

TERQA PRELIMINARY REPORTS

NO. 10

**THE FOURTH SEASON:
INTRODUCTION AND THE STRATIGRAPHIC RECORD**

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late prehistory to the end of the cuneiform tradition

Edited by Giorgio Buccellati

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*The Fourth Season:
Introduction and the Stratigraphic Record*

by Giorgio Buccellati

During the fourth season of excavations at Terqa, a major clarification was obtained of the city defensive system. Structurally it was seen to consist of three massive defensive rings from the third millennium, for a total width of some 20 meters and a perimeter of about one mile, and with excellent stratigraphic evidence for long term extramural deposition in a moat-like depression. Dated typologically and by C-14 to the early part of the third millennium, and with antecedents which go back to the fourth millennium and perhaps earlier, this is the largest among the most ancient fortification systems of the Near East. —A second major result was the discovery of a private archive of cuneiform tablets, belonging to a man by the name of Puzurum, of which the stratigraphic context is described here. The tablets were preserved in a room which served for the dead storage of a variety of items, important and not. —Two new periods are now also documented. For the first millennium B. C. we have some interesting burials and possible traces of a “nomadic” or “Aramean” temporary settlement at the site. From Parthian times we have two isolated artifacts, without connections with any structural remains. Finally, we have found for the first time evidence of modest dwellings, from the medieval or early modern period.

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PREFACE

The first nine issues of the *Terqa Preliminary Reports* were published as fascicles of the journal *Syro-Mesopotamian Studies*. This tenth issue appears in book form because of the quantity of data involved and the degree of the elaboration to which they were subjected. The basic modular concept of the reports is, however, retained. This volume deals extensively, but exclusively, with the stratigraphic record. A typological analysis of the artifacts will be provided in future fascicles of *SMS* and in a new series of *Terqa Final Reports* which will begin to appear in the near future.

The present report contains a greater amount of detailed information than is usual for preliminary reports. This refers in particular to the city defensive system and the private archive room STCA1. In the latter case the reason is that the excavations of the archive are essentially complete, and the first two volumes of the *Terqa Final Reports*, due to appear soon, are devoted to the tablets and seal impressions from that archive; while a final stratigraphic report is reserved to a later volume which will deal with the residential quarter as a whole, an extensive preliminary report seemed useful at this point, with details about the interesting depositional history of the room. As for the defensive system, we do not expect to continue its excavation in the immediate future. For this reason, I have decided to give a fuller account of the results of this season, which are of major importance for the study of early urbanism in Syria and the Near East. This remains a preliminary report, because (1) only a portion of the data uncovered has been analyzed, and (2) several hypotheses could easily be tested by further excavations. It will be however an extensive documentary report.

The author is responsible for the presentation of the data in the form given here and for the final interpretation of the stratigraphic sequences. The contributions of staff members are acknowledged for individual chapters in the measure in which they contributed to the substantive elaboration of the material. But the major collaboration came from the individuals mentioned on the title page. Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati contributed in an essential way to the definition of the research strategy, to its implementation in the field and to its embodiment in this report; in particular, she oversaw the analysis of the artifactual material and its relationship to the stratigraphy. James Knudstad was also instrumental in defining the overall goals of the excavation, and he was indispensable in articulating the details of the stratigraphic sequence, especially of the defensive system.

Renata M. Liggett was of invaluable assistance in the final editorial coordination of the publication, particularly with regard to the complex graphic documentation.

Publication of this volume, the first book-length report on the *Terqa Archaeological Project*, was aided by a grant from the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, which has sponsored the excavations of the 1978 Season. For this, too, we gladly acknowledge our warm appreciation.

G. B.

September 8, 1979

ERRATA CORRIGE – BM 10

Location:	Instead of:	Read:
Cover	TPR No. 11	TPR No. 10
p. 23, line 9	DS 3 XX-XX	DS3, 62-63
p. 32, line 4	FT15	(FT15)
p. 34, line 16	realignes	realigns
p. 44, line 11	TA3	TQ3
p. 50, line 2	20ms.	20cm.
p. 71, 6.2.5.	The Evidence of	The Artifactual Evidence:
p. 72, line 8-9	From our excavations... Qraya.	From our excavations... it appears that a ware called HH by us at Qraya may be an early type of TM ware.
p. 72, line 11	Delete "This was then maybe"	
p. 73, line 1	Delete "EDI...."	
p. 77, in the 2400- date range		Add intramural deposition in ARB, and extramural deposition in MP13+
p. 83, line 4	presuppsed	presupposed
p. 87, line 7	Texical	Lexical
Figure 16, legend	Linear patterns...extend	extent
Ill. 25 & Figure 17	Delete STCD3 & STCF	
	STCD1	STCD3
	Room to the right of STCD2 = STCD1	

Figure 9 :

Between FT13 & FT10 = FT11
 Between FT17 & FT16 = FT6
 White arrow in FT6 = FT5

Figure 11 :

at 1200, < 300 = FT69
 at 1800, < 225 = FT45 & 46
 at 1900, < 225 = FT40
 at 2200, < 290 = FT54
 at 2175, < 225 = FT36
 at 2650, < 200 = FT60
 at 2850, < 220 = FT60
 at 2900, < 230 = FT57

Figure 13 :

Cultural section: representation of CW4/4A should show heavy dot pattern exactly as that in FT16, CW4/MP13+.

at 2500W, < 100 = FT30
 at 2550W, < 175 = FT29
 at 2550W, < 200 = FT28
 at 2300W, < 050 = FT54
 at 2300W, < 125 = FT31
 at 2325W, < 150 = FT53
 at 2200W, < 175 = FT50
 at 1600W, < 200 = ◇C, ◇OG
 at 1700W, < 200 = ◇C, ◇LB
 at 1100W, < 100 = FT25
 at 1000W, < 200 = FT17
 at 200W, < 125 = FT20
 at 200W, < 100 = FT21
 at 100E, < 200 = FT10

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