

MUSEUM
GN
776.32
I73
S64
1981

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY^{of}
PENNSYLVANIA



Attn:house 0777

MUSEUM LIBRARY

**UNIVERSITY OF
PENNSYLVANIA**



**George C. Vaillant
Book Fund**

**AN EARLY VILLAGE SITE
AT ZAWI CHEMI SHANIDAR**

UNDENA PUBLICATIONS

MALIBU 1981

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

Edited by Giorgio Buccellati

Volume Thirteen

Published Under the Auspices of
IIMAS

The International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies

An Early Village Site
At Zawi Chemi Shanidar

by Rose L. Solecki



Undena Publications
Malibu 1980

The early village site at Zawi Chemi Shanidar, located in Shanidar Valley in the Zagros Mountains of northern Iraq, dates from the ninth millennium B.C., a time when such open settlements were being established in favored locations in Southwestern Asia. During this early Post-Pleistocene period important cultural changes were taking place in the region, and the Zawi Chemi village site reflects these new subsistence strategies and technological processes. Plant food was processed in sizable amounts on the basis of abundant milling equipment, and a study of the animal bones suggests that sheep were being kept by the end of the Zawi Chemi occupation, although hunting was still important. The rich Zawi Chemi cultural inventory represents both terminal Palaeolithic and early Neolithic traditions. It was in fact a period of much experimentation, and what most characterizes Zawi Chemi material culture is the variety of the tools and the technological and even artistic innovations present in it.

This report is a study of the site of Zawi Chemi Shanidar with an emphasis on the early Zawi Chemi village, although a later occupation dating after the sixth century A.D. is also discussed. The culture of Zawi Chemi village is fully described and interpreted; its relationships to both local and regional environmental settings discussed; comparisons are made with roughly contemporary sites in Southwestern Asia (e.g. Karim Shahr and Natufian); and finally there is a cultural and ecological overview.

Library of Congress Card Number 80-54671

ISBN 0-89003-068-5 (softbound)

0-89003-067-7 (hardbound)

© 1981 by Undena Publications.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photo-copy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author or publisher.

Undena Publications, P.O.Box 97, Malibu, CA 90265, U.S.A.

FOREWORD

Many persons have contributed to this study of the site of Zawi Chemi Shanidar, and I wish to thank them here at the beginning of this report. First, I wish to thank the State Organization of Antiquities of Iraq who made all the official arrangements necessary for our work at Shanidar. Furthermore, I wish to personally thank the following government representatives who were with us during the 1956-1957 and 1960 seasons when the excavations at Zawi Chemi Shanidar took place: Sabri Shukri, Tariq Madhloom, and Ibrahim el Zayri. I also wish to mention and to thank my three colleagues and friends, George Maranjian, Philip E. L. Smith, and Jacques Bordaz, each of whom spent some time in excavation at the site. In addition, I must thank Arlette Leroi-Gourhan for her important palynological study (Appendix III); Isabella Milling Drew for her study of metallurgy from Layer A at Zawi Chemi Shanidar (Appendix II); and Nancy M. Waggoner for her valuable assistance in the identification of a coin found in Layer A at the site (Appendix I).

Lastly, I want to thank my husband, Ralph S. Solecki, who originally located the site of Zawi Chemi Shanidar, and who has encouraged and aided me throughout the preparation of this report.

The investigations at Zawi Chemi Shanidar as part of the larger Shanidar project were financed under grants from the Smithsonian Institution, the American Philosophical Society, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Columbia University, and the National Science Foundation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
LIST OF FIGURES	iv
LIST OF PLATES	v
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. EXCAVATIONS	2
3. STRATIGRAPHY	3
3.1. Layer A	3
3.2. Layer B	4
4. CULTURAL INVENTORY OF LAYER A	6
5. CULTURAL INVENTORY OF LAYER B	8
5.1. Chipped Stone Industry	8
5.1.1. Microlithic Chipped Stone Industry	8
5.1.2. Standard-sized Chipped Stone Industry	13
5.1.3. Cores	23
5.1.4. Use-retouched Pieces	25
5.1.5. Debitage	25
5.1.6. Summary of the Zawi Chemi Chipped Stone Industry	25
5.2. Pecked, Ground, or Polished Stone Industry	26
5.3. Flaked Stone Industry	43
5.4. Miscellany	46
5.5. Bone, Antler, Horn, and Ivory Industries	47
5.5.1. Bone Industry	47
5.5.2. Antler and Horn Industry	51
5.5.3. Ivory Industry	51
5.5.4. Summary of the Zawi Chemi Bone, Antler, Horn, and Ivory Industries	52
5.6. Architecture	53
5.7. Mass of Animal Bones—Ritual (?) Paraphernalia	53

6. ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND –POST-PLEISTOCENE	55
7. CONCLUSIONS	60
7.1. Summary of the Material Remains	60
7.2. Comparisons with Other Sites	63
7.3. Cultural and Ecological Overview	67
APPENDIX I. Letter from Nancy M. Waggoner identifying coin from Layer A, Zawi Chemi Shanidar	71
APPENDIX II. Evidence of Metallurgy at Zawi Chemi Shanidar. By Isabella Milling Drew	72
APPENDIX III. Analyse pollinique de Zawi Chemi. By Arlette Leroi-Gourhan	77
BIBLIOGRAPHY	81
FIGURES	
Following in sequential order	after page 85
PLATES	
Following in sequential order after Figures	see List on page v

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1. Map of Zawi Chemi Shanidar
- Figure 2. Cross Sections A-A, B-B, Zawi Chemi Shanidar
- Figure 3. Plan of Excavations at Zawi Chemi Shanidar
- Figure 4. Northwest Wall, Test 1
- Figure 5. Northeast Wall, Cut 1
- Figure 6. Northeast Wall, Cut 2
- Figure 7. Structure I, Cut 1, at .95 Meter Level
- Figure 8. Structure I, Cut 1, at 1.25 Meter Level
- Figure 9. Structure I, Cut 1, at 1.50 Meter Level
- Figure 10. Microlithic Chipped Stone Tools
- Figure 11. Denticulate Tools
- Figure 12. Notched Pieces and Side Scrapers
- Figure 13. Side Scrapers, Steep Scrapers, End Scrapers, and Borers
- Figure 14. Burins, Backed Blade, Truncated Pieces, and Pièces Esquillées
- Figure 15. Abraders, Pecking Stones, Rubbers, Pendants, Punctated Stone, Bead, Disc, and Incised Stone
- Figure 16. Celts and Chisels
- Figure 17. Pollen Diagram for Zawi Chemi Shanidar

LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1. Views of Zawi Chemi Shanidar
- Plate 2. Features and Artifacts from Layer A
- Plate 3. Structure I, Modern Animal Shelter, Modern Flood Plain
Agriculture at Shanidar Village
- Plate 4. Mullers, Querns, Bowl, and Mortar
- Plate 5. Abraders, Pounder, and Hammerstones
- Plate 6. Pecking Stones, Rubbers, Ring, Cupped Stone, Shaped Slab,
and Grooved Stones
- Plate 7. Celts
- Plate 8. Pendants, Beads, Disc, Fossils, and Other Small Miscellany
- Plate 9. Choppers, Spall Tools, Spall Core, Chisels, and Flake Knife
- Plate 10. Bone Objects
- Plate 11. Bone, Antler, Horn, and Ivory Objects
- Plate 12. Mass of Animal Bones, Cut 1
- Plate 13. Cores

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1. Inventory of Microlithic Chipped Stone Tools—Cut 2
- Table 2. Inventory of Standard-Sized Chipped Stone Tools—Cut 2
- Table 3. Inventory of Cores
- Table 4. Inventory of Pecked, Ground, or Polished Stone Tools
- Table 5. Inventory of Flaked Stone Tools
- Table 6. Summary of Chipped Stone Industry from Cut 2