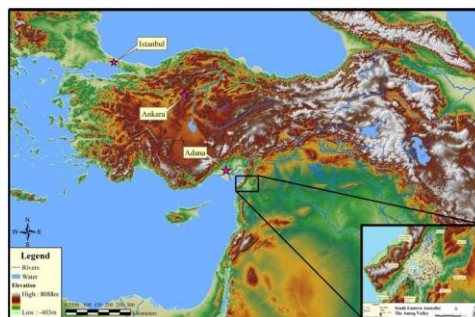


Tayinat Archaeological Project 2004 Seasonal Report

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INTRODUCTION

The Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP) represents part of an ongoing regional research effort investigating the historical development of urban institutions and the rise of early state societies in the ancient Near East. More specifically, TAP was conceived within the framework of the Amuq Valley Regional Project (AVRP), which has been systematically documenting the archaeology of the Amik Plain, in southeastern Turkey, since 1995. This explicitly regional project, still a relative rarity in the field of Near Eastern Archaeology, seeks to facilitate a multi-scalar approach to the investigation of the complex social, economic and political institutions developed by the first urban communities to emerge in this part of the ancient world. As first revealed by the investigations of the University of Chicago in the 1930s, Tell Ta'yinat preserves the extensive remains of the Neo-Hittite/Luwian capital Kunulua. Within the broader framework of the regional perspective articulated by the AVRP, therefore, the TAP investigations were initiated for the specific purpose of documenting the archaeological record preserved at this important settlement, located on the southern edge of the Amik Ovasi (Figures 1).



Due to the considerable size and importance of Tell Ta'yinat, TAP was conceived and initiated as a long-term project, committed to fully and systematically documenting the archaeological record preserved at the site. Given the extensive architectural remains preserved on the site, conservation will also play a central role in this project. Furthermore, these remains will be linked to the original Chicago excavations, with the aim of producing a final report that integrates the results of both projects in a comprehensive monograph series.

The specific goals of the current phase of TAP are (1) to create a computerized base map (using GIS software technology) clearly defining the settlement parameters and topography of the site, (2) to document all visible architectural remains on the site, (3) to document the settlement history of the site through the assemblage of extensive, quantifiable collections of surface artifactual remains, (4) to document sub-surface remains utilizing remote sensing technology (both satellite imagery and ground-penetrating techniques), (5) to initiate an

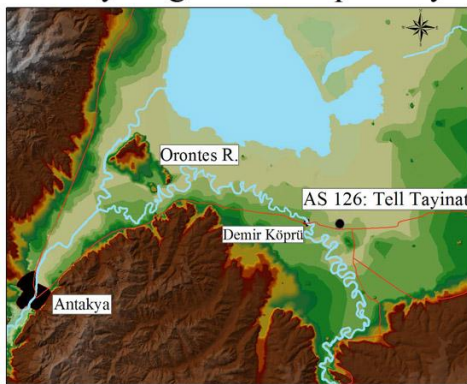
extensive coring program in the lower mound, (6) to begin targeted excavations, (7) to assemble extensive, quantifiable collections of paleobotanical, faunal, ceramic and other artifactual remains from each of the principal phases of occupation at the site, and (8) to integrate the architectural and artifact records in a relational database that will permit the detailed regional comparative analyses necessary to address the broader research objectives of the project referred to above.

The first three project goals were the focus of field seasons conducted as part of the AVRPP Survey. The surface artifact (#3) and architectural (#2) surveys were completed in 1999, and the topographic survey (#1) was completed in 2001. The 2002 and 2003 field seasons were devoted primarily to the remote sensing survey (project goal #4) (for more thorough descriptions of these field seasons, see the published reports in *Arastirma Sonuçlari Toplantisi*). In addition, during this period, work was initiated on the construction of a comprehensive relational database (project goal #8) for the site, linking the topographic and architectural record with artifact inventories from both past and present field work at Tell Ta'ynat, including artifact collections preserved in the Antakya Museum.

The 2004 season was devoted to launching the coring program on the lower mound (project goal #5), and initiating excavations on the upper mound (project goal #6). The abbreviated field season was conducted between July 14 and 31. The expedition senior staff consisted of Dr. Timothy Harrison (Project Director), Dr. Laurence Pavlish (Geoarchaeologist), Dr. David Lipovitch (Zooarchaeologist), Dr. Hatice Pamir (Mustafa Kemal University), Fiona Haughey (Artifact Illustrator), Stephen Batiuk, Alper Basiran, Annlee Dolan, Brian Janeway, Tate Paulette, Heather Snow, and Lynn Welton. In addition, the project was assisted by seven archaeology students from Mustafa Kemal University (Burçak Altunay, Suna Arkaz, Volkan Gül, Hüseyin Toprak, Yeliz Tan, Inanç Yamaç and Erhan Yagiz). Mr. Kazim Mertek, of the Konya Museum, served as government representative for the Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums.

THE WEST CENTRAL AREA INVESTIGATIONS

Hatay Region: Amuq Valley



Tell Ta'ynat forms a large, low-lying mound 1.5 km east of Demirköprü on the northern bend of the Asi River, at the point where it turns west and winds around the southern edge of the Amik Ovasi

([Figures 2-3](#)). The site consists of an upper and lower mound, with the lower mound now hidden by a thick alluvial accumulation characteristic of the Orontes floodplain within the Amuq. The

site sits just north of the modern Antakya-Reyhanli road, and measures approximately 500 m (E-W) by 700 m (N-S) ([Figure 4](#)).

Previous Investigations at Tell Ta'yinat

As noted earlier, Tell Ta'yinat was the scene of large-scale excavations in the 1930s, conducted as part of the University of Chicago's Syro-Hittite Expedition (for a more thorough description of these investigations, see previous reports in *Arastirma Sonuçlari Toplantisi*; [Figures 5, 6, 7 & 8](#)). The excavations of the Chicago Expedition demonstrated that the West Central Area of the upper mound preserves a lengthy settlement history that spans the Early Bronze (ca. 3000-2000 B.C.) and Iron Age (ca. 1200-550 B.C.) periods. In addition, epigraphic finds (both Luwian/Neo-Hittite [[Figure 9](#)] and Aramaic) made by the Chicago Expedition have identified the site as ancient Kunulua, capital of the Neo-Hittite/Aramaeian Kingdom of Patina/Unqi. Since the results of these excavations remain largely unpublished, however, the Tayinat Archaeological Project was initiated in part to document more thoroughly the extensive archaeological record preserved at this important site, and to produce a final report that incorporates the results of the renewed investigations with the work of the Chicago Expedition.

Given the considerable size of Tell Ta'yinat, its complex settlement history, and the extensive excavations conducted previously at the site, a remote sensing survey was considered the most prudent and effective way to assess the archaeological potential of the various components of the site. When combined with the results of the topographic and surface surveys, these layered data (integrated with the GIS-formatted relational database) are designed to facilitate focused investigations of those specific areas of the site, such as the West Central Area, which have indicated the greatest archaeological potential.

Accordingly, in 2002, an extensive remote sensing survey, using a proton magnetometer, was initiated in the lower mound, and expanded to the upper mound in 2003 (for details, see reports in *Arkeometri Sonuçlari Toplantisi*; [Figure 10](#)). The magnetometry survey results exceeded expectations, and permitted a number of preliminary observations. Most importantly, the magnetometry succeeded in recording numerous magnetic anomalies that appeared to delineate rectilinear features or structures in the lower mound ([Figure 11](#)), and in the area of the Chicago excavations on the upper mound which, when geo-referenced, produced promising convergences between the two sources of data ([Figures 12, 13 & 14](#)).

The 2004 Excavations

Consequently, in 2004, exploratory excavations were initiated along the southern edge of the West Central Area to test (or "ground truth") the data produced by the remote sensing and topographic surveys ([Figure 15](#)). These excavations, though limited in area to a 3 X 20 m trench, spanning two 10 X 10 m squares (G4.55 and G4.56), produced exciting confirmation of the remote sensing data, revealing part of an Iron Age temple originally discovered during the Chicago excavations ([Figures 16-23](#)), which in turn sealed a remarkably well-preserved sequence of Early Bronze and Early Iron Age remains ([Figures 23-26](#)), including a wealth of material culture with strong Aegean connections ([Figures 27-29](#)). In all, the 2004 excavations identified seven distinct architectural or field phases.

The earliest phase, Field Phase (FP) Seven, was reached only in a limited area in the western part of Square G4.55. A portion of a mudbrick wall (G4.55:31), preserved in height to five courses, extended from the west balk of the square. A lime plaster surface (G4.55:30) sealed against this wall. The pottery in the associated soil deposits included both Simple and Painted Simple Wares, and dated to the Early Bronze (EB) IVB (or Amuq Phase J).

Superimposed above this Early Bronze cultural layer was a sequence of four field phases dating to the Early Iron Age (or Amuq Phase N). The earliest of these, Field Phase Six, was encountered in both squares, but was only partially excavated. The top of a mudbrick wall (G4.55:29=G4.56:33; see [Figure 23](#)), constructed of a single row of flat-lying bricks, and preserved to only two courses in height, was uncovered along the northern edge of the excavation trench. It extended in a northeastern direction, from the mid-point of Square G4.55, before exiting the excavation area through the north balk of Square G4.56.

Field Phase Five was encountered primarily in Square G4.56. The north, west and east walls of a rectilinear structure (G4.56:23; see Figures 24-26) were excavated in the western part of the square, directly sealing the partially excavated Wall G4.56:33 of FP 6. The walls formed a small room, 1 X 2 m in size. The walls of the structure were constructed in a header and stretcher technique, preserved to a height of seven courses, and the bricks appeared to have been laid in a bed of mortar. The walls of the room continued into the south balk, suggesting that more of the structure remains to be uncovered to the south. A fragmentary wall (G4.55:27; see Figure 23) in Square G4.55 may belong to this field phase, though this remains to be demonstrated stratigraphically. The associated soil layers produced a large quantity of painted pottery, including possible Aegean imports, but predominantly a locally produced variation (the monochrome tradition associated with Mycenaean IIIC:1; Figures 27-28), as well as highland Anatolian painted wares.

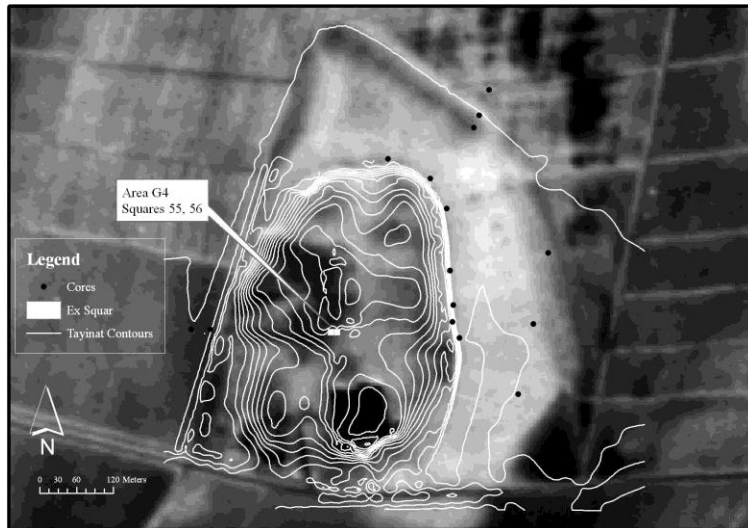
FP 5, in turn, was sealed by a substantial cultural layer that included the fragmentary remains of several large walls (in particular Walls G4.55:15; G4.56:36/38), all assigned to Field Phase Four. Though well-preserved, the remains of FP 4 appeared to have been heavily damaged by the leveling that occurred during construction of the foundations and sub-structures of the later Iron Age temple (or Building II; see further description below) associated with FP 2, and by extensive pitting activity during an intermediate occupational phase (FP 3; see below). The walls associated with FP 4 were dry-laid, and preserved to between five and seven courses in height. A number of installations appear also to belong to this field phase, although their stratigraphic links were not clear, including a clay and lime-plastered pit (G4.55:23; Figure 30), possibly a storage silo, and a stone pavement or platform (G4.56:20 see Figures 24-25), which flanked a second, larger clay-lined pit (G4.56:34/37). The surfaces and soil layers associated with FP 4, but in particular the ashy deposits removed from the silo-like storage pits, produced a wealth of faunal and paleobotanical evidence. The pottery and material cultural assemblages continued the traditions introduced in FPs 6 and 5.

Field Phase Three formed a somewhat enigmatic phase, inserted between FPs 2 and 4. It was represented primarily by substantial pitting activity, best exemplified by a large ashy pit in the western part of Square G4.55 (G4.55:19), which was sealed by a slightly concave-shaped plastered installation (G4.55:16). No walls or other free-standing structures were assigned to this

phase. Though somewhat mixed, the predominate pottery types belonged to Phase N (or Early Iron Age) traditions.

Sealing the Early Iron Age phases, but preserved only in the very northern portion of the excavation area, were the founding levels of a large mud brick structure, which proved to be the northern wall (G4.55:9=G4.56:2; Figures 17-18, 21, 23) of Building II, first uncovered during the University of Chicago excavations in the 1930s, when it was identified as a megaron-style temple, and dated to the late ninth century BCE, or the Iron IIB (Amuq Phase Oc). Most of this impressive structure, which once was graced by a flanking pair of columns supported by large basalt lion figures ([Figure 22](#)), was no longer preserved, having been destroyed by agricultural cultivation over the intervening years. Nevertheless, our excavations succeeded in uncovering portions of the cobbled surface that paved the central room of the sanctuary (G4.55:2/3/4; Figures 17-19, 23), the north pier that separated this room from the front porch of the building (G4.55:5/13; Figures 17-20, 23), and two flat stone pavers (G4.56:3; Figures 21-22), which had once formed part of the stepped approach to the building. Though from heavily disturbed contexts, the associated pottery dated predominantly to the Iron II, and included large quantities of the Red Slip Burnished Wares assigned by the Chicago Expedition primarily to Amuq Phases Ob and Oc.

Field Phase One was assigned to the post-Iron Age abandonment debris accumulation (G4.55:1/6/7=G4.56:1), primarily in the form of a plow zone, which formed the topsoil covering the excavation area.



THE CORING PROGRAM

A coring program was initiated during the 2004 season to help determine the full extent of the lower mound, which has been buried by alluviation from the annual floods of the nearby Asi River, and to develop a sedimentary profile of this submerged part of the site. The coring program will also help to determine the impact of the changing course of the river in ancient and modern times. Though time constraints, and extensive crop cover, did not permit full implementation of this initiative, a total of sixteen cores (ranging in depth from 2 to 8 meters) were drilled across the lower mound, and at the western base of the upper mound (see [Figure 15](#)). The cores in the eastern sector encountered extensive cultural deposits, some reaching a depth of almost 8 m below the current surface of the plain, and produced material culture from both the Early Bronze and Iron Ages. In contrast, the cores taken at the western base of the upper mound produced only sand and shell deposits, suggesting the existence of a relic water channel or lake bed to the west of the site. It is anticipated that the coring program will be continued and expanded during the next field season.

ANTAKYA MUSEUM ARTIFACT DOCUMENTATION

During the 2004 season, work continued on the inventory of artifacts from the original Chicago excavations currently stored in the Antakya Museum. The goal of this effort, which was initiated in 2003, is to incorporate information about these artifacts into the comprehensive relational database being developed for Tell Ta'yinat. Since this material remains largely unpublished, it was decided that the inventory should also include a thorough documentation of each artifact, including verbal descriptions, photographs, and detailed line drawings where possible.

In all, the 2004 season succeeded in documenting more than 125 artifacts from the Chicago excavations, including the large double lion column base and other monumental architectural remains famously associated with the site. When combined with the total number recorded in 2003, approximately half of the 460 items attributed to Tell Ta'yinat in the Antakya Museum accession records have now been documented. A complete digital record of all the Ta'yinat Objects was submitted to the Antakya Museum at the end of the season.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

In summary, the 2004 excavations not only validated the choice of magnetometry as a low-cost, yet effective remote sensing technique, they also confirmed the accessibility of the Bronze and Iron Age levels in the West Central Area of the upper mound, thus laying the groundwork for more systematic investigations of the cultural remains preserved from the principal phases in Tell Ta'yinat's settlement history. As a result, the Tayinat Archaeological Project is now poised to initiate the long-term excavations and conservation program necessary to document the rich archaeological remains preserved at this important site, and to establish its broader touristic value and attraction.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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