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THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE EXCAVATIONS AT SELENKAHIYE, SYRIA

Maurits van Loon, Editor

TERRA-COTTA FIGURINES AND MODEL VEHICLES

Harold Liebowitz

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TERRA-COTTA FIGURINES AND MODEL VEHICLES

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Primary sources and interpretive analyses for the study of Mesopotamian civilization and its influences from late prehistory to the end of the cuneiform tradition

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TERRA-COTTA FIGURINES AND MODEL VEHICLES

by Harold Liebowitz

Eight hundred and twenty-five figurines and model vehicles were discovered during the 1965 and 1967 seasons of excavation at Tell Selenkahiye and Wreyde, Syria. The assemblage included human figurines, animal figurines, animal figurines with riders, and model wagons and chariots. This fascicle includes the following sections: (1) technique, (2) classification, (3) stratigraphy and style, (4) the regional character of the human figurines, (5) the function of the figurines, and (6) a catalogue divided into four subsections—(a) human figurines, (b) animal figurines, (c) animal and rider figurines, and (d) wagons and chariots.

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FOREWORD

This fascicle is the first to appear in a series that will form the final report on the excavations carried out in 1965 and 1967 at Selenkahiye, in the Syrian Euphrates dam reservoir, by the University of Chicago Oriental Institute, thanks to permits granted by the Syrian General Direction of Antiquities and Museums and financial support provided by the National Science Foundation (GS-873 and GS-1416).

In the fall of 1965, while the Oriental Institute's Euphrates Valley Expedition was working at Mureybit on the east bank, Rudolph H. Dornemann carried out a preliminary sounding at Selenkahiye on the west bank. Ghislaine de Vallois van Loon was the expedition's photographer for that season. In the spring of 1967 the Euphrates Valley Expedition dug for three months at Tell Selenkahiye and its southern extension, Wreyde. Rudolph H. Dornemann, Alfred J. Hoerth, Stanislaw Loffreda, and myself acted as site supervisors, Maude de Schauensee as registrar (also drawing many of the finds) and Isabelle de Vallois as photographer. Dr. Willem van Zeist and Dr. Pierre Ducos studied the plant and animal remains on the spot. We were greatly assisted by Mr. 'Abdurrazzaq Zaquq, who represented the General Direction of Antiquities and also supervised part of the excavation. I directed the expedition during both seasons.

The manuscript for this monograph, *Terra-Cotta Figurines and Model Vehicles*, by Harold Liebowitz, was submitted to me in 1975 for inclusion as a chapter in the report on results of our excavations at Tell Selenkahiye. While several important preliminary reports of excavations in Syria and studies of the art of Syria have been published since Dr. Liebowitz submitted his manuscript, the four-fold scheme for division of Middle Bronze Age (including what is now called Early Bronze IV) terra-cotta figurines into four regional manifestations—Palestine, coastal Syria, Orontes Valley, and Euphrates Valley—which he proposed in his dissertation (Ann Arbor, 1972) and before the General Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, in December, 1973, remains valid. While the inclusion of the new data would have enriched the following study, it would not have altered the results substantially.

The preliminary report on the excavation results, including appendices by Pierre Ducos and Willem van Zeist, appeared in *Annales Archéologiques Arabes Syriennes* 18 (1968), pp. 21-36. Shorter articles have appeared in the *Oriental Institute Reports* for 1965/66, pp. 20-22, 1966/67, pp. 13-15, and 1967/68, pp. 8-10 and 25; in *Archaeology* 22 (1969), pp. 276-277.

From 1971 to 1975 the excavation was continued by the University of Amsterdam's Euphrates Valley Expedition, again under my direction. The last preliminary report on its work has appeared in *Annals of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 44 (1979), pp. 97-112.

The remainder of the final report on the University of Chicago work at Selenkahiye will now be integrated into the report on its continuation by the University of Amsterdam, to appear in the near future as follows:

Architecture and Stratigraphy, by Maurits N. van Loon (1967) and Diederik J. W. Meijer (1972-75)

Graves and Finds from the Graves, by Maurits N. van Loon (1967) and Diederik J. W. Meijer (1972-75)

Pottery from the Houses Excavated in 1967, by Maurits N. van Loon

together with other chapters dealing with the 1972-75 results.

My thanks are due to Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati for rendering publication in this modular format.

Maurits van Loon

Amsterdam, January, 1988

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