peltenburg 1999: 101–02.

<sup>71</sup> Dornemann 1985: 54.

<sup>72</sup> Braidwood/Braidwood 1960: 397–419.

<sup>73</sup> Mazzoni 1985: 9–12; 2003: 180.

<sup>74</sup> Schwartz/Curvers/Dunham/Stuart/Weber 2006: 628; Schwartz 2007a: 514.

<sup>75</sup> Finkbeiner/Novák/Sakal/Sconzo: 2015: 436–38; EME 5–6.

The pottery repertory retrieved in those two structures, we see that burnished jars and pots with triangular lugs, storage jars and a great number of pots stand mostly out. This period is also called as “Champagne-Cup-period”. Such pots are common around this region and they are represented in two structures with just one base sherd. When we take architectural qualities and small findings into consideration, it would be assumed that these structures were not used as graves.

### **The Middle Euphrates region in written sources, and Mezraa Höyük’s place in the region**

The written documents retrieved from Ebla present information about its political and economical situation as well as about its neighbors. The information concerning the regions in the north are of particular interest. These documents, inform us on the political, economical and social situation of the period of these structures. Ebla documents reveal the names and properties of several sites and settlements in the northern regions<sup>76</sup>. The name of Carchemish, which is situated in North Syria, is mentioned in these documents. Ursa’um/Ursu is localized to the Gaziantep region and Tall Bazi-Banat Armi/Armium to the Jezirah<sup>77</sup>. According to these documents, Carchemish, during the mid- 3.000 B.C and under the authority of Ebla, was an important city at the border zone<sup>78</sup>. In these documents, the existence of “*badālum*” has been mentioned, certain overseers consisted of merchants or viceroys, in the region between Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa. Also, in these documents, Gaziantep region with its still uncertain borders has been localized as Ursu<sup>79</sup>. According to the texts, even though the limits of their authority and jurisdiction is still to be determined, these persons are connected with the king of Ebla. These documents are important since they show us that the influence of Ebla has been spread up north, towards the Taurus Mountains<sup>80</sup>. Little is known about the beginning of the domination and its duration in northern regions. We have learned from written documents that there was a *badālum* in Ursu yet Carchemish’s name, even though it was located within the sphere of Ebla’s influence, is not mentioned in these documents among the list of centers with Badalums<sup>81</sup>. It is understood that Carchemish was trading with Ebla in that period of time<sup>82</sup>. Our knowledge on the size and political structure of Carchemish in that

<sup>76</sup> Matthiae 1981: 169, 180; Astour 1988: 142.

<sup>77</sup> Astour 2002: 81 fn. 146; Otto and Biga 2010: 481–492.

<sup>78</sup> Bunnens 2007: 50.

<sup>79</sup> Klengel 1988: 250; Lipiński 1988: 258–60; Bonechi 1998: 234–35; Ökse 2007a: 101.

<sup>80</sup> Astour 1988: 142.

<sup>81</sup> Astour 2002: 150 fn. 617.

<sup>82</sup> Milano 1995: 1227.



period is very limited and the explorations in the center reveals no data<sup>83</sup>. Our problem arises from the limited information obtained from small areas during Woolley's<sup>84</sup> excavations. We hope that recent excavations may determine the borders of early layers occupied by levels dating to the 2nd and 1st centuries BC.

The data from Ebla texts lead us to think that Mezraa Höyük was a settlement which was subjected to Carchemish or Ursu under the authority of a minor regional ruler. This type of political structure was probably valid for some other small settlements on the south of Birecik such as Zeytinlibahçe, Şavi Höyük and Akarçay Höyük. Names of diverse settlements are mentioned in Ebla documents; however, none of those could be localized<sup>85</sup>.

## DISCUSSION

The two structures uncovered on the summit of Mezraa Höyük and their finds display original characteristics. The related buildings which were used simultaneously with these structures remain mostly disturbed due to long-lasting agricultural activities carried out on top of the mound.

The location, planning, building techniques and findings recovered suggest that these structures had an important function in the settlement. The findings from Structure A found *in situ* and the skeleton of an adult are important indications for such an interpretation. The position of the skeleton gives the impression that the person died as a result of a sudden event which might have caused the collapse of the building as well. No traces of burning were observed that might have been aroused during such a collapse. Beside the skeleton, the remains of other findings lying scattered on the floor are also an indication of a sudden collapse. No clues that might explain the reasons of this sudden destruction of the structure are available.

The findings from the west and east spaces of Structure B show close parallels in terms of their dating with the pottery of Structure A. This implies that both structures were actively used at the same time period. A pit on the floor of the yard provides an important data as a storage place. Finding similar applications at Hacinebi Tepe dating to the Late Uruk period, and Tell es-Sweyhat dating to the Early Bronze Age, indicate continuity in the traditional ways of life in the region.

The ceramic repertoire in both structures certainly belongs to the same time period. A considerable amount of these ceramics are of Metallic Ware. Beakers seem to have been one of the most commonly utilized items at Mezraa Höyük as well as at the other contemporary sites in the region. Yet another typical group of ceramics from the site is jars of the 'Standard Ware'. Although they appear in varying sizes, large jars probably used as storage vessels are more common. The jars with glossy polish and triangular handles seem to have been intensively used, probably for cooking purposes as some of these show traces of sooting. Horizontal bands applied with burnishing tool on bowls and jars are observed on ceramics recovered from all structures.

According to findings, both structures can be dated to Early Bronze Age III/IVA. According to the cuneiform tablets found at Ebla, in the mid 3rd millennium BC Carchemish was an important city under the political authority of Ebla<sup>86</sup>. These texts mention certain tradesmen, local rulers or governors appointed by the king called "*badālum*" in the area between Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, suggesting that the region was under the control of the Kingdom of Ebla. Thus we can infer the existence of a ruling class and the well-established social differentiation. The Structures A and B on the summit of Mezraa Höyük are, according to their location, architectural planning and building techniques as well as the seals and pottery, imply that these structures were used by a local ruler and his family. These structures seem to have been destroyed during a sudden event and were abandoned; so, never inhabited again.

The rule of Ebla bases on information obtained from Ebla documents, and the region around Carchemish and Gaziantep, including Mezraa Höyük, in accordance with archeological findings. An identical culture is observed among the archeological findings in the region including burial traditions, architectural, seals, manufacturing techniques, ceramic forms, the ratio of these forms and decoration.

Even though it is not possible to explain the reason behind the destruction of structures in the summit of Mezraa Höyük, such a demolition took place in a time period contemporary with the emergence of some changes observed in the region. The differentiations in ceramic forms coming from the latest phase of the Early Bronze Age are among the important evidences in this regard.

There are many studies focused on the possible reasons for this "crisis", "collapse", "transformation" or "continuity" that took place in Northern Syria and

<sup>83</sup> Matthiae 1981: 169; Astour 1988: 144.

<sup>84</sup> Woolley / Barnett 1952.

<sup>85</sup> Astour 1988: 142–143.

<sup>86</sup> Pettinato 1976: 11–15.

Northern Mesopotamia<sup>87</sup> which had lasted well into Middle Bronze Age II. Some studies focused on the climate changes in the region stated that a severe draught in Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine could have triggered social changes<sup>88</sup>. Contrary to the view basing on large centers, Wossink<sup>89</sup> asserts that climatic changes did not affect the Carchemish region so much. It may be possible that the inhabitants of Mezraa Höyük and some of the other small settlements might have abandoned the region because of severe draught affecting the Middle Euphrates region and have migrated to the Taurus foothills with better climatic conditions.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Numan Tuna, the head of the Center for research and Assessment of the Historic Environment, for organizing the “Salvage Project of the Archaeological Heritage of the Ilisu and Carchemish dam reservoirs”, for his support. 2005 excavation season was supported by Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University under project 2005/21. The work in seasons 2006–2007 was kindly supported by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The excavations were directed by Şanlıurfa Archaeological Museum. We would like to thank the museum directors Sedat Bucak, Naci Toy and Nurten Aydemir as well as the staff at the museum for their involvement.

### REFERENCES

- ABAY, E. 1997.  
Die Keramik der Frühbronzezeit in Anatolien mit “Syrischen Affinitäten“. Münster.
- ALGAZE, G./ EVINS, M. A./ INGRAHAM M. L./ MARFOE, L. /YENER, K. A. 1990.  
Town and Country in Southeastern Anatolia. Vol. I-II: The Stratigraphic Sequence at Kurban Höyük. Chicago.
- ALGAZE, G./BREUNINGER, R./KNUDSTAD, J. 1994.  
“The Tigris-Euphrates Archaeological Reconnaissance Project: Final Report of the Birecik and Carchemish Dam Survey Areas”, *Anatolica* XX: 1–96.
- ALGAZE, G./MISIR, A. 1994.  
“Excavations at Titriş Höyük. A Small Mid-Late Third Millennium Urban Center in Southeastern Anatolia, 1992”, XV. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı I. Ankara: 153–170.
- AMIET, P. 1961.  
La Glyptique Mésopotamienne Archaïque. Paris.
- ASTOUR, M. C. 1988.  
“The Geographical and Political Structure of the Ebla Empire”, *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft von Ebla, Akten der Internationalen Tagung Heidelberg*, 4.–7. November 1986, (Eds. H. Waetzoldt, H. Hauptmann). Heidelberg: 139–158.
- ASTOUR, M. C. 1997.  
“Ḫaššu and Ḫasuwan a Contribution to North Syrian History and Geography”, *Ugarit-Forschungen* 29: 1–66.
- ASTOUR, M. C. 2002.  
“A Reconstruction of the History of Ebla (Part 2)”, *Eblaitica: Essays on the Ebla Archives and Eblaite Language*. Vol. 4, (Eds. C. H. Gordon/R.G.A. Endsbury). Eisenbrauns: 57–195.
- BHEM-BLANCKE, R. M. 1981.  
“Hasek Höyük”, *Istanbuler Mitteilungen* 31: 5–30.
- BİLGEN, N. 2001.  
“Early Bronze Age Vessels (Grave Goods?) from Harabebezikan Höyük” *Salvage Project of the Archaeological Heritage of the Ilisu and Carchemish Dam Reservoirs Activities in 1999*. (Eds. N. Tuna/J. Öztürk/J. Velibeyoğlu). Ankara: 413–427.

<sup>87</sup> Cooper 2006: 258–74; 2012; Schwartz 2007b; 2012; Schwartz / Miller 2007; Sconzo 2007.

<sup>88</sup> Weiss 2000: 91–92; Weiss and Bradley 2001; Peiser 2003: 195–197; Staubwasser and Weiss 2006: 381–383.

<sup>89</sup> Wossink 2009: 140–141.

## TWO STRUCTURES FROM MEZRAA HÖYÜK DATING TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BC

BONECHI, M. 1998.

“Remarks on the III Millennium Geographical Names of the Syrian Upper Mesopotamia”, *Subartu. About Subartu. Studies devoted to Upper Mesopotamia IV/I*. 219–242.

BRAIDWOOD, R. J./BRAIDWOOD, L. S. 1960.

*Excavations in the Plain of Antioch I: The Earlier Assemblages, Phases A-J*. Chicago.

BUNNENS, G., 2007.

“Site Hierarchy in the Tishrin Dam Area and Third Millennium Geopolitics in Northern Syria” *Euphrates Valley Settlement. The Carchemish Sector in the Third Millennium BC* (Ed. E. Peltenburg). Oxford: 43–54.

COLLON, D. 1987.

*First Impressions. Cylinder Seals in the Ancient Near East*. London.

COOPER, L. 2006.

*Early Urbanism On The Syrian Euphrates*. New York.

COOPER, L. 2010.

“States of Hegemony: Early Forms of Political Control in Syria During the Third Millennium BC”, *The Development of Pre-State Communities in the Ancient Near East: Studies in Honour of Edgar Peltenburg*, (Eds. D. Bolger / L. Maguire). Oxford: 87–94.

COOPER, L. 2012.

“Continuity and Change in the Upper Euphrates Region of Syria” *Looking North: The Socioeconomic Dynamics of Northern Mesopotamia and Anatolian Regions during the Late Third and Early Second Millennium BC* (Eds. N. Laneri/P. Pfälzner/S. Valentini). Wiesbaden: 81–92.

CURVERS, H. H. 1988.

“The Period VI Pottery, The Period VII Pottery”, *Hammam et-Turkman I, Report on The University of Amsterdam’s 1981–1984 Excavations in Syria II*, (Ed. M. N. van Loon). İstanbul: 351–396.

DORNEMANN, R. H. 1977.

“Tell Hadidi: A Millennium of Bronze Age City Occupation”, *Annual of the American School of Oriental Research* 44: 113–151.

DORNEMANN, R. H. 1985.

“Salvage Excavations at Tell Hadidi in the Euphrates River Valley”, *The Biblical Archaeologist* 48/1: 49–59.

DORNEMANN, R. H. 1988.

“Tell Hadidi: One Bronze Age Site Among Many in the Tabqa Dam Salvage Area”, *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 270: 13–42.

EBELING, J. R. 2002.

“Why Are Ground Stone Tools Found in Middle and Late Bronze Age Burials?”, *Near Eastern Archaeology* 65/2: 149–151.

ELLIS, R./VOIGT, M. M. 1982.

“1981 Excavations at Gritille, Turkey”, *American Journal of Archaeology* 86/3: 319–332.

ENGİN, A. 2007.

“The Carchemish Region as a Ceramic Province in the Early Bronze Age: Analysis of the Ceramics from the Carchemish Dam Focusing on the Material of Gre Virike”, *Euphrates Valley Settlement. The Carchemish Sector in the Third Millennium BC* (Ed. E. Peltenburg). Oxford: 267–285.

ESİN, U. 1979.

“Tepecik Kazısı, 1973”, *Keban Projesi 1973 Çalışmaları*. Ankara: 79–94.

FALB, C./PORTER, A./PRUß, A. 2014.

“North-Mesopotamian Metallic Ware, Jezirah Stone Ware, North-Mesopotamian Gray Ware and Euphrates Banded Ware”, *Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean, Arcane Interregional, Vol. I: Ceramics* (Ed. M. Lebeau) Turnhout: 167–185.

FALSONE, G. 1999.

“Tell Shiyukh Tahtani”, *Archaeology of the Upper Syrian Euphrates: The Tishrin Dam Area Proceedings of the International Symposium* (Eds. G. del O. Lete / J-L. M. Fenollós). Barcelona: 137–142.

FALSONE, G./SCONZO, P. 2007.

“The ‘Champagne-cup’ Period at Carchemish. A Review of the Early Bronze Age Levels on the Acropolis Mound and the Problem of the Inner Town” *Euphrates Valley Settlement. The Carchemish Sector*

- in the Third Millennium BC (Ed. E. Peltenburg). Oxford: 73–93.
- FINKBEINER, U./NOVÁK, M./SAKAL, F./SCONZO, P. 2015.  
“Conclusion” Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean Middle Euphrates. (Eds. U. Finkbeiner / M. Novak / F. Sakal / P. Sconzo) Tübingen: 431–438.
- FITZ, V. 1984.  
“Steinzeug vom Tell Chuera: Das früheste Beispiel für die Herstellung dicht gebrannter Keramik”, *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie* 74: 123–132.
- HOLLAND, T. A. 1977.  
“Preliminary Report on Excavations at Tell Sweyhat, Syria, 1975”, *Levant* 9: 36–66.
- KAPINSKI, C. 2005.  
“Tilbeshar- A Bronze Age City in the Sajur Valley (Southeast Anatolia)”, *Anatolica* XXXI: 145–159.
- KAPINSKI, C. 2007.  
“Dynamics, Diagnostic Criteria and Settlement Patterns in the Carchemish Area During the Early Bronze Period”, *Euphrates Valley Settlement. The Carchemish Sector in the Third Millennium BC* (Ed. E. Peltenburg). Oxford: 152–163.
- KAPINSKI, C. 2010.  
“Tilbeshar: A Major City of the Early and Middle Bronze Ages, West to the Big Bend of The Euphrates (South-Eastern Anatolia): Results from 2005 and 2006 Seasons”, *Proceedings of the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East. Excavations, Surveys and Restorations: Reports on Recent Field Archaeology in the Near East. Proceedings of the 6th ICAANE, 5 May – 10 May 2008 “Sapienza”, Band 6.2* (Eds. P. Matthiae / F. Pinnock / L. Nigro / N. Marchetti). Roma: 303–310.
- KLENGEL, H. 1988.  
“Ebla im Fernhandel des 3. Jahrtausends”, *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft von Ebla* (Eds. H. Waetzold / H. Hauptmann). Heidelberg: 245–51.
- KÜHNE, H. 1976.  
*Die Keramik vom Tell Chuera und ihre Beziehungen zu Funden aus Syrien-Palästina. der Türkei und dem Iraq.* Berlin.
- LIPINŚKI, E. 1988.  
“Šu-bala-aka and badalum”, *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft von Ebla, Akten der Internationalen Tagung Heidelberg, 4.–7. November 1986* (Eds. H. Waetzoldt/H. Hauptmann). Heidelberg: 257–260.
- van LOON, M. 2001.  
*Selenkahiye, Final Report on the University of Chicago and University of Amsterdam Excavations in the Tapqa Reservoir. Northern Syria. 1967–1975.* Leiden.
- MARCHETTI, N. 1998.  
“The Mature Early Syrian Glyptic from the Khabur Region”, *Subartu* 4/2: 115–153.
- MARRO, C. 2007.  
“The Carchemish Region in the Early Bronze Age”, *Euphrates Valley Settlement. The Carchemish Sector in the Third Millennium BC* (Ed. E. Peltenburg). Oxford: 222–237.
- MARRO, C./TIBET, A./ERGEÇ, R. 1998.  
“Fouilles de Sauvetage de Horum Höyük (Province de Gaziantep) Troisième Rapport Préliminaire”, *Anatolia Antiqua* VII: 285–307.
- MATNEY, T./ALGAZE, G./PITTMAN, H. 1997.  
“Excavations at Titris Höyük in Southeastern Turkey: A Preliminary Report of the 1996 Season”, *Anatolica* XXIII: 61–72.
- MATTHEWS, D. 1991.  
“Tell Brak 1990: The Glyptic”, *Iraq* 53: 147–157.
- MATTHIAE, P. 1981.  
*Ebla: An Empire Rediscovered.* New York.
- MAZZONI, S. 1984.  
“Seal Impressions on Jars from Ebla in EB IA-B”, *Akkadika* 37: 18–45.
- MAZZONI, S. 1985.  
“Elements of the Ceramic Culture of Early Syrian Ebla in Comparison with Syro-Palestinian EB IV”, *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 257: 1–18.

MAZZONI, S. 2003.

“Ebla: Crafts and Power in an Emergent State of Third Millennium BC Syria”, *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 16/2: 173–191.

MILANO, L. 1995.

“Ebla: A Third-Millennium City-State in Ancient Syria”, *Civilizations of The Ancient Near East. Vol. II.5* (Ed. J. Sason). New York: 1219–1230.

ORTHMANN W./ROVA, E. 1991.

Gräber des 3. Jt. v. Chr. im syrischen Euphrattal 2. Ausgrabungen in Wreide. Saarbrücken.

OTTO, A. / BIGA, M. G. 2010.

“Thoughts About the Identification of Tall Bazi with Armi of the Ebla Texts”, *Proceedings of the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East. Excavations, Surveys and Restorations: Reports on Recent Field Archaeology in the Near East. Proceedings of the 6th ICAANE, 5 May – 10 May 2008 “Sapienza”*, Band 6.2 (Eds. P. Matthiae / F. Pinnock / L. Nigro / N. Marchetti) Roma: 481–494.

ÖKSE, T. A. 1999.

“Gre Virike: Research in 1998”, *Salvage Project of the Archaeological Heritage of the Ilisu and Carchemish Dam Reservoirs Activities in 1998* (Eds. N. Tuna / J. Öztürk). Ankara: 119–132.

ÖKSE, T. A. 2001.

“Excavations at Gre Virike, 1999”, *Salvage Project of the Archaeological Heritage of the Ilisu and Carchemish Dam Reservoirs Activities in 1999* (Eds. N. Tuna / J. Öztürk / J. Velibeyoğlu) Ankara: 263–275.

ÖKSE, T. A. 2002.

“Excavations at Gre Virike in 2000”, *Salvage Project of the Archaeological Heritage of the Ilisu and Carchemish Dam Reservoirs Activities in 2000* (Eds. N. Tuna / J. Velibeyoğlu) Ankara: 241–251.

ÖKSE, T. A. 2006a.

“Early Bronze Age Graves at Gre Virike (Period IIB): An Extraordinary Cemetery on the Middle Euphrates”, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 65: 1–37.

ÖKSE, T. A. 2006b.

“Gre Virike’de Bulunan Silindir Mühürler ve Kaplar Üzerinde Yer Alan Silindir Mühür Baskıları”, *Studies*

in *Honor of Hayat Erkanal Cultural Reflections* (Eds. Erkanal-Öktü, A., et al.). İstanbul: 546–551.

ÖKSE, T. A. 2007a.

“A ‘High’ Terrace at Gre Virike to the North of Carchemish: Power of Local Rulers as Founders?”, *Euphrates Valley Settlement. The Carchemish Sector in the Third Millennium BC* (Ed. E. Peltenburg). Oxford: 94–104.

ÖKSE, T. A. 2007b.

“Continuity and Change in Mortuary Practices of the Early and Middle Bronze Ages in the Middle Euphrates Region”, *Sociétés Humaines et Changement Climatique a la fin du Troisième Millénaire: Une Crise À-t-elle eu Lien en Hatue Mésopotamie?* (Eds. C. Kuzucuoğlu / C. Marro). İstanbul: 139–156.

ÖKSE, T. A. 2011.

“The Early Bronze Age in Southeastern Anatolia”, *Ancient Anatolia 10.000–323*, (Eds. S. R. Steadman / G. McMahon). Oxford: 260–289.

ÖKSE, T.A./ENGİN, A./TEKİNALP, V. M./DAĞ, H. U./GÖRMÜŞ, A. 2001.

“Research at Mezraa Höyük, 1999”, *Salvage Project of the Archaeological Heritage of the Ilisu and Carchemish Dam Reservoirs Activities in 1999* (Eds. N. Tuna / J. Öztürk / J. Velibeyoğlu). Ankara: 187–203.

ÖKSE, T. A./TEKİNALP, V. M. 1999.

“Mezraa Höyük: Research in 1998”, *Salvage Project of the Archaeological Heritage of the Ilisu and Carchemish Dam Reservoirs Activities in 1998* (Eds. N. Tuna / J. Öztürk). Ankara: 175–90.

ÖZGEN, E. 1989/90.

“Oylum Höyük, A Brief Account of Investigations Conducted in 1987 and 1988”, *Anatolica XVI*: 21–29.

PARAYRE, D. 1990.

“Seals and Seal Impressions From Tell Leilan 1985”, *American Journal of Archaeology* 94/4: 556–567.

PEISER, B. 2003.

“Climate Change and Civilisation Collapse”, *The Science, Politics and Economics of Climate Change* (Ed. K. Okonski). London: 191–201.

- PELTENBURG, E. 1999.  
 “Tell Jerablus Tahtani 1992–1996: A Summary”, *Archaeology of the Upper Syrian Euphrates: The Thishrin Dam Area Proceedings of the International Symposium* (Eds. G. del O. Lete / J-L.M. Fenollós). Barcelona: 97–105.
- PELTENBURG, E./CAMPBELL, S./CROFT, P./D. LUNT/MURRAY, M. A./WATT, M. E. 1995.  
 “Jerablus-Tahtani, Syria, 1992–94: Preliminary Report”, *Levant* 27: 1–70.
- PEREIRO, C.V. 1999.  
 “Tell Qara Quzaq: A Summary of the First Results”, *Archaeology of the Upper Syrian Euphrates: The Thishrin Dam Area Proceedings of the International Symposium* (Eds. G. del O. Lete / J-L.M. Fenollós). Barcelona: 117–127.
- PETTINATO, G. 1976.  
 “Carchemish – Kār-kamiš: le Prime Attestazioni del III Millennio”, *Oriens Antiquus* 15: 11–15.
- PITTMAN, H. 1999.  
 “Administrative Evidence from Hacinebi Tepe: an Essay on the Local and the Colonial”, *Paléorient* 25/1, 43–50.
- PORTER, A. 2007.  
 “The Ceramic Assemblages of the Third Millenium in the Euphrates Region”, *Céramique de L’Âge du Bronze en Syrie II, L’Euphrate et la région de Jezirah* (Eds. M. Maqdissi / V. Matoïan / C. Nicole). Beirut: 3–20.
- PRAG, K. 1970.  
 “The 1959 Deep Sounding at Harran in Turkey”, *Levant* 2: 63–86.
- ROOBAERT, A./BUNNENS, G. 1999.  
 “Excavations at Tell Ahmar-Til Barsib”, *Archaeology of the Upper Syrian Euphrates: The Thishrin Dam Area Proceedings of the International Symposium* (Eds. G. del O. Lete / J-L.M. Fenollós). Barcelona: 163–78.
- ROVA, E. 2011.  
 “Ceramic”, *Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean*, Vol. I. (Ed. M. Lebeau). Turnhout: 49–127.
- SCHMIDT, K. 2002.  
*Norşuntepe Kleinfunde II. Artefakte aus Felsgestein, Knochen und Geweih, Ton, Metal und Glas*. Mainz.
- SCHNEIDER, G. 1994.  
 “Rohstoffe und Brenntechnik von Keramik in Nordmesopotamien”, *Handwerk und Technologie im Alten Orient* (Ed. R. B. Wartke). Mainz: 99–109.
- SCHWARTZ, G. M. 2007a.  
 “The Early-Middle Bronze Transition: Evidence from Umm el-Marra and Western Syria”, *From Relative Chronology to Absolute Chronology: The Second Millennium BC in Syria-Palestine* (Eds. P. Matthiae/F. Pinnock/L. Nigro/N. Marchetti). Rome: 511–530.
- SCHWARTZ, G. M. 2007b.  
 “Taking the Long View on Collapse: A Syrian Perspective”, *Sociétés Humaines et Changement Climatique a la fin du Troisième Millénaire: Une Crise À-t-elle eu Lien en Hatue Mésopotamie?* (Eds. C. Kuzucuoğlu / C. Marro). İstanbul: 45–68.
- SCHWARTZ, G. M. 2012.  
 “Northern Exposures: Third to Second Millennium BC Transformations in Upper Mesopotamia”, *Looking North: The Socioeconomic Dynamics of Northern Mesopotamia and Anatolian Regions during the Late Third and Early Second Millennium BC* (Eds. N. Laneri / P. Pfälzner / S. Valentini). Wiesbaden: 255–263.
- SCHWARTZ, G./CURVERS, H./DUNHAM, S./STUART, B./WEBER, J. 2006.  
 “A Third-Millennium B.C. Elite Mortuary Complex at Umm el-Marra, Syria: 2002 and 2004 Excavations”, *American Journal of Archaeology* 110: 603–641.
- SCHWARTZ, G. M./MILLER, N. 2007.  
 “The “Crisis” of the Late Third Millennium B.C.: Ecofactual and Artifactual Evidence from Umm el-Marra and the Jabbul Plain”, *Sociétés Humaines et Changement Climatique a la fin du Troisième Millénaire: Une Crise À-t-elle eu Lien en Hatue Mésopotamie?* (Eds. C. Kuzucuoğlu / C. Marro). İstanbul: 179–204.
- SCONZO, P. 2007.  
 “Collapse or Continuity? The Case of the EB-MB Transition at Tell Shiyukh Tahtani”, *Sociétés Humaines et Changement Climatique a la fin du Troisième Millénaire: Une Crise À-t-elle eu Lien en Hatue Mésopotamie?* (Eds. C. Kuzucuoğlu / C. Marro). İstanbul: 267–309.

SCONZO, P. 2015.

“Ceramics”, *Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean Middle Euphrates* (Eds. U. Finkbeiner / M. Novak / F. Sakal / P. Sconzo). Tübingen: 85-202.

STAUBWASSER, M./WEISS, H. 2006.

“Holocene Climate and Cultural Evolution in Late Prehistoric–Early Historic West Asia”, *ScienceDirect* 66: 372–387.

STEIN, G. J./BERNBECK, R./COURSEY, C./MCMAHON, A./MILLER, N. F./MISIR, A./NICOLA, J./PITTMAN, H./POLLOCK, S./WRIGHT, H. 1996.

“Uruk Colonies and Anatolian Communities: an Interim Report on the 1992–1993 Excavations at Hacinebi, Turkey”, *American Journal of Archaeology* 100/2: 205–260.

STROMMINGER, E. 1970.

“Keramik” *Zwei der Vorläufiger Bericht über die von der Deutschen Orientgesellschaft und Mitteln der Stiftung Volkswagenwerk in Habuba Kabira und in Mumbaqaq unternommenen archäologischen Untersuchungen, Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orientgesellschaft* 102: 44–50.

STROMMINGER, E. 1993.

“Ausgrabungen in Tall Bi’a 1992”, *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orientgesellschaft* 125: 5–31.

STROMMINGER, E./KOHLMEYER, K. 1998.

*Ausgrabungen in Tall Bi’a, Tuttl I: die Altorientalischen Bestattungen*. Saarbrücken.

THISSEN, L. 1985.

“The Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Pottery from Hayaz Höyük”, *Anatolica* 12: 75–130.

TSUNAKI, A. 1995.

“Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Layers of the Matsuma: The Results of Soundings at Square 15 Gc”, *Bulletin of the Ancient Orient Museum* 16: 75–107.

WEISS, H. 2000.

“Beyond the Younger Dryas: Collapse as Adaptation to Abrupt Climate Change in Ancient West Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean”, *Environmental Disaster and the Archaeology of Human Response*, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, *Anthropological Papers* 7: 75–98.

WEISS, H./RADLEY, B R. S. 2001.

“What Drives Societal Collapse?”, *Science* 291 no. 5504: 609–610.

WOOLLEY, C. L./BARNETT, R. D. 1952.

*Carchemish. Report on the Excavations at Jerablus on Behalf of the British Museum Part III: The Excavations in the Inner Town and Hittite Inscriptions*. London.

WOSSINK, A. 2009.

*Challenging Climate Change, Competition and Cooperation among Pastoralists and Agriculturalists in Northern Mesopotamia (c. 3000–1600 BC)*: Leiden.

YALÇIKLI, D./TEKİNALP, V. M. 2004.

“Mezraa Höyük 2002 Yılı Kurtarma Kazıları”, XXV. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı 1. Ankara: 377–386.

YALÇIKLI, D./TEKİNALP, V. M. 2011.

“Mezraa Höyük 2002 Yılı Kazıları/ The 2002 Excavations Season at Mezraa Höyük”, *Ilısu ve Karkamış Baraj Gölleri Altında Kalacak Arkeolojik ve Kültür Varlıklarını Kurtarma Projesi 2002 Yılı Çalışmaları/ Salvage Project of the Archaeological Heritage of the Ilısu and Carchemish Dam Reservoirs Activities in 2002* (Eds. N. Tuna / O. Donan). İstanbul: 119–155.

ZITTLER, R. 1997.

“Surface Collections and Excavations in the Lower Town and Lower Town South”, *Subsistence and Settlement in a Marginal Environment: Tell es-Sweyhat, 1989–1995 Preliminary Report*, MASCA Research Papers in Science and Archaeology 14. Philadelphia: Museum Applied Science Center for Archeology, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Ed. R. Zettler). 35–72.