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TILMEN HÖYÜK: A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS AND A PHOTOGRAPHIC ATLAS OF ALKIM'S EXCAVATIONS OF THE 2ND MILLENNIUM BC LAYERS

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The archaeological finds and insights gained from a total of ten seasons of excavations at Tilmen Höyük (Pl. I.1-2), were published by Bahadır Alkım at the end of each excavation season in the form of brief annual preliminary reports (Fig. 1).[1] During the first year of excavation at Tilmen Höyük (1959), the central section of the flat, wide surface at the top of the höyük, measuring 10 x 10 m, was excavated. At the end of the excavation season, the trench had been dug to a depth of 5.60 m, and the stratigraphy of the höyük down to this depth was determined. After that, the excavation team (Pl. I.3) moved from Yesemek to Tilmen, the excavations were concentrated on an extensive area in the southern part of the flat surface of the mound. The main focus at Tilmen continued to be on this area (Fig. 8), and work continued

1 Cf. Alkım 1960; 1962a; 1962b; 1962c; 1964a; 1964b; 1965; 1967; 1970; 1972; 1974a; 1974b; 1974c. Due the premature death of B. Alkım, director of the Turkish Archaeological Expedition to the Islahiye Valley, only the initial results of the excavations carried out at this important site could be shared with the scientific community (see the references above) and no final report was published by him. After his passing away, the task of preparing the final report on the excavations was passed on to the Author (see also Duru 1987; 1990; 2003): Gedikli Karahöyük was published in two volumes (Duru 2006; Duru 2010), which were followed by the first volume on Tilmen Höyük (Duru 2013). A second volume on the pottery from Tilmen Höyük is being prepared by Gülsün Umurtak and others. The scientific results of Kırışkal Höyük excavations are being prepared for publication too. The present text, edited by Nicolò Marchetti, is an abridged version of Duru 2003, which is out of print and difficult for foreign colleagues to obtain. It was prepared using notes, plans, photos, negatives, and drawings from the excavation archives currently in the Author's possession. This version, which also presents much unnpublished documentation, does not include the results and the revisions from the latest Turco-Italian excavations at the site, as it is intended to be a report on what we did at that time. All the small finds from the Tilmen excavations are currently housed in Gaziantep Museum, while a selection for study purposes mainly of pottery is housed in the Archaeological Cabinet of the Department of Archaeology at Istanbul University. Federica Proni and Claudia D'Orazio kindly and professionally prepared the plates. This work is part of the publication project "Tilmen Höyük II – The Excavations in the Upper Town", coordinated by Valentina Orsi and generously funded by The Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications.

there until the end of the excavations in 1972 (with a break between 1965 and 1968 when Gedikli Karahöyük was excavated), while an additional conservation season was carried out in 2002. Along with the monumental Palace Complex, an Inner Wall that surrounded the mound on the upper slopes of the höyük, and an Outer Wall that surrounded it on the lower part of the höyük and enclosed the western terrace (Outer City/Lower City) were also excavated, including the city gates.

The excavations were conducted under extremely difficult conditions that were peculiar to this location: in most of the settlement periods at the höyük, the buildings were constructed with the volcanic basalt rocks, that were widely found in the region, and mudbricks were only used in a limited way in the upper sections of the walls, in this way the höyük seemed to be completely made of stone. Some of the stones weighed several hundred kilos (while some even weighed a few tons), so it was extremely difficult to move them out the place they were found. On the flat sections of the mound a railroad truck was used and the stones removed during the excavations could be carried, albeit with difficulty, to a distant place. However, where there were no rails for the railroad truck, it was not possible to remove stones and earth, so they were left nearby the excavation area, causing further obstacles when it became necessary to extend the exploration, and in most cases the trenches could not be extended.

1. The 2nd millennium BC settlements

The Middle Bronze age (hereafter MBA) settlements consist of five separate settlement levels that were called levels IIIb-a and IIc-a and make up an accumulation of 3 m in some places. The earliest MBA phases are represented by level IIIb and level IIIa, following it after a brief time gap. As these two earliest MBA settlements were investigated in the comparatively narrow Trench D, between the palace buildings, the architecture could not be adequately examined, and therefore the structural techniques and plan characteristics of the early MBA buildings are not sufficiently understood. However, it is evident that there were some important architectural developments at the beginning of the MBA. For example, much larger buildings replaced the small scale buildings of the final Early Bronze age as exposed in the deep sounding (Fig. 8, Pls. XLIII.2, XLIV.1). In the upper part of the accumulation of Trench D, there are some walls over 5 m in length and built of stone up to 3 m in height from the

foundation. This suggests that it would be correct to look for the forerunners of the monumental architecture of level IIc in IIIa, the preceding level. Levels IIc and IIb are the most thoroughly investigated settlements of the MBA, and also represent Tilmen's richest and most powerful period. There were no clearly definable architectural remains from level IIa in the excavations area (actually in the Turco-Italian excavations this level has now been assigned – together with most of the IIb phase too – to the Late Bronze age, cf. Marchetti 2010). Most of the building sections visible today at Tilmen Höyük belong to settlements IIc and IIb. In view of this, the architectural characteristics described below are predominantly those of these two levels.

1.1 *The defence system and city walls*

About the level II settlement architecture, only the palace buildings are divided into three subphases, called "c, b and a." It is not clear to which subphase of level II the defence system with its city gates and other related architectural characteristics belongs to: however, as the monumental buildings of Tilmen II are those from levels IIc and IIb, it can be assumed that the defence system and its related buildings belong to these two periods. The IIc and IIb building phases at Tilmen Höyük are represented both in the Inner City and in the Outer City. On the southern part of the flat summit of the mound, there are large, impressive buildings, and the Inner City is protected by a strong wall. A large section of the Outer City is the extension to the West that forms the Terrace; it surrounds the höyük on every side placing the Inner City at the centre and is surrounded by a freestanding defence wall (Pls. II-V).

The freestanding walls, independent from each other, that surround the sections of the Tilmen II settlement, known as the Outer and Inner City, are approximately 900 m and 500 m in length respectively. Although both these wall systems have been subject to repairs and additions, it is evident that the original plan has been entirely preserved. The construction method and technique of the two systems are similar. The lower parts of the walls were usually constructed, from the foundation up to a height of 3-4 m, with very large stones, 1-1.5 m in thickness. The stones used in the construction of some of the walls are so large that they weigh a few tons, and can be called "cyclopean" (Pl. XI.2). Along with this construction method and technique, in some places – for example at the edges of the doors, at the corners and at the tops of the blocks – stones were put in place that had been cut at 90° and with carefully smoothed surfaces showing evidence of a high quality workmanship. Although high

quality workmanship is seen in both walls, it is more evident in the Inner City walls (Pls. XI.3, XII.1). The section facing South-West of the Inner City walls – at the same time the retaining walls of some of the buildings belonging to the Palace Complex – has some extraordinarily well cut stones that are the most impressive examples of this technique. Another characteristic common to both wall systems is their construction as a series of single independent blocks, that are adjusted at irregular intervals to cause them to turn and change direction in order to surround the höyük. The Outer Wall consists of around 50 independent blocks, of which 42 have been clearly identified, while the Inner Wall consists of around 18 blocks. The length of these blocks varies between 7 m and 15 m, and the number of rooms in them varies from one to five. Although the construction of the walls, in the form of separate blocks, had some technical and practical advantages and benefits, a serious problem, that resulted from this, was the separation of the blocks from each other due to earth movements, such as earthquakes and landslides, leading to gaps between them. In fact, in some places gaps of up to 1.5 m had occurred between the blocks at the joining points.

From the point of view of the construction technique and plan, the defence system of the Inner and Outer Walls, of which a large part was excavated, seems to be like a connected series of casemate blocks in appearance. It is apparent that most of these blocks were inhabited and there were even some burials under the floors of some of them. Among the approximately 70 blocks of the casemate defensive wall system, two of them are considerably different from the others. One of these is Building F (Fig. 4, Pl. IX) – the block on the northern side of the Eastern Outer Gate K-1 – and the other one is the block consisting of several room-like sections on both sides of the Eastern Inner Gate with steps K-5 (Fig. 5). The sides of the door of Building F are covered with carefully cut stone slabs, and generally show evidence of high quality workmanship. It is clear that the building had an important function, although nothing was found to indicate what that function might have been. To the South of Gate K-1 there is a monumental block made of two rooms, Tower 1 (Fig. 3, it is also visible in Fig. 8).

It is possible to make similar comments about the buildings on both sides of Gate K-5, which has a complex plan (Figs. 5-6). Most of the sections inside this block are very small, in fact too small to be inhabited. However, the section on the southern side of K-5 has a door opening from the outside. It is impossible to suggest what the function of this area could have been, but as none of the sections are big enough to

be used as dwellings, it may be considered to be a deliberate thickening of the wall by means of a technique that involves adding a second parallel wall and filling in the gap between the two sections.

1.2 *The city gates*

Three gates in the Outer Wall providing entrance into the city were identified on the East, North and West sides. The main entrance to the city (K-1) was from the East (Pls. VI-VIII). Between the gate thresholds, at both ends of the apparently fairly plain passage between the blocks at K-1, a central door formed a small gate room or inner court. This entrance was renovated at a later period, probably due to some defence concerns, and a second Gate (K-6) was added 22 m outside of K-1 (Fig. 2). This gate, which was not organically related to the Outer Wall but linked to Gate K-1, was in the form of a passage between two towers. These towers were made with very large stone blocks and two lion-shaped stone blocks had been placed on the outer front. An interesting factor is the extreme difficulty of the approach to the monumental gates, even though this is the main entrance to the city. This is because the approach road to the front Gate K-6, that begins at a distance of around 50-60 m away, is made of fairly large uneven stones. This road is even difficult for a person to walk on and suggests that entrance to the city was made deliberately difficult.

Another entrance on the Outer Wall is the North Gate (K-2), which is entirely made of well cut stones (Pls. X-XI.1). This entrance is like a small gate in appearance and has a small room inside, between the inner and outer thresholds. Due to a large pile of stones in this section of the höyük, the excavations could not be extended inwards and therefore the entrance from the gate into the city could not be clearly determined. It is clear from the remains that some alterations were later made to the inner section of Gate K-2. There are some obvious differences between this entrance and the one on the eastern side. In comparison to the roughly made, but impressive entrance of K-l and K-6, the careful workmanship of K-2 suggests that this could have been an entrance with a special purpose.

The third gate of the Lower City, Gate K-3 (a secondary entrance) located on the western wall, is also made of well cut stones and resembles K-2 in plan (Pl. XIII.2). The only difference is that a set of four steps in the inner court of K-3 leads to a room in the neighbouring block. As it is very difficult to approach the höyük from the western side due to the basalt rocks and the water channels, it is not easy from the

present-day perspective to understand the logic of making such an entrance.

There is one entrance in the Inner Wall: K-5 (Figs. 5-6, Pls. XIV-XIX.1). Situated on the steeply ascending eastern slope of the höyük, K-5 consists of a lower section with steps, a gate and a corridor that extends from the gate at a sharp angle: the 13 m difference between K-5 and K-1 and the flat area of the Palace Complex is done by means of this gate. The first 5 m of this distance are covered by an ascending slope leading to the bottom of the steps in front of K-5, then after 17 steps a height of 8.5 m is reached and the remaining 4.5 m are covered by means of the room inside the gate and the gentle ascending ramp in the corridor. The steps are in the form of an independent unit outside the gate system, between the blocks that make up the inner wall. Like the other gates, the gate at the top of the steps consists of a front threshold, a small inner gate area and a rear threshold. The path/corridor, with a ramp that continues inside the gate area, extends to the South after the inner threshold in the direction of the palace.

As mentioned above, it is not clear how the several sections on both sides of the entrance road to K-5 were used. However, we do not think there is any direct link between these sections and the gate system. The door opening outwards on the southern side of the steps would suggest that this could have been used as a watchman's room. The passage which led to the palace, and probably the other official buildings at the top of the höyük, is likely to have been controlled by watchmen. It was thought that there must have been a gate to the West of the Inner City to provide access to the Outer City, and the presence of a formation resembling steps in one of the blocks in this area suggests that there could have been an entrance to the Inner City from the West (K-4; Pls. XII.2-3, XIII.1).

1.3 *The palaces*

After entering the gate with steps on the eastern slope of the höyük (K-5) and continuing on to the flat area at the top of the höyük, the palace and buildings connected to the Palace Complex, that cover an area of 65 x 80 m, are reached (Fig. 8). The Palace Complex, which is situated on the highest point of the höyük, was constructed mostly of basalt stones and approximately 3 m of accumulation covering it had to be removed in the excavations. The palace buildings show evidence of a considerably mixed construction process and development. As mentioned above, the separation into the subphases Tilmen IIc, IIb, and IIa was based on the architectural differences

determined in the palace buildings. The first two of these, the 1st and 2nd phases of the palace complexes are described below.

1.3.1 1st phase Palace Complex

Chronologically the oldest, the 1st phase Palace Complex consists of four free-standing buildings. Of these, Building A is a monumental building, 21 x 36 m in dimension, that stands in the large terrace area formed by the southern walls of the acropolis (Pls. XIX.2, XX-XXIII.1). The lower sections of the walls of this building were constructed in a massive style, with large stones up to a height of around 80-100 cm, while the upper sections of the building were probably completed using mud-bricks. The important sections of the outer walls of Building A were very carefully built and carefully lined with basalt orthostats. The orthostats with smooth surfaces were placed on the flat stone bases and carefully joined to the other orthostats.

Building A is basically rectangular in plan. This main plan has changed because of two small rectangular areas, supporting a staircase, which were added to the north-western corner, where the entrance to the building is located. The extremely impressive door jambs, threshold and path leading to the door are all lined with orthostats. This elaborate door, which was uncovered in very good condition, leads into a square inner space with a whitewashed (crushed limestone) floor, and the inner sections of the palace are reached through a door on the eastern side. The central hall (A5 in Fig. 8) is without doubt the largest (measuring 9 x 16.5 m) and most important reception room of the palace. The door passages and the lower sections of the room's walls are lined with orthostats. The orthostats in the centre of the northern wall were placed as to form an abutting salient. There were two stone bases in the centre of this reception room that must have been used for wooden pillars, that helped to carry the weight of the ceiling. From this main room it was possible to enter the rooms on the eastern side. The block, containing two narrow sections, that was added to the northwestern corner, must have been built for a flight of steps. This extension, which had orthostats on its outer walls facing the courtyard (A1 in Fig. 8) shows that Building A had two storeys. A stone pavement, 1.5 m in width, runs along the outside of the northern wall of Building A.

The second building of this phase is Building E (Pls. XLIV.2, XLV-LIV). This rectangular building, which is approximately 20 x 30 m in dimension, is adjacent to Building A on the western side. The widest side of this building faces the open area

to the North and has a solid wall, 2 m in thickness, made of large stones. A section of the outer walls is covered with orthostats at this point. Although the floor levels of Buildings A and E are more or less the same, soundings opened up inside the rooms of Building E revealed that some of the walls continued down a further 2.5 m (Pl. XLVIII). The door of Building E opened towards the wider northern side (E1 in Fig. 8) and the threshold was moved slightly further inwards. From the room behind the entrance, access is gained to the largest room of this building (E5 in Fig. 8). There must obviously have been passages between the three rooms on the western side, but due to the top sections of the building having been badly damaged, the doors could not be found. There is a very large empty area that must have been under a staircase on the eastern side (E7-8 in Fig. 8). The thickness of the walls and the under-staircase unit confirm that this building had two storeys. The southern wall of Building E, as in Building A, also functioned as a support wall.

The third building of this period is Building B, originally built to the North of Building A, and separated from it by a street 3 m wide; it measures 2.5 x 9 m (Fig. 7, Pls. XXXVIII.2, XXXIX). The lower sections of the 1.90 m thick walls and an area measuring 2.40 m in length and 1 m in height, on the western and southern sides, were covered with orthostats comparatively much larger than those of Building A. It is clear that this building consisted of two rooms but because it was also used in the 2nd phase of the palaces, the position of the door and some other details could not be determined.

Next to Building A on the eastern side is Building H, which could not be completely excavated (Pl. XXIII.2). This is the last unit of the 1st phase Palace Complex. This building, which formed part of the block in the southeastern corner of the acropolis, was severely damaged due to its position on the steep slope of the höyük and had a large amount of debris accumulation on top of it. Although the building plan could not be accurately determined due to the incomplete excavation of it, we would like to emphasize the significant position of Building H at the most commanding point of the höyük, and to say that the splendid outer walls facing to the South-West, which also helped to support Buildings A and E, reflect the highest standard of workmanship seen in wall construction at Tilmen.

The buildings of the 1st phase of the Tilmen Palaces A, E and B seem to be lined up around a particular area (Fig. 8). As these three freestanding buildings have dif-

ferent plan characteristics, they must have had different functions.[2] Building A was probably for official duties/functions and the main room must have been the palace reception hall (A5 in Fig. 8). Building E seems a *khilani*. It is thought that this type of building usually had an official function in the 1st millennium BC. However, here it is unlikely that these two adjacent buildings A and E would both have been used for official purposes, so Building E is considered to have been a private residence of the royal family, owner of the palace. Although it was not possible on the basis of the finds gathered during the excavations to determine the function of Building B, it has been tentatively identified as a temple.

1.3.2 2nd phase Palace Complex

It is evident that almost immediately after the destruction of the oldest palace buildings as a result of a fire, a new building complex was established next to Building A, on its northern side, using some of the sections and walls that had survived. The construction technique changed in this new phase: although the thickness of the walls and the technique of construction with stone still resembled the earlier practice, some of the stones used in the walls were of such large dimensions to be called "cyclopic." A large number of the orthostats of various sizes, lining the walls of the 2nd phase buildings, had been removed from the 1st phase buildings. There are three free-standing buildings in the 2nd phase Palace Complex: among these Building C is the largest building of the new complex (Pls. XXIV-XXXVI). This building, measuring 24 x 30 m, lies next to Building A on the northern side: in fact the original wall was reused in its construction. The staircase block of Buildings A and B from the 1st phase construction were incorporated into the new complex at this stage. It is evident that Building C underwent a number of alterations at different subphases in the considerably long period between the destruction of the older palaces and the attaining of its final plan. The entrance to Building C was moved to the eastern side. In the middle of the building there was a rectangular courtyard, while three rooms were located in a row on the southern side of that courtyard.

Building B and the empty area under the staircase of Building A of the 1st phase

2 Buildings A, E and H had been constructed on an area of the southern part of the höyük, extended by means of an earthen fill. The retaining walls in this section broke down at a later stage, causing the filling material to slide down the slope and, as this slope had unfortunately been selected as the dumping point for soil and stones in the first excavation season, the southern side of the Royal Palace could not be determined and therefore can only be completed hypothetically.

Palace Complex were on the western side. The two smaller sections of the area under the staircase of the 1st phase Building A had been filled in to form a single room. The westernmost room of Building B was probably used as a kind of work area in the new phase, while the other room had become a passage with a staircase leading to an upper floor. Two doorways flanked with orthostats on both sides, lead from there into two large, consecutive rooms. The orthostats used on the doors of these rooms were possibly removed from the older palace. A magnificent basin carved out of a single piece of basalt rock (measuring 3.50 x 1.70 x 0.45 m) had been placed at the foot of the eastern wall, in the northeastern corner of the building. A drain, under the courtyard and the westernmost room, passed under the western wall of Building C into the outer courtyard A1 (Pls. XLII.2, XLIII.1).

The second building of the new palace phase was Building D (Pls. XXXVII-XXXVIII.1). This building, which was separated from C by a street, was changed to a three-roomed building through the addition of an extra room to the original two-room plan. The door was placed on the narrower eastern side; the walls were thin and unimpressive. Building D, as suggested for Building B in the previous construction period, had a sacred function. The plans of the two buildings and their relation to the main buildings indicate that they had a similar function.

The last building of this phase is Building G, near the northwestern corner of the excavations area (Pls. XL-XLII.1). The plan of this building, of which a large portion was not excavated, is not completely clear. However, it is evident that this building had more than one room and there were orthostats on the sides of the door facing the palace.

It is not clear what happened to Building E in this construction period. It is likely that this building was not used again after the abandonment of the 1st phase palace. In the 2nd phase palace, Building C was most probably the place where both official and private duties were carried out. Official duties were perhaps carried out in the rooms on the southern side, and maybe also in the rooms on the second floor. The two rooms on the northeastern side must have been set aside for private use: in fact, the indirect entrance to these rooms, that made the access more difficult, and the presence of the bath basin in one of the rooms strengthen this possibility. Building G, on the other hand, may be identified as the location of the kitchens, storerooms and supply rooms of the Palace Complex.

Level IIa represents a period after the 2nd phase Palace Complex destruction, when

some alterations were made to the plans of some of the buildings (cf. above § 1 for its assignment to the Late Bronze age). In this period, probably as a result of the new conditions of that time, three of the smaller orthostats of Building C, on the side that faced the central area, were placed on the ground, and a passage, that changed the general appearance of the wall and the circulating system, was opened up, and the doors of some of the northern rooms were sealed. It was not possible to accurately determine the extent of the architectural alterations of this period. It is significant that, although the excavated area of the palace buildings was fairly extensive, very few vessels and small finds in good condition were found at this rich and enduring settlement. This suggests that the Palace Complex was emptied by the owners before its destruction or by those who destroyed it.

1.3.3 Some observations on the 2nd millennium BC settlements

Considering the careful workmanship and planning characteristics of the two Palace Complex phases, they could have been royal buildings. In both phases the buildings were situated around the same open area. It might be assumed from the general plan, that the six separate buildings described above were all used at the same time. The older buildings and the newer ones appear to be interrelated, and there seems to be an obvious natural connection between A and C. However, on examination of the details it becomes evident that this was not the case. The floor level of Building C is the same as the highest level of the orthostats of A. In order for these buildings to have been used together, the difference in level would have been resolved by a system that would enable passage between the two, such the addition of 2-3 steps and a door: however, no such passage was found. There are also important differences in the construction of the walls of the two buildings and some of the orthostats of A were removed and reused in Building C, after the destruction of the earlier complex. Another proof of this is that there was a pavement outside the northern wall of Building A, which continued along the narrow passage between Buildings A and B. In addition to these things, the mixed foundations under C indicate that there was a lengthy time period before the final plan of the building was attained, while to the area "under the staircase" and Building B, originally two separate constructions, completely new functions were given and they were absorbed into Building C. During this alteration process, the position of one of the longer and higher orthostats of Building B was altered by 90°, and it was used to close the street between Building B and the stair-

case block area of Building A; and the small older phase orthostats on the West side of Building C were put side by side with the very large size orthostats of Building B, causing the appearance of the wall to be spoiled.

The fire, which completely destroyed the 1st phase Palace Complex determining the identification of the two building phases, must have been a very widespread one. In fact traces of a large fire that destroyed Building A were seen throughout its excavation. The orthostats, arranged as to form an abutting salient on the narrower side of the throne room of Building A, were so severely damaged that their outer surfaces had peeled off and traces were seen of a substance on the basalt stone that had liquefied and run down. The fact that no evidence of such a fire was seen in Building C is a further proof that this building was constructed at a later date.

These factors show that all the 2nd phase Palace Complex buildings were constructed after the 1st phase buildings had ceased to be in use. The 1st phase palace buildings were probably all destroyed by the fire, but shortly afterwards the complex of royal buildings was reconstructed with alterations in keeping with the changed conditions and requirements and, as a result of these minor additions and repairs, the layout developed as shown in the general plan. The mixed foundations under Building C underwent several changes before the final plan was reached, this indicates that the building had a considerably long-time span. Nothing was found that gave any indication of why settlement IIb was deserted.

There is evidence of pre-planning in the construction of the 1st Palace Complex and this was carefully carried out: Buildings E, A and H were probably planned by the same architect and built at the same time. These three grand buildings were placed together in the southeastern corner of the Inner Wall; in fact it can be assumed that this building complex continued after the sharp-angled corner at which the wall turned northwards (unfortunately it was not possible to excavate these parts of the eastern slope). There is no doubt that the appearance of the 1st phase Palace Complex looked very impressive when approached from the South and the East. It is not possible to speak of any prior planning in the 2nd phase Palace Complex.

As mentioned above, the architectural remains show that in level IIa, Building C continued to be used with some alterations after it had been damaged. In this final period it seems that the buildings had lost the characteristic of palace buildings: after the event that led to the termination of the IIb buildings, the royal rule at Tilmen was discontinued and Tilmen lost its position as a capital city. There are also some

remains of walls on the western terrace, an extension of Tilmen Höyük, that are still visible today. Three small trenches were opened up in different places in this area and virgin soil was reached at depths varying between 0.50 m and 2 m. These walls on the surface soil are simple dwellings or shelters from recent periods. The pottery found in the accumulation of these trenches in the Outer City shows that these settlements date to the MBA or LBA. However, it was not possible to find a stratigraphic connection between these settlements and the MBA settlements of the höyük. It is clear that the walls surrounding the terrace settlements are contemporary with the 1st and 2nd phase Palace Complexes. We think that the founding and development of the Outer City settlements paralleled that of the level II settlements.

2. Concluding remarks

The grand palace, temple and other buildings of the following period, situated in the flat area at the top of the höyük, are evidence that by the middle of the MBA the Tilmen settlement had become an important city, even the capital city of a kingdom. As mentioned in the introduction, the settlements at Tilmen Höyük were established in an area very difficult to reach as the höyük is among the basalt hills, surrounded by deep water channels. In fact, in the rainy seasons the höyük takes on the appearance of an island, making it even harder to get to. Difficult to reach by walking, it was impossible until a few years ago to arrive at Tilmen Höyük by horse or vehicle. In spite of all these natural obstacles, a strong defence system around the Outer City was not considered sufficient, and a further wall was constructed around the Inner City of the höyük. These factors indicate that around the middle of the MBA, Tilmen was not only a rich and very important city but also a city under threat.

In order to evaluate the Tilmen Höyük palaces from an archaeological perspective, it is necessary to establish the chronological position of the buildings in the development of architecture in the ancient Near East. There is a close similarity between the plan and building technique used in Building A of the 1st phase, and that of the level VII palace at Atchana Höyük (Tell Atchana) in the 'Amuq Plain (Woolley 1955). Some of the characteristics such as the general plan, the main door plan and the use of orthostats on the walls of the central reception room of this palace, known to have belonged to Yarim-Lim, king of ancient Alalakh, an important city of the Yamkhad kingdom, are so similar to those at Tilmen Höyük that they seem to be a *replica*.

This close similarity would suggest that the two palaces were planned and built by the same architects. As mentioned above (cf. § 1.3.1), Building E looks like a *khilani* in plan. It is generally agreed that this type of buildings first appeared in the cities of southeastern Anatolia in the 14th century BC. In view of the parallel between Building A and the Yarim-Lim palace, it would not be possible to assign Building E to a later date than the Yarim-Lim palace, that is the 17th century BC. This means that Building E may be the oldest known *khilani* building in the ancient Near East (but cf. Marchetti 2010: 371 for a different interpretation).

The reason for identifying Building B as a temple is that in the settlements from level XIV to level III at Atchana, the one and two-roomed rectangular buildings, as in the cities of 'Amuq and northern Syria, are identified as temples. However, no objects that would suggest a sacred function were found in Building B. As the 2nd phase Palace Complex is the result of an eclectic construction, it would not be of any benefit to compare it with other buildings in the ancient Near East. The only clear fact is that the plan, place and function of Building D are exactly the same as that of Building B. This suggests that the same architectural tradition was used in the construction of the temple in both phases.

Concerning the chronological position of the palaces, as there are no written documents, the assessment has to be based on the small finds and the architectural evidence. Based on the style of the seal impression and the characteristics of the cuneiform writing on the *bulla* which we attribute to the 1st phase Palace Complex, B. Alkım suggested a dating to the 18th century (Alkım 1964b). The other small finds, especially the pottery, still need further elaboration before determining the chronology. On the basis of events that took place in this part of the ancient Near East and their chronological position, some tentative conclusions can be drawn. Alkım established a connection between the destruction of the 1st phase Palace Complex at Tilmen Höyük, including Building C, and the Hittite King Hattušili I's northern Syria campaign (Alkım 1964a). As mentioned in the paragraph on the two palace levels, the Palace Complex was destroyed twice. The first destruction must have taken place in the middle of the 17th century, during the reign of Hattušili I, and must be linked to his northern Syria campaign. It is known that even though Aleppo – the capital of the Yamkhad kingdom – was not taken, some of the 20 kingdoms that had accepted the supremacy of this king in the region, were taken or destroyed during this campaign. The 1st phase Palace Complex at Tilmen Höyük and the Yarim-Lim palace at Alalakh

(Atchana level VII) must have been destroyed at this time.

It is likely that the construction of the 2nd phase Palace Complex began almost immediately after the destruction of the 1st phase. If it is necessary to make a suggestion concerning the destruction of this new Palace Complex, it is perhaps possible to equate it with the destruction that took place during the Babylonian campaign of Hattušili I's successor, Muršili I, during which Aleppo was taken and the Yamkhad kingdom was brought to an end, thus completing the task that Hattušili had begun. At this point we would like to emphasize that nothing in the material culture found at Tilmen Höyük could have belonged to the Hittites. An alternative explanation is that the construction of the 2nd phase Palace Complex, shortly after the destruction of the 1st phase, indicates that the Hittite influence in the region decreased and the local kingdoms began to regain their strength. Be that as it may, Tilmen clearly never recovered after the destruction of the 2nd phase Palace Complex and lost its importance so that it gradually became no more than an ordinary settlement.

POSTFACE

Refik Duru passed away on 26th February 2024, at the age of 92, before this work could be printed. It remained in an almost finished state for many years and, as Editor, I must bear the responsibility for this delay, which now makes it a posthumous work. I had the great privilege of having been his Friend for the last twenty years: his unfailing good humour, generosity (scientific as well as personal), trust and balance have set a high bar for all those involved in Anatolian archaeology, the more because of his successful commitment to publishing the final reports of all the excavations he carried out at many, now fundamental sites. He acknowledged that our science was changing fast, but left to younger colleagues the task of setting older discoveries into a now much more refined historical context, feeling first an acute obligation to complete as such the work initiated by his beloved and most respected Teacher, Uluğ Bahadır Alkım. When in the Fall of 2003 we started together a joint project at Tilmen Höyük, he gave me a complete autonomy in designing and implementing the scientific strategy, an extension of trust for which I will always be obliged towards him: in fact, we had never met before and when we did meet in Ankara in May 2003, he took one night for reviewing my publications before accepting my offer of collaboration. He has always been a true advocate of Science, may his example thrive through the School that he and his Teacher have established, which nowadays is being carried forward by Gülsün Umurtak and other pupils.

Nicolò Marchetti

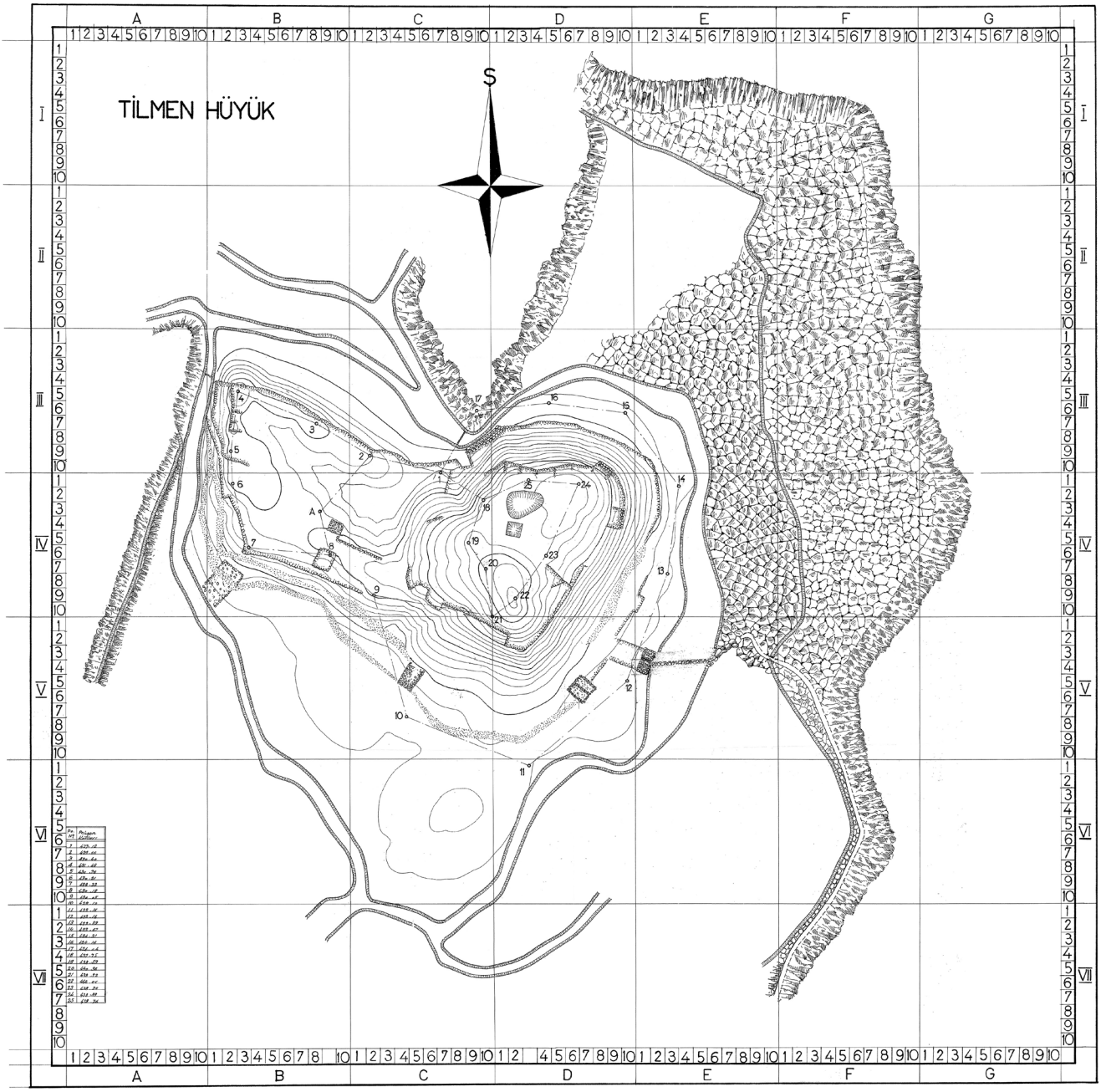


Fig. 1. Topographic map of Tilmen Höyük and its vicinity (1960).

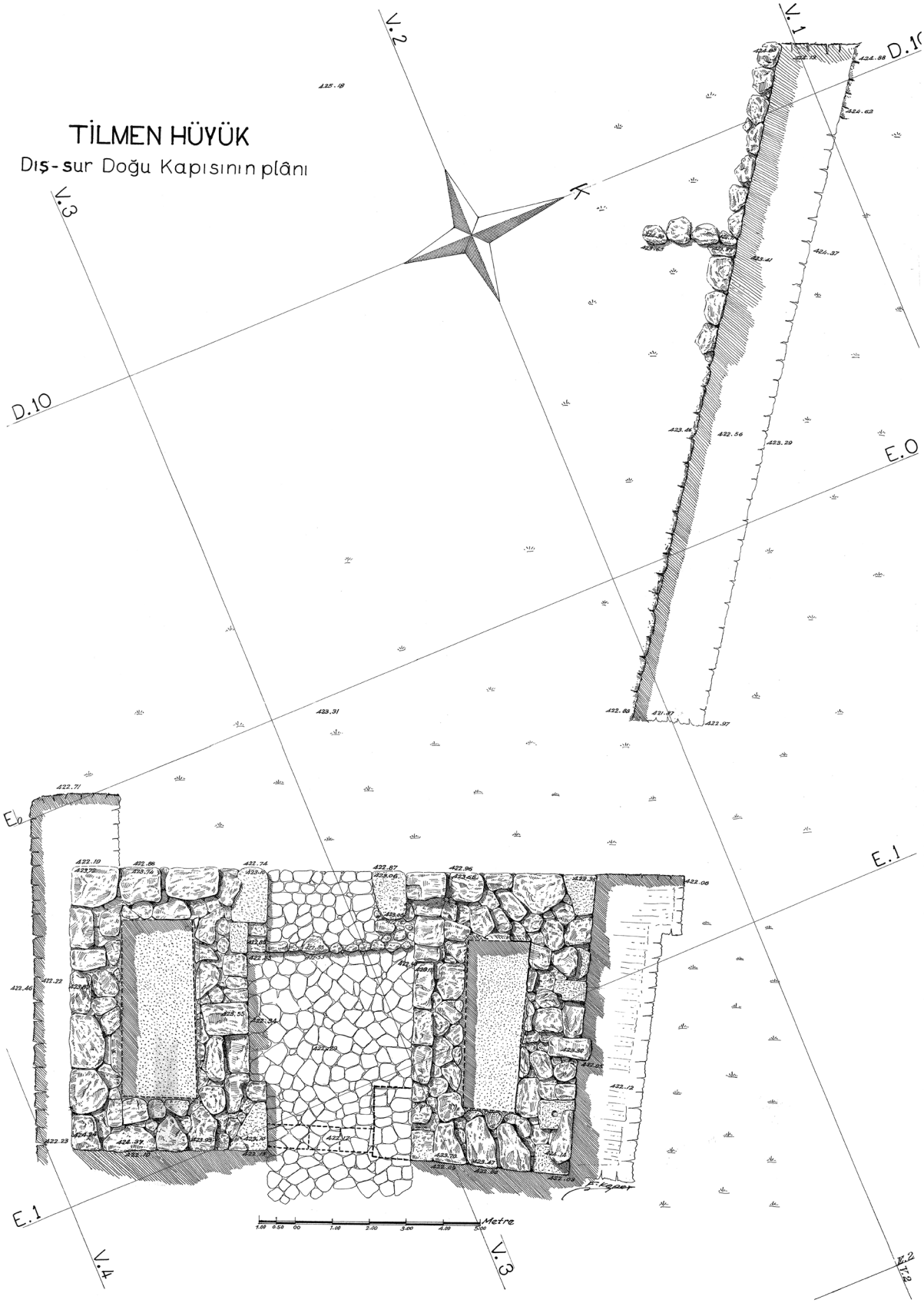


Fig. 2. Plan of the outer Main Entrance Gate (K-6) on the eastern side of the Outer Wall.

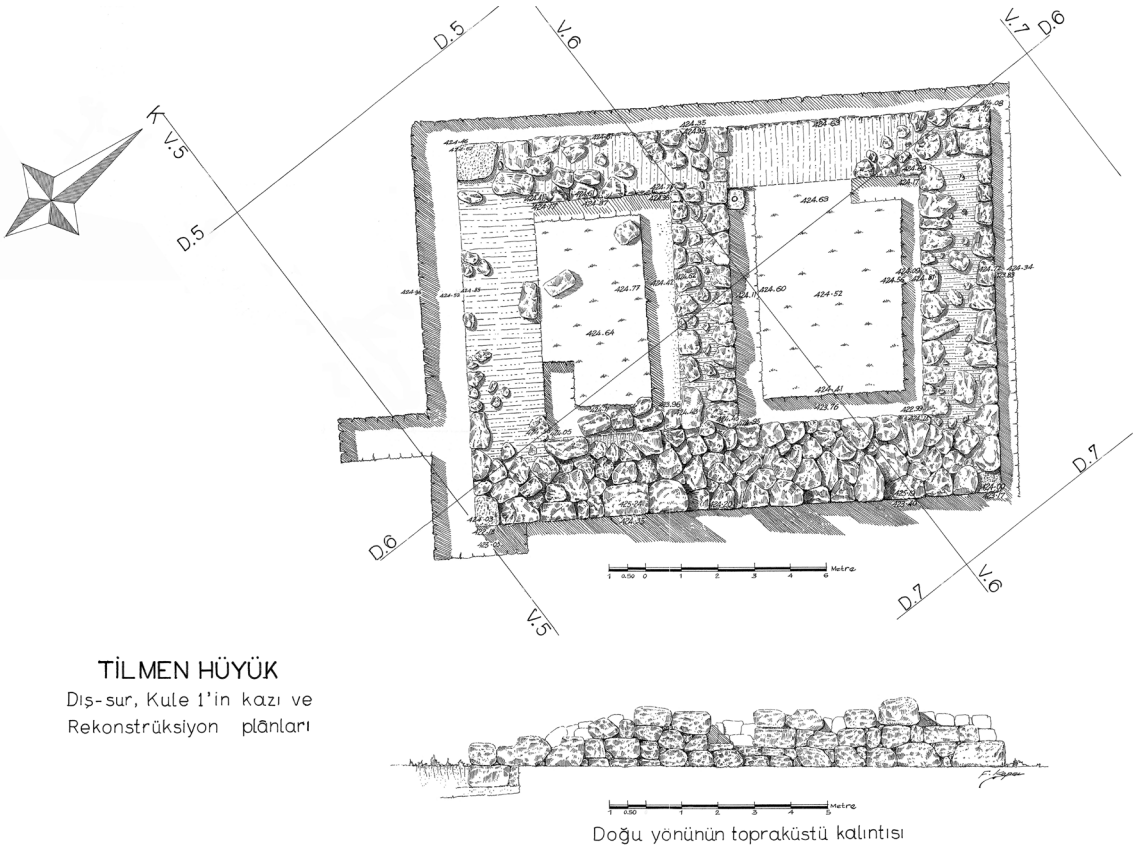
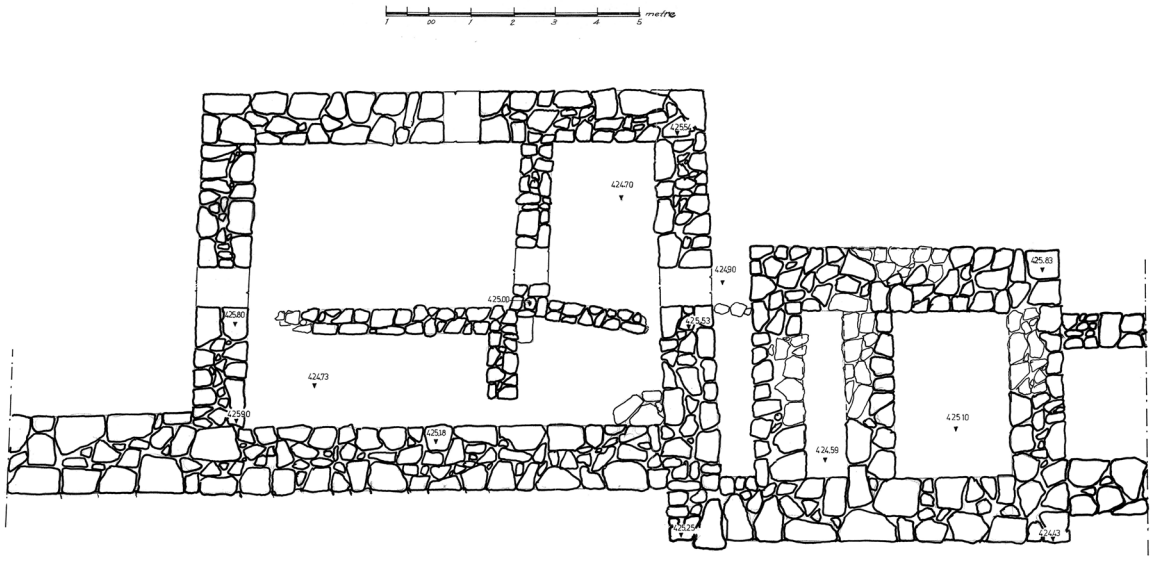


Fig. 3. Plan and elevation of Tower 1 on the eastern side of the Outer Wall.

TİLMEN HÜYÜK
F' Binası planı

Fig. 4. Plan of Building F.



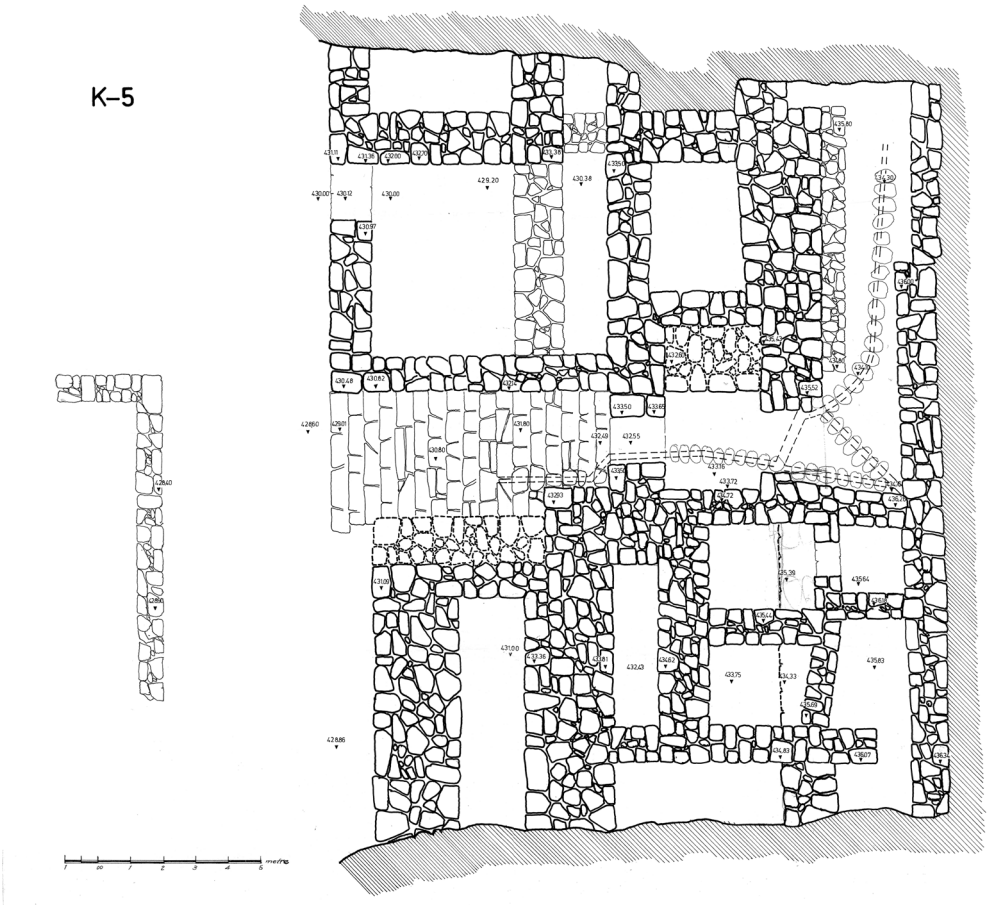
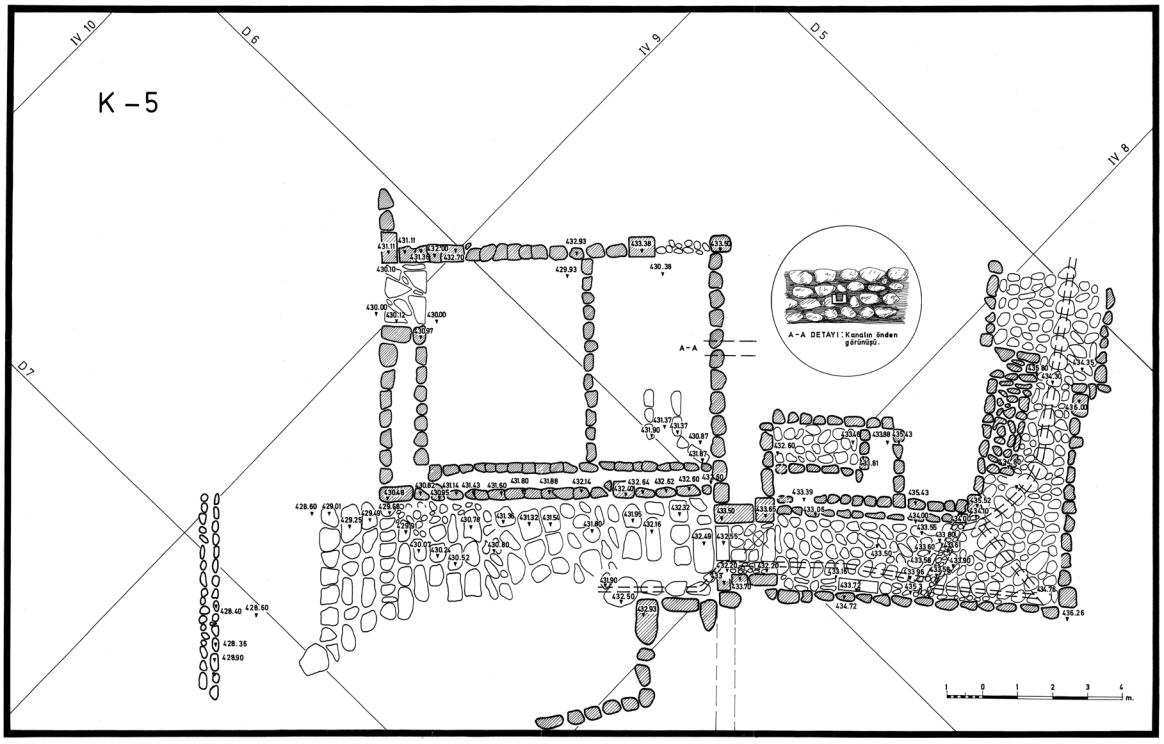


Fig. 5. Plan of Gate K-5 along the eastern side of the Acropolis.

Fig. 6. Detailed plan of the stairway of Gate K-5.



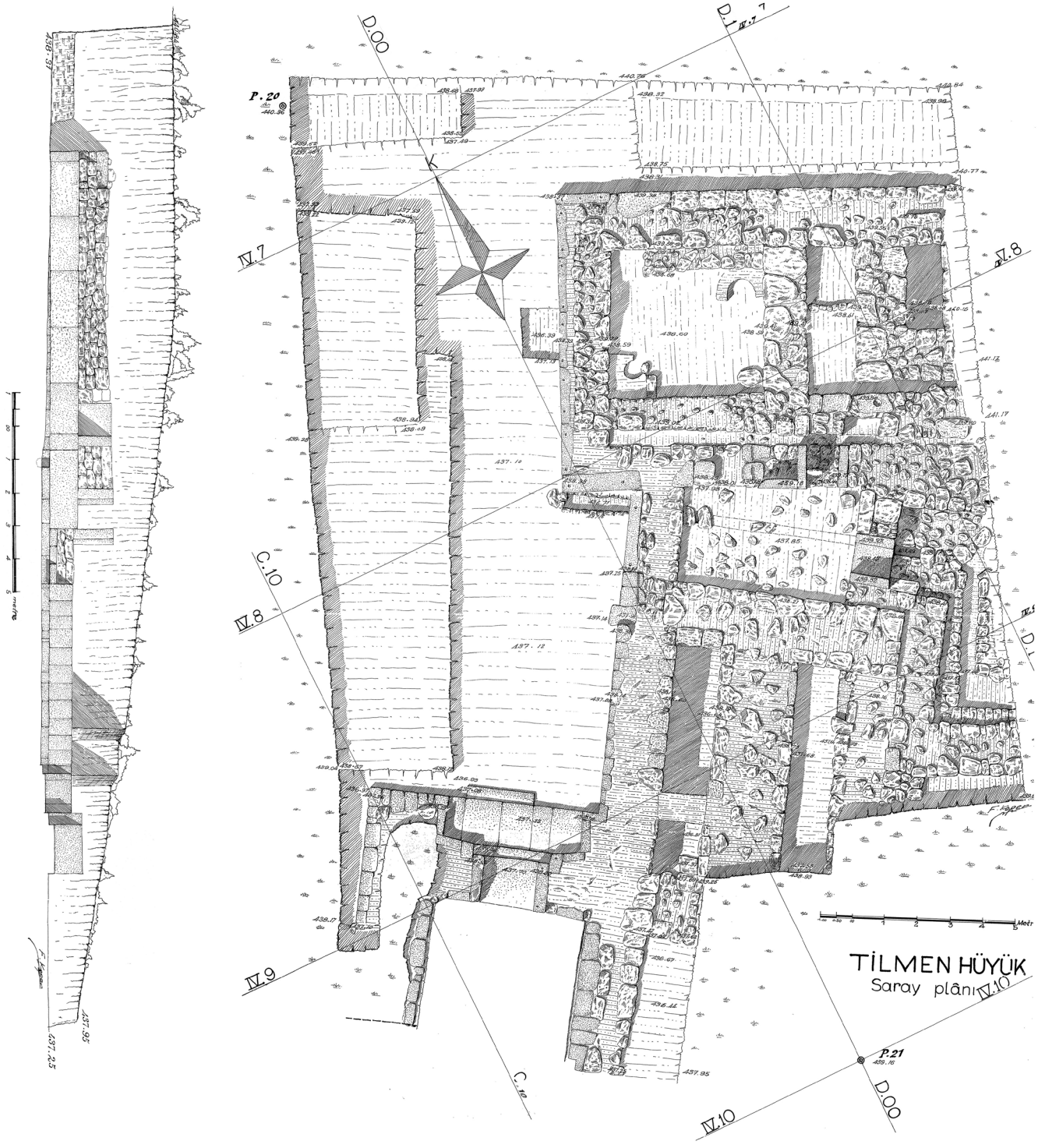


Fig. 7. Elevation and plan of Buildings A and B in the early phases of the excavations.

Fig. 8. Plan of the whole Palace area, in center Palace A and Buildings B, C and D; to the left Buildings E and G and to the right Building H.

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1. Tilmen Höyük, view of the mound from the East.

2. View from Building E towards South.

3. From left to right: R. Duru, Army officer, B. Alkım, H. Alkım in the gate of Building A.

Pl. II

1. Northern casemates from the Acropolis looking towards West.

2. Northern casemates, block I.

3. Northern casemates, block I.

1. Northern casemates, block II.

2. Northern casemates, block VI.

Pl. IV

1. Northern casemates, view of the easternmost blocks towards East.

2. Northern casemates, block III.

1. Northern casemates, view from West.

2. Northern casemates, block VII.

3. Northern casemates, block VIII.

1. Gate K-6 from East with a possible second lion in foreground.

2. Gate K-6, view from East.

1. A lion protome on the southern side of the door opening of K-6.

2. The southern tower of K-6, view from South-West.

1. View of Building F and Gate K-1 from the Acropolis.

2. Another view of Building F and Gate K-1 from the Acropolis.

1. View of Building F from South-East.

2. View of Building F from North.

Pl. X

1. View of Gate K-2 from South.

2. Another view of Gate K-2 from South.

1. The outer doorway of Gate K-2 view from South.

2. The outer megalithic city wall North-East of K-2, view from West-North-West.

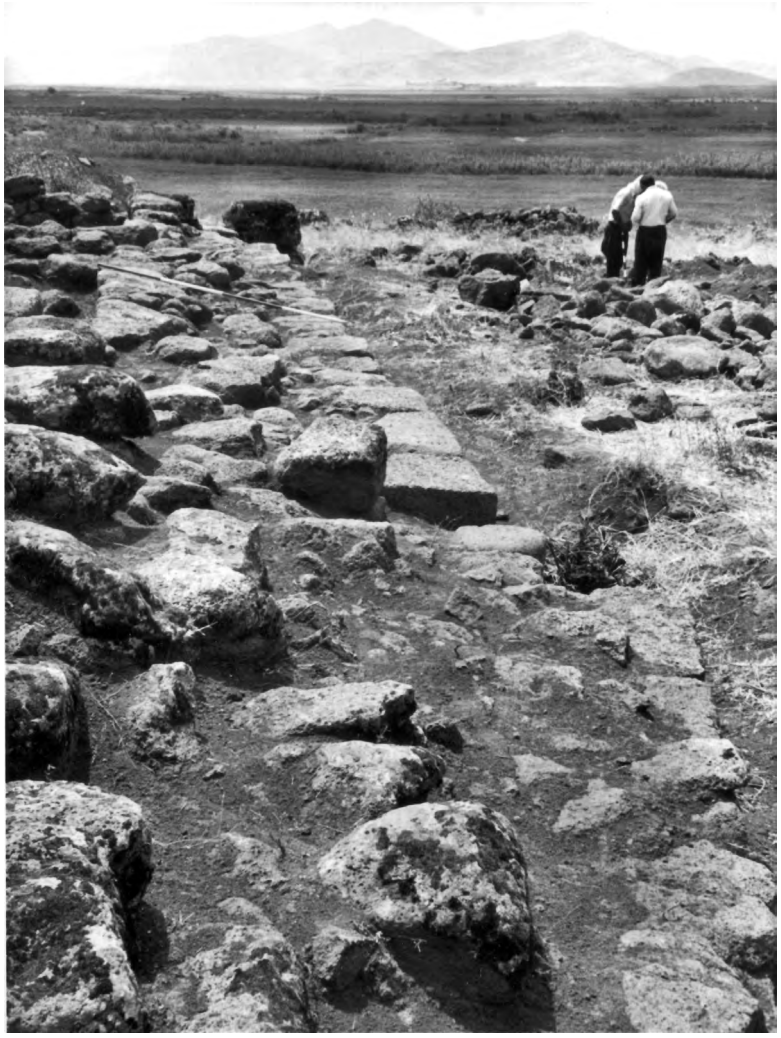
3. The northern inner city wall of the Acropolis, view from North-East.

1. Detail of the inner wall of the Acropolis, view from North-West.

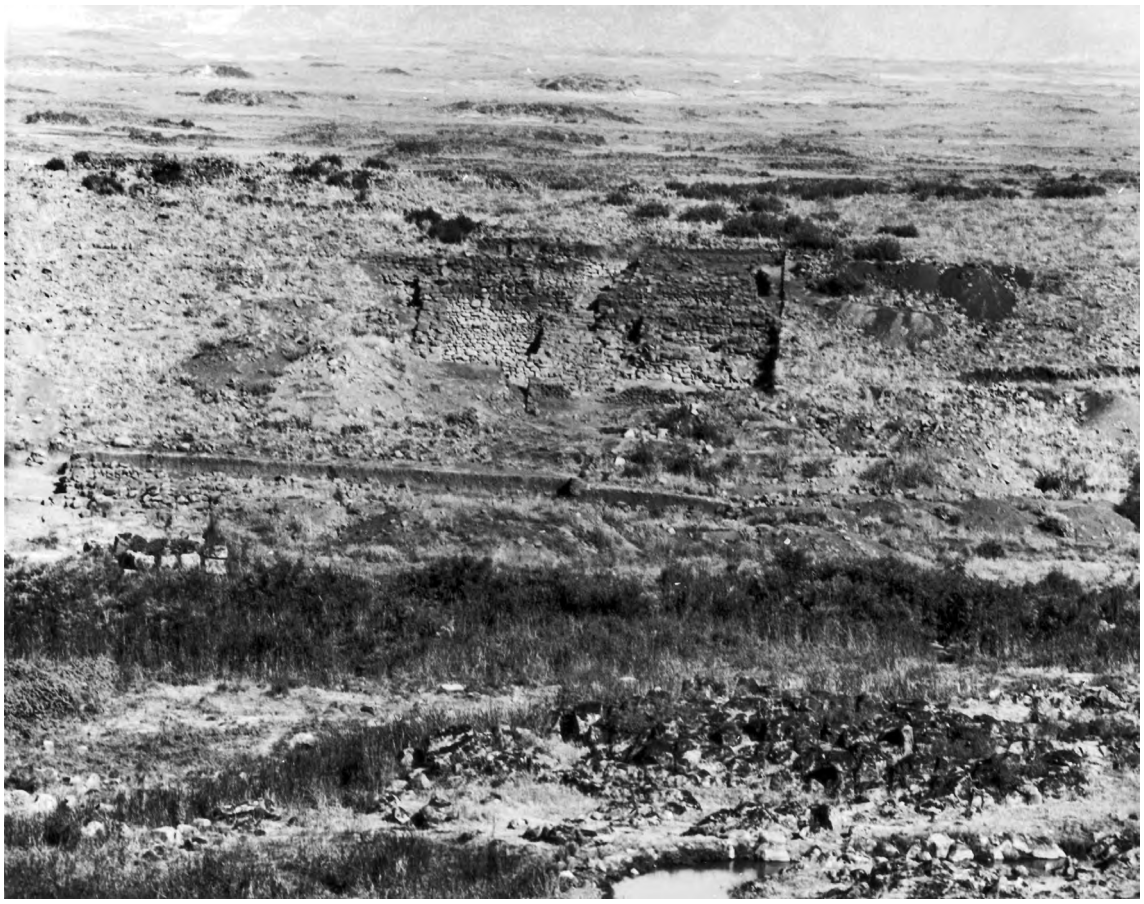
2. General view of Gate K-4, a possible entrance to the Inner City from West.

3. Detail of the outer wall of K-4, from North.

1. Another view of K-4 from North.



2. Outer city Gate K-3, view from West.



1. Inner city Gate K-5, view from East.

2. Inner city Gate K-5, view from East-South-East.

1. Inner city Gate K-5, view from North-East.

2. Inner city Gate K-5, view from North.

Pl. XVI

1. Central sector of K-5, view from North.

2. The upper reach of K-5, view from South.

1. Inner city Gate K-5, view from the top looking towards East.

2. The Southern part of K-5, view from South-West.

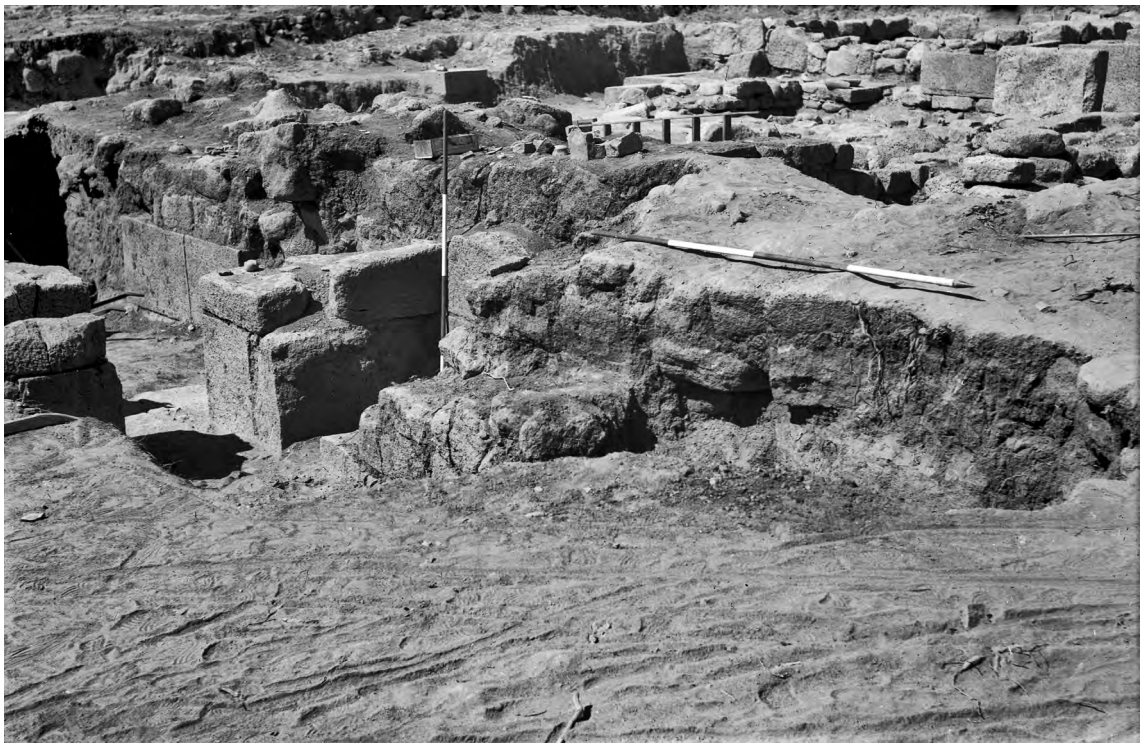
Pl. XVIII

1. Gate K-5, view from South-East.

2. The room at the base of K-5, view from South-East.

1. View of the sounding at the base of K-5.

2. View of the entrance to Buillding A (A1).



1. Western entrance to throne room from East-South-East (view from room A5 towards A3).

2. View of the western entrance to throne room from Weast-South-West with superimposed later stratigraphy (room A3).

1. Throne room of building A, view from South (A5).

2. Detail of the above, view from South-West.

1. Throne room and annex, view from East (A5 and A6 in foreground).

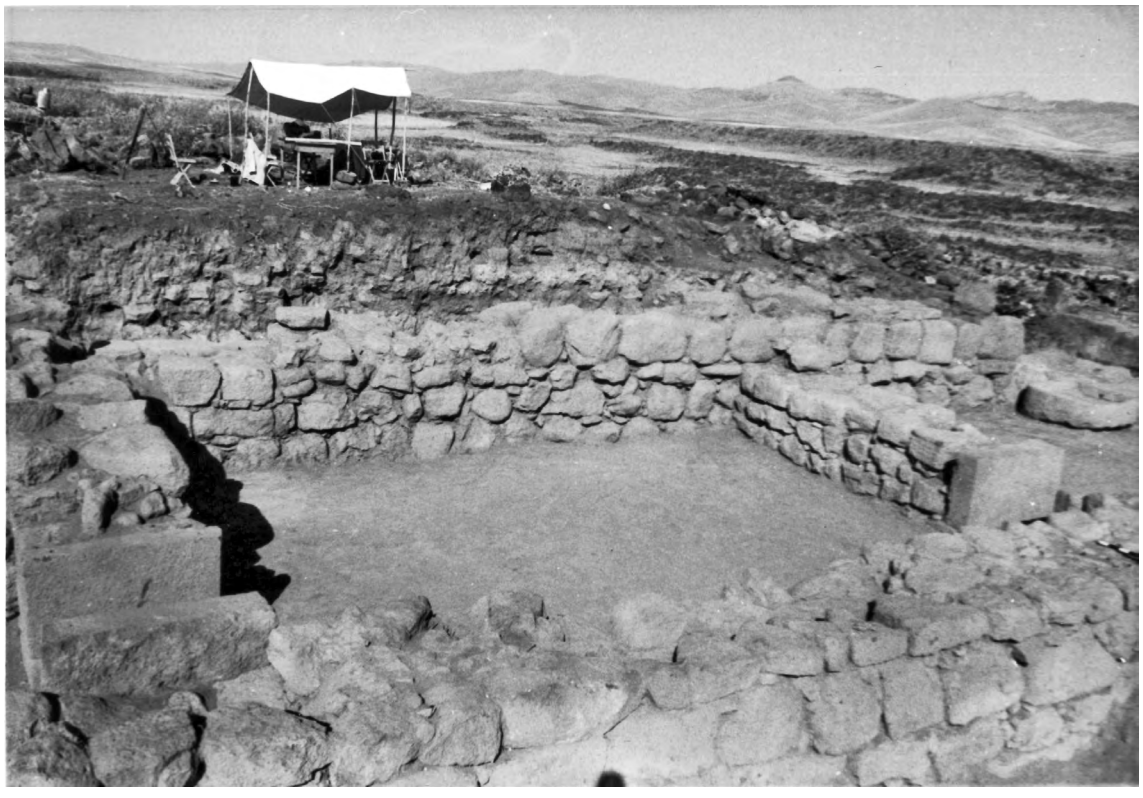
2. View of Building A from South.

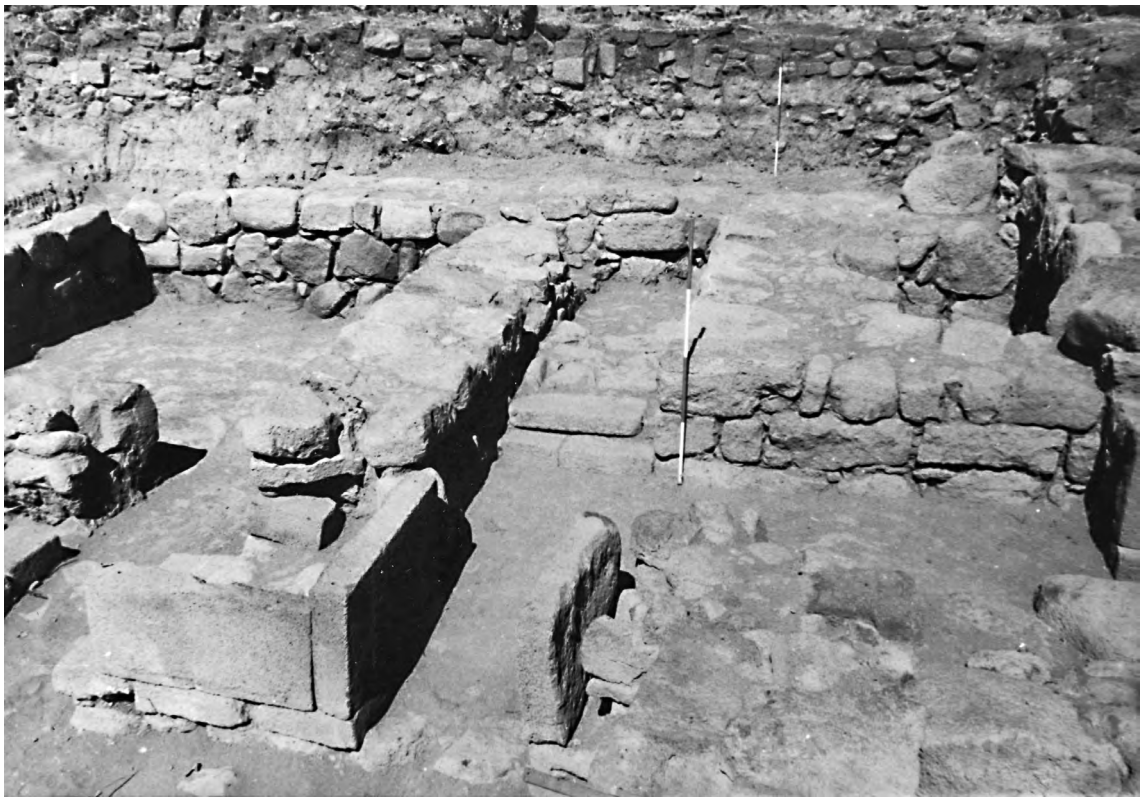
1. Entrance hall of building A, view from South-East (rooms A2 and A4).

2. View of Building H from West-South-West.

1. The outer eastern side of Building C, view from South-East.

2. The central room along the northern side of Building C, view from South.





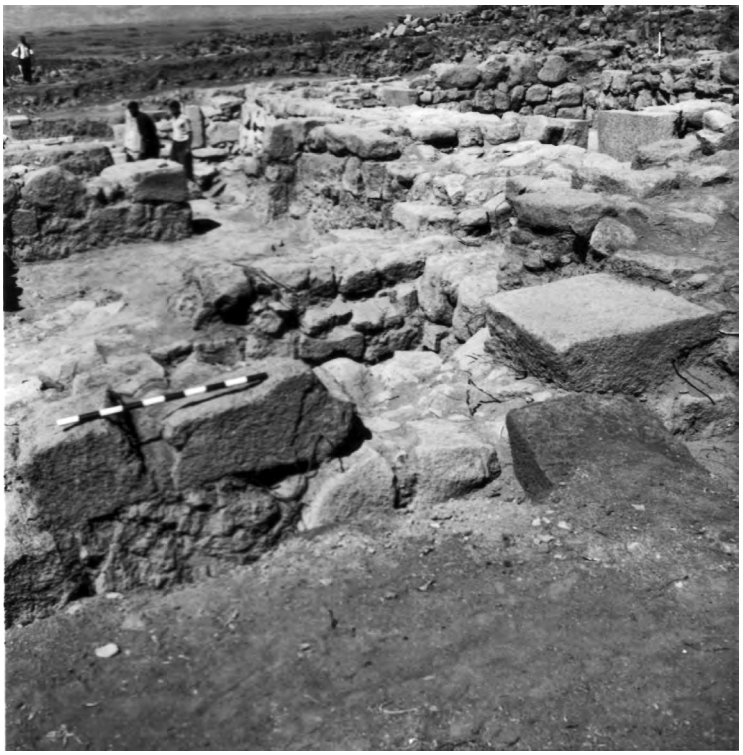
1. Staircase of Building C, view from South-East.

2. Detail of the steps in the staircase of Building C, view from South.

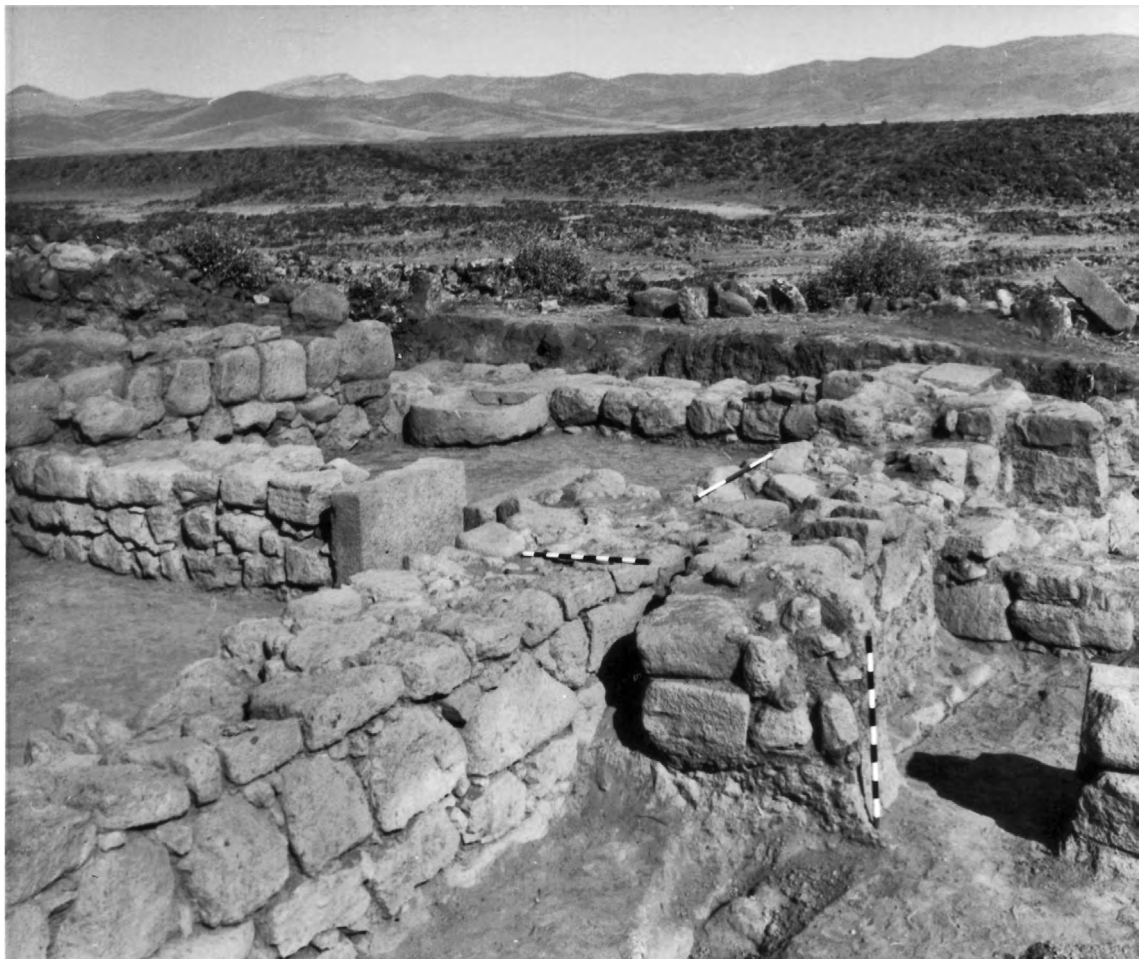
1. The staircase of Building C, view from North-East; in the background the staircase of Palace A.

2. The entrance in the southeastern side of Building C, view from North-West.

1. The southeastern outer wall of Building C, view from South-East.



2. The easternmost room of Building B, view from South.



1. The central courtyard with in foreground the pit to Tomb M3, view from West.

2. The wall separating the northern wing from the courtyard of Building C, view from South-East.

1. View of the courtyard of Building C from South-East.

2. Earlier structures just inside the entrance in the eastern side of Building C, view from South-East (see Pl. XXVI.2).

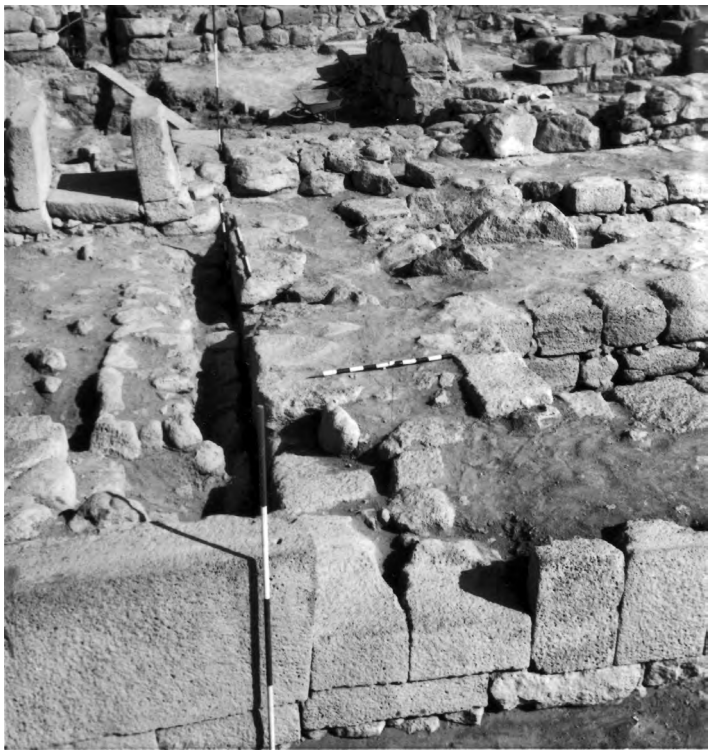
Pl. XXX

1. View of the courtyard of Building C from South-East.

2. Earlier phases along the northern wall of the courtyard of Building C, view from North-West.

1. The doorway leading to the courtyard of Building C, view from North-West.

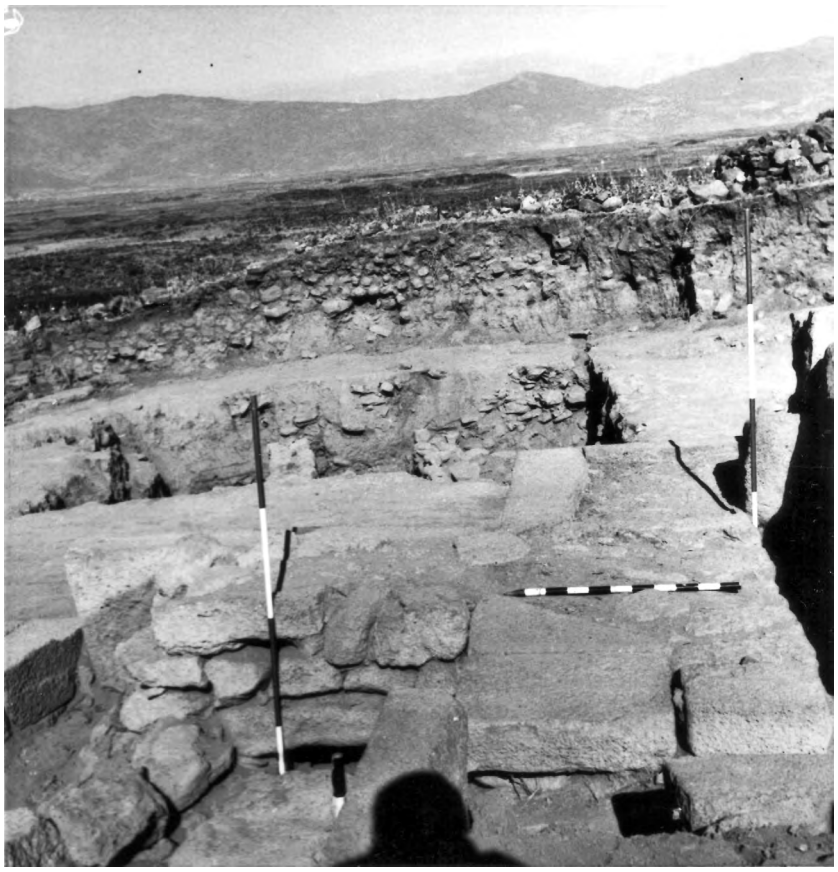
2. The drain between the staircases of Buildings A and B, view from North-West.



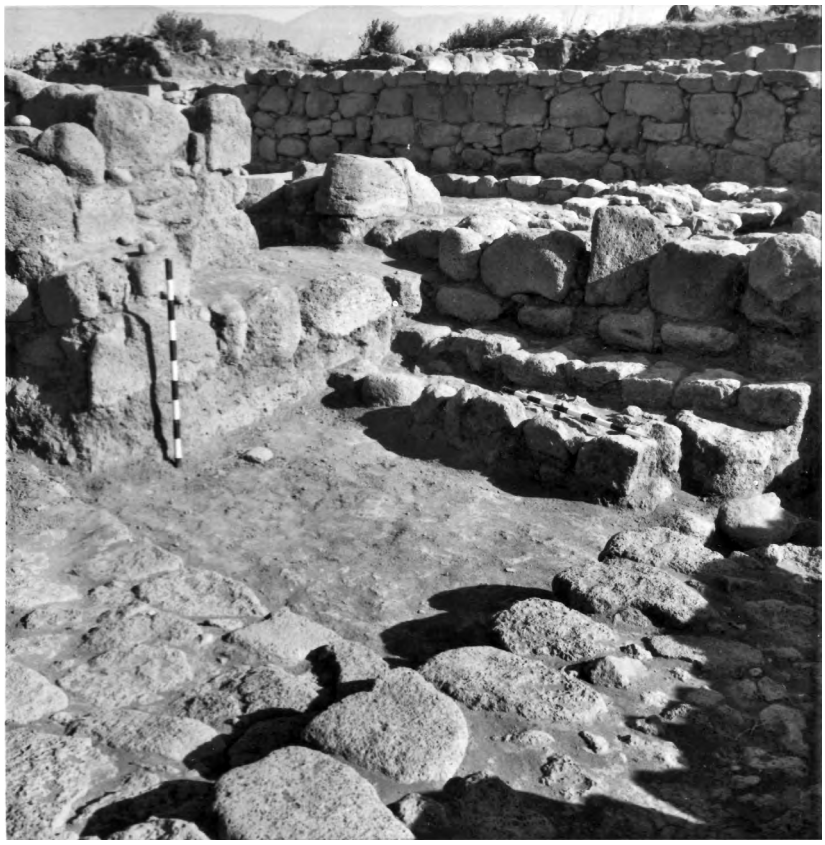
1. The join between Buildings A and B, view from North-West.

2. The drain between the staircases of Buildings A and B, view from South-West.

1. The join between Buildings A and B from South-East.



2. The join between Buildings A and B from West during the early stages of the digs, with the upper phases visible in background.

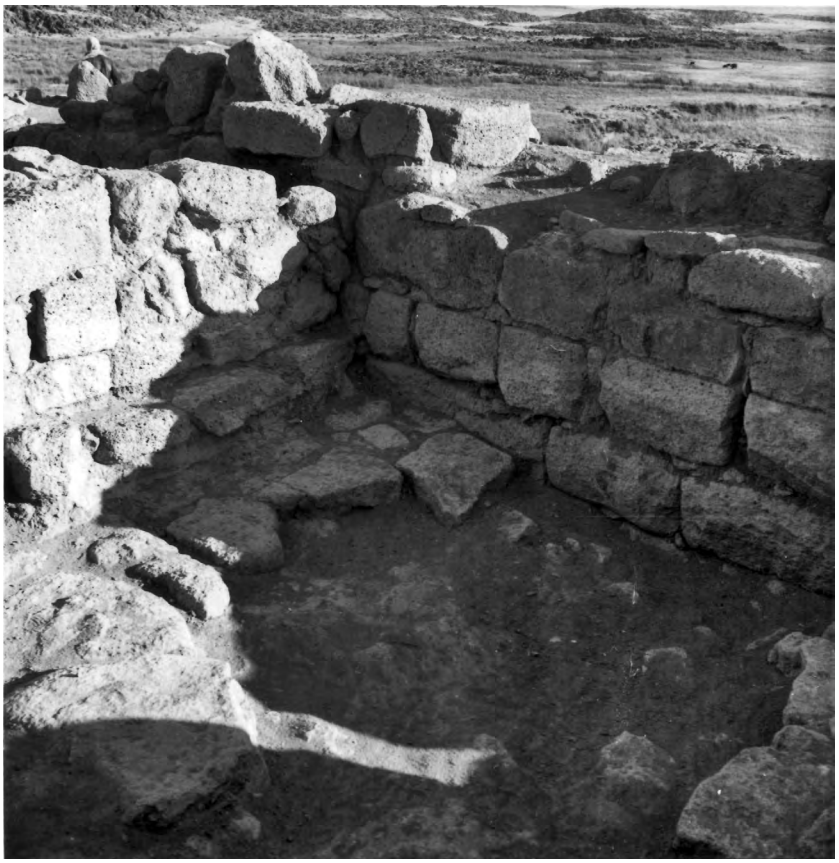


1. The southeasternmost room of Building C, view from South; the courtyard is visible in the background.

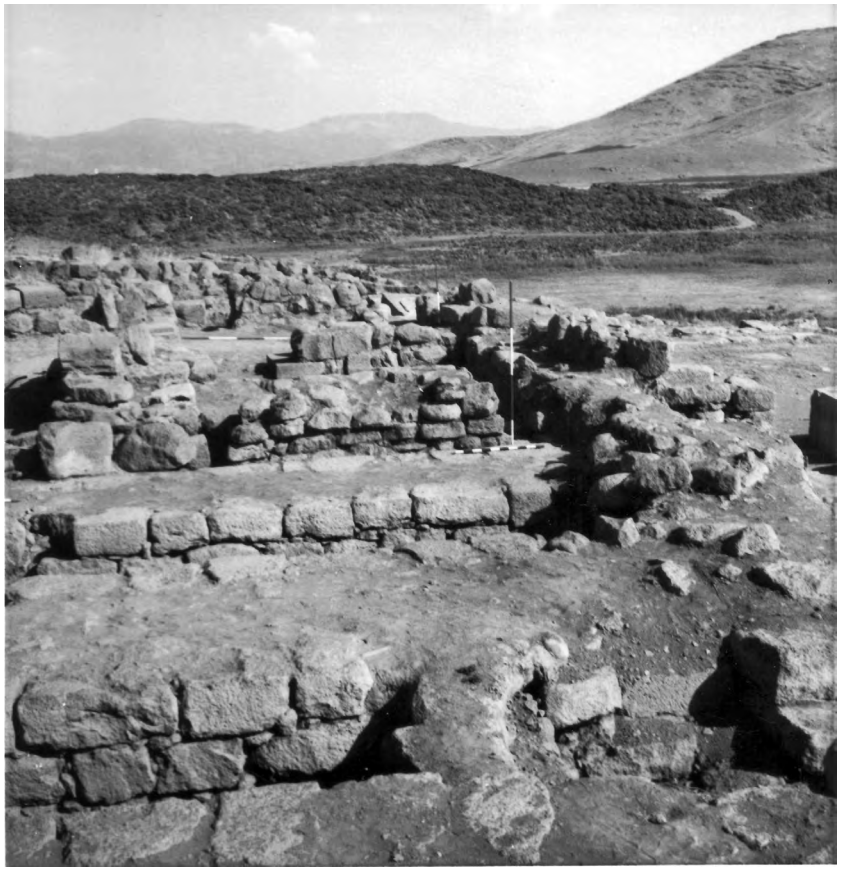
2. Same as above, detail of the southeasternmost room of Building C, view from South.

1. The southeasternmost room of Building C, view from North, in background the northern boundary wall of Building A.

2. The central room of the south wing of Building C, view from North.



1. The southwesternmost room of the south wing of Building C, view from North; to the right the northern boundary wall of Building A.



2. View towards South-East of the staircase of Building A, in background the south wing of Building C.

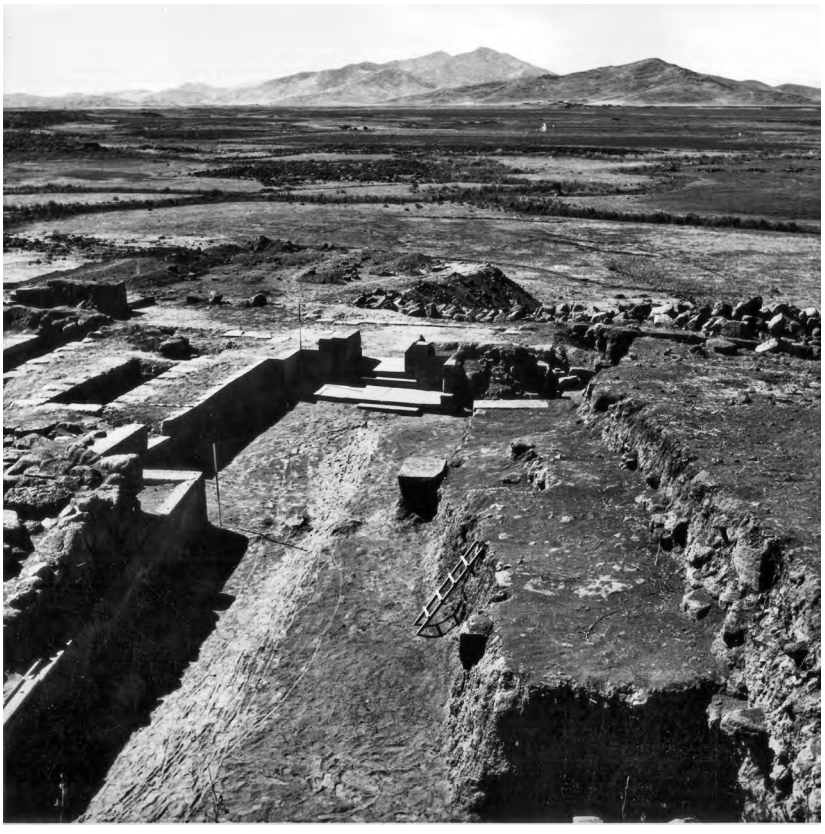
1. View from East of Building C (on the left), G (background) and D (on the right).

2. Building D, view from East-South-East.

1. Building D, view from the West.

2. View from entrance hall A2 towards A1 and Building B.

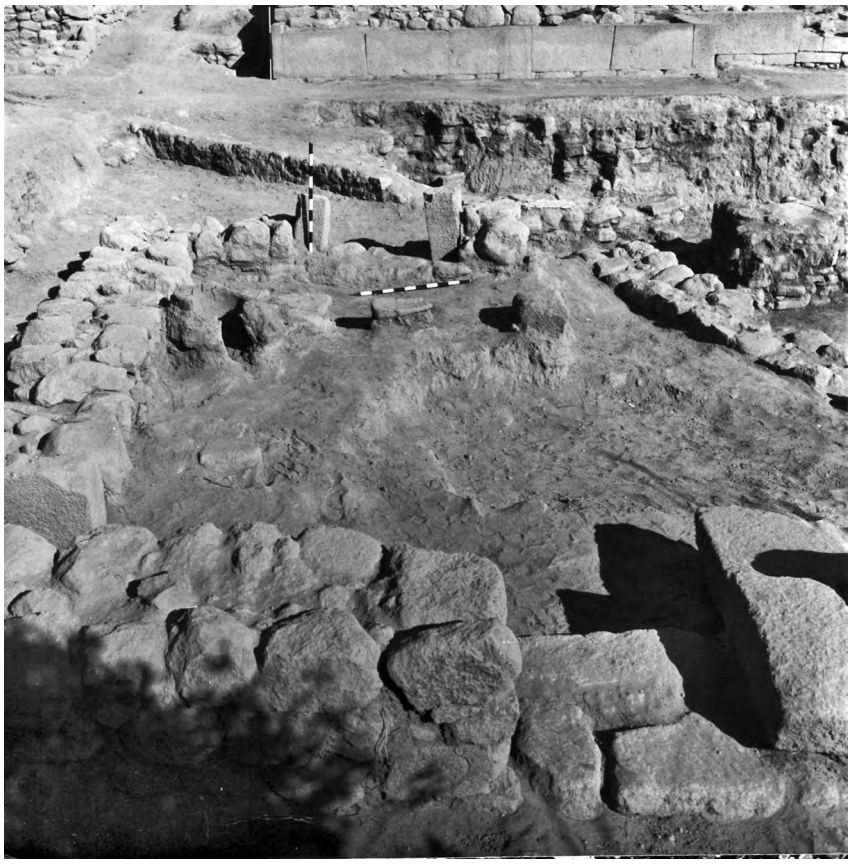
1. View of Buildings B and C and courtyard A1 in the course of excavation.



2. View of Buidlings B and C and entrance hall A1, view from North-East.

Pl. XL

1. Building G, view from West-South-West.

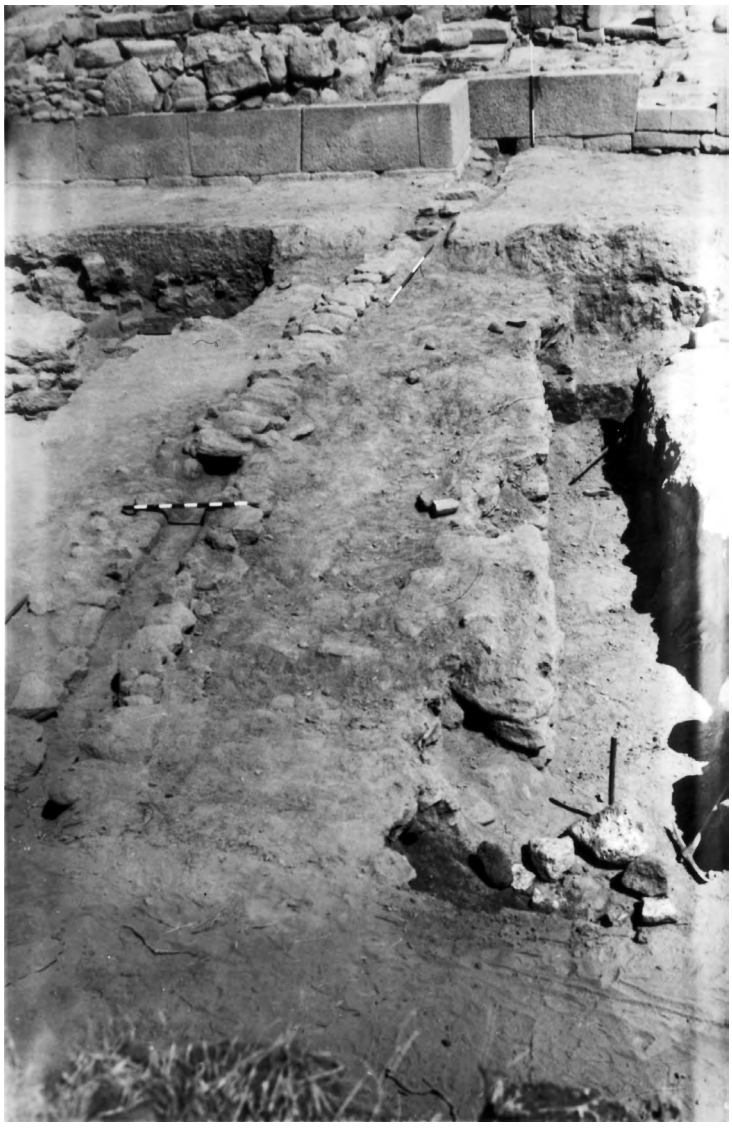


2. View of Building G from West.

1. Building G from North-West with Buildings B and C in the background.

2. View of Building G from North-North-East.

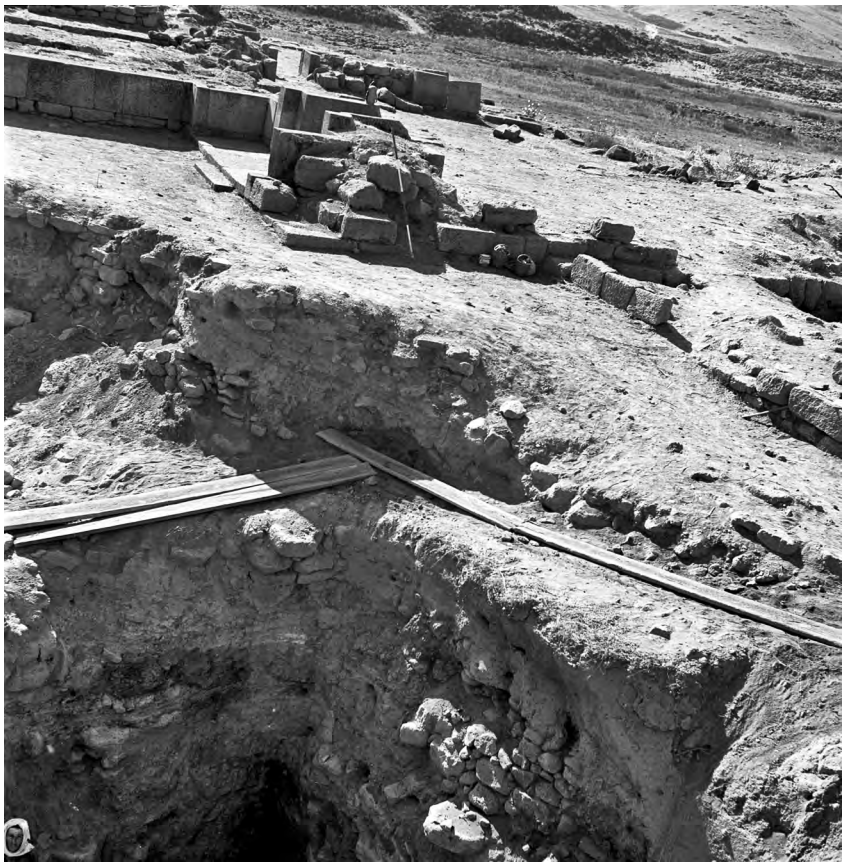
1. View of Building G
from North-East.



2. The drain coming from
Building B into the courtyard,
view from West-South-West.

1. The drain in the courtyard, view from South-East.

2. Final Early Bronze Age architecture in the deep sounding, view from North-East.

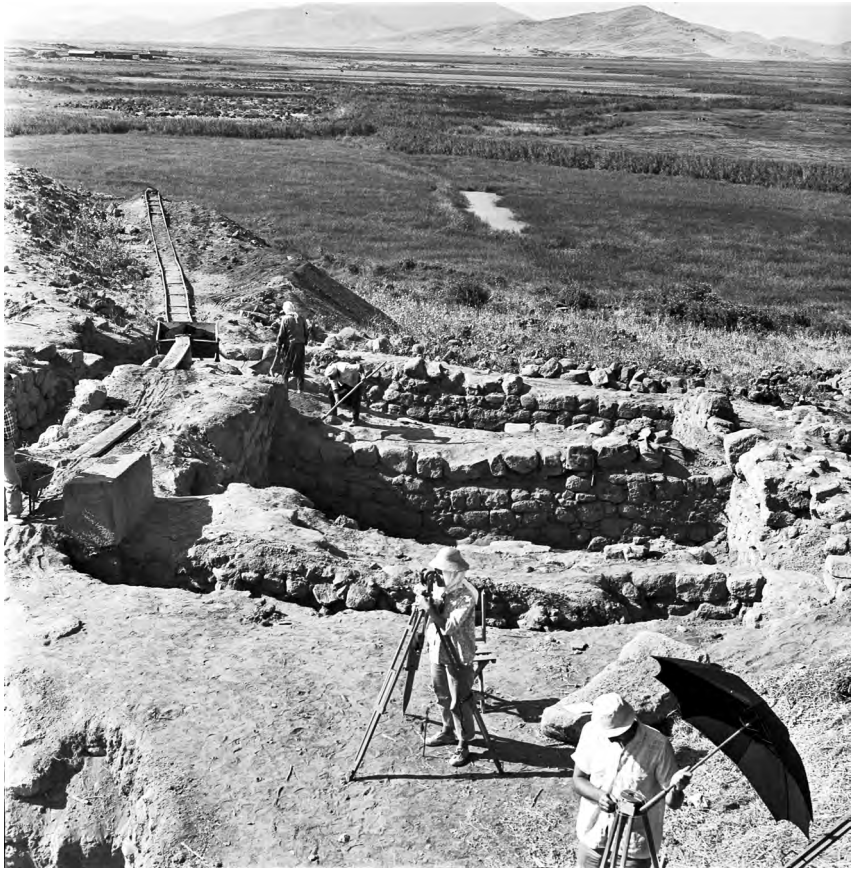


1. The deep sounding next to entrance A1 of the Palace, view from North-West.

2. Porch E1 towards stairwell E6, view from the North.

1. Detail of the cornerstone in porch E1 of Building E.

2. The cornerstone of porch E1 (on the lower right) and the North-East outer wall of Building E towards Palace A from North-West.



1. Porch E1, room E5 and room E6 (in background), view from North-East.

2. The northernmost room E5, view from West (in far background Building B).

1. Detail of the southeastern wall of room E5 in Building E, view from North-West.

2. Rooms E5 and E6 in Building E, view from North-East.

1. Southeastern wall of room E5 (cf. Pl. XLVII.1), view from North-West.

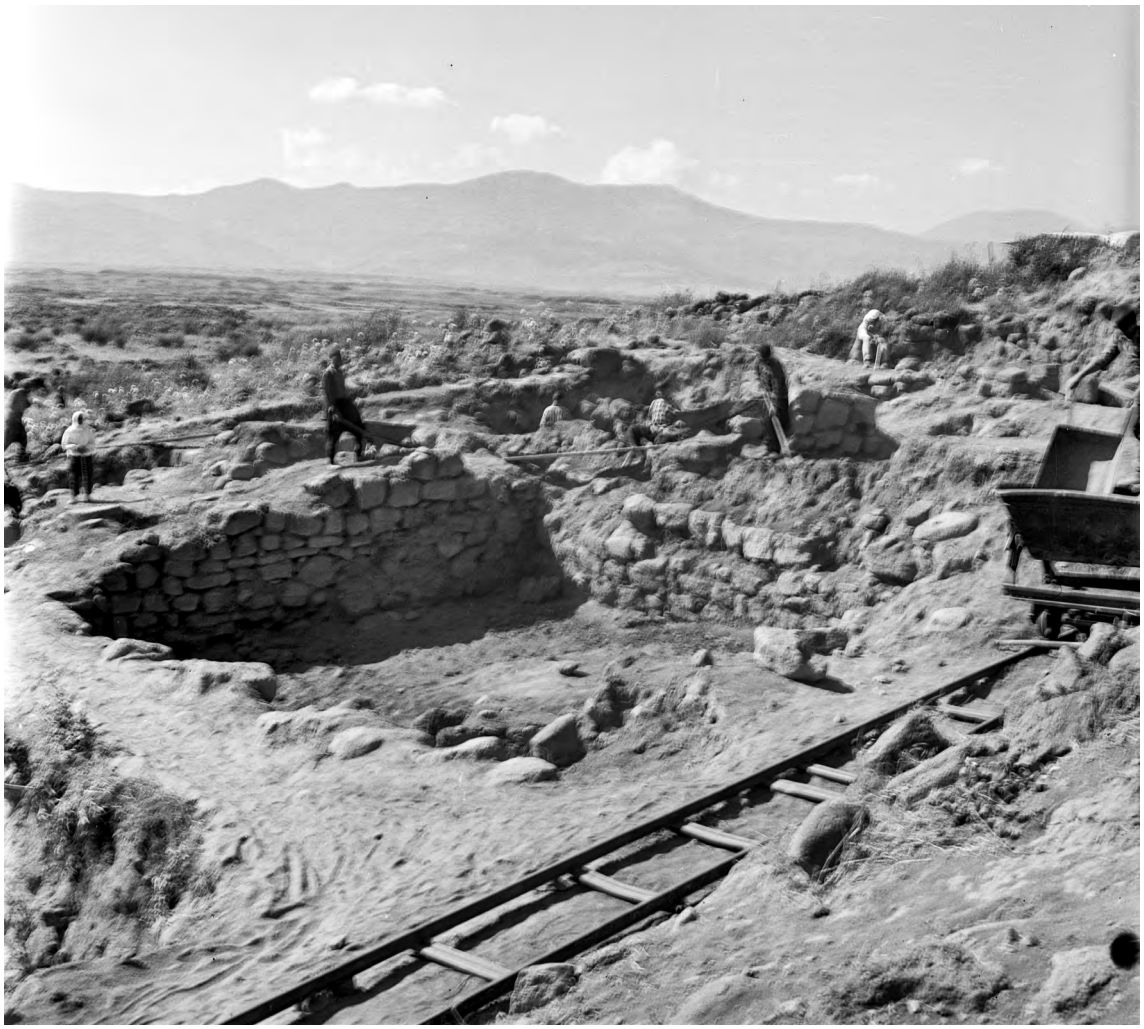
2. Detail of the southwestern wall of room E5 with a sounding, view from North-East. Note the burnt plaster.

1. The southwestern and northwestern walls of room E5, view from North-East.

2. The northwestern wall of room E5, view from South-East.

1. The southwestern and northwestern walls of room E6, view from North-East.

2. The southeastern and southeastern walls of room E6 with a well cutting them, view from North-West.



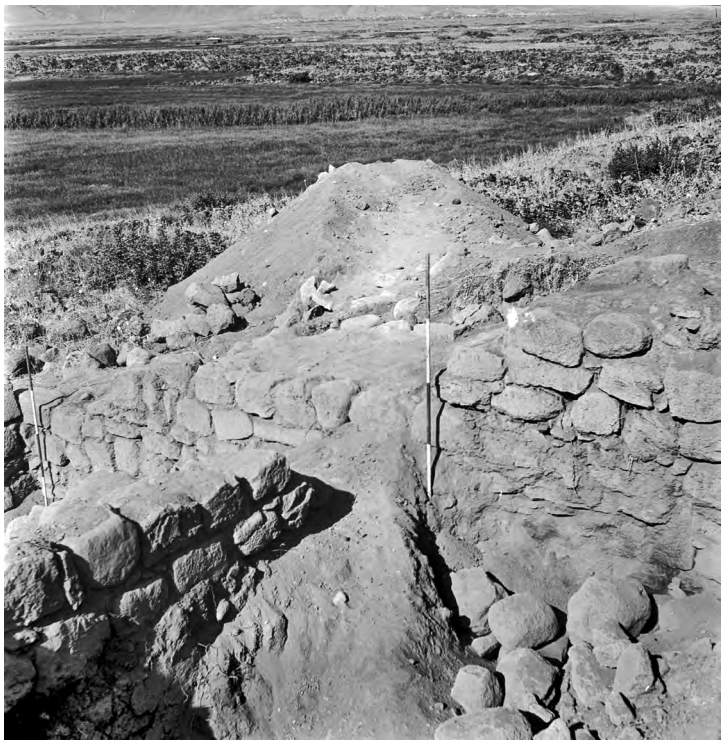
1. View of room E6 from South-East.

2. View of rooms E2, E3 and E4 (in the background) from North-East.

1. View of the southwestern corner of room E2 with a later feature.

2. The northeastern corner of room E2, view from South-West.

1. The southwestern walls of rooms E3 (on the right) and E4 (on the left), view from North-East.



2. View of room E4 from North-East.

1. The southwestern and northwestern walls of room E4, view from North-East.