Realllexikon der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie

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Redaktion
T. Blaschke · S. Ecklin · J. Fechner · S. Pfaffinger

Band 13 · 5./6. Lieferung
Susa. B – Telipinu. B

2012

Sonderdruck

De Gruyter
TA’YİNAT, TALL


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Ta’yinat, Tall.


§ 1. Site location. T. forms a large low-lying mound 1.5 km E of Demirköprü on the northern bend of the Orontes River. The site consists of an upper and lower mound, with the upper mound visible just N of the modern Antakya-Reyhanlı road. The combined surface area measures approximately 500 m (E-W) × 700 m (N-S).

§ 2. Ancient name. As argued under Kinalua*, this toponym referred to T. Circumstantial support for this was provided by a sherd found in Building I inscribed in Aramaic KNLH (G. F. Swift, The pottery of the Amuq, phases K to O, and its historical relationships [PhD Diss. University of Chicago 1958] 192), and confirmation by the recently discovered Esarhaddon succession treaty tablet, which also confirms its Ass. designation from 738 as Kulanii(a)*, a metathesized form of Kinalua (Tadmor, Tigli. 58f.; Provinz C. § 3.6. Nr. 52).

§ 3. History of exploration. Large-scale excavations were conducted by the University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute over the course of four field seasons between 1935 and 1938 as part of the Syr.-Hitt. expedition.

The excavations focused primarily on the West Central Area of the upper mound, although excavation areas were also opened on the eastern and southern edges of the upper mound and in the lower settlement. In all, the Syr.-Hitt. expedition achieved horizontal exposures of five distinct architectural phases, or Building Periods, which they assigned to the Iron II and III periods (or Amuq Phase O, c. 900–550) (Haines 1971, 64–66). A series of isolated soundings below the earliest Phase O floors encountered remains that were dated primarily to the 3rd mill. (specifically Phases H, I and J) (Braidwood/ Braidwood 1960, 131.), suggesting a lengthy period of abandonment during the interim.

Renewed investigations were initiated at the site in 1999 by the University of Toronto’s Ta’yinat Archaeological Project (TAP).

Following preliminary seasons in 1999–2003 devoted to surveying and mapping the site (see Batuik et al. 2005), targeted excavations commenced at T. in 2004, and have continued on an annual basis since. To date, the TAP excavations have uncovered remains dating to the EBA (late 3rd mill.; Amuq J), Early IA (Amuq N), and IA II (Amuq O) periods.

§ 4. Architecture. According to the Chicago excavators, Building I, the most famous of T.’s bi šili̇ni palaces, and the adjacent anten-type temple (Building II) (Tenpel* B. II) were constructed during the 2nd Build. Per., the beginning of which they dated to the end of the 9th cent., based largely on the presence of fragm. Hier.-Luw. inscriptions that were found on or below their floors (Haines 1971, 66; see also below). In addition to Buildings I and II, the 2nd Build. Per. also included Buildings IV (a second bi šili̇ni) and VI, and altogether formed part of a large complex arranged around a paved central courtyard (Courtyard VIII). In 2008, a second anten-type temple was discovered to the E of Building I. It was oriented perpendicular to Building II, and faced S on to a shared stone paved courtyard. The 2nd Build. Per. complex was the most extensive and best preserved architectural phase uncovered by the Syr.-Hitt. expedition in the West Central Area. It also exhibited clear stratigraphic separation from the earlier, more fragmentary architectural remains encountered by the Chicago team and assigned to their 1st Build. Per.
Limited exposures of two large structures, Buildings XIII and XIV, were achieved beneath the floors and walls of the buildings assigned to the 2nd Build. Per. complex. The E part of Building XIII extended under Building IV, while Building XIV was sealed by Buildings I and VI, and the southern portion of IV. Since they represented the earliest IA architectural levels reached in the West Central Area, both buildings were assigned to the 1st Build. Per. (Haines 1971, 64). As with the 2nd Build. Per., both structures appeared to form part of a complex centered around a courtyard.

Renovations to the complex of buildings in the West Central Area accounted for most of the activity assigned by the excavators to the 3rd Build. Per., including Buildings I and II. Fragmentary remains beneath Building IX, a large structure located on a knoll at the southern end of the upper mound, and parts of the fortifications and
gate systems leading to the upper mound, including the eastern Gateway VII, were assigned to this Build. Per. as well (Haines 1971, 65).

According to the excavators, the 4th Build. Per. witnessed the continued occupation of the bit hilani in the West Central Area, but saw the abandonment of the temple. Building IX, identified as a Neo-Ass. governor's palace (Harrison 2005), very likely experienced its greatest occupational use during this period. Building X (Haines 1971, 61, pl. 88 and 110), which appears to have functioned as a series of retaining walls for an elevated platform, or enclosure, that supported Building IX, must also date to this period, although it was assigned tentatively by the expedition to the 5th Build. Per. (Haines 1971, 66). The excavators also assigned the uppermost pavement (Floor 1) of the adjacent Gateway VII, including seven Ass. reliefs (see below), to the 4th Build. Per. (Haines 1971, 66, pl. 110).

§ 5. Sculpture.
§ 5.1. Fragments of colossal head. These were excavated in 1936, in the uppermost pavement (Floor 1) of the East Citadel Gateway VII, along with Neo-Ass. soldier reliefs of the late 8th cent. These latter were numbered T1253–1259, and the head fragments T1260. The reuse of these Ass. reliefs clearly belongs to a late phase of Ass. occupation (probably the 4th Build. Per., ca. late 8th or 7th cent.), whereas the colossal head must belong to a pre-Ass. occupation (possibly the 2nd Build. Per.), and its destruction attributed to the Assy. capture of the city in 738.

Hardly enough of the head survives to offer dating criteria beyond the hair-style and the eye sockets for inlay, and even these hardly permit a more definite dating than the 9th or 8th cent.

§ 5.2. Fragments of inscribed throne (TELL TA'YINAT 1, frags. 1–6). At least one fragment, frag. 1, was found in 1936 (McEwan 1937, fig. 11), with reported provenance of Courtyard VIII.

The excavation and provenance of the other fragments is not recorded, but all fragments were photographed in 1937, described as "colossal throne statue". The excavators associated the throne frag-
ments with the head fragments from the beginning (McEwan 1937, 167 figs. 11f.). Gelb (HHM 39) included the throne fragments under the head fragments number T1260, and this was followed in CHLI 1/2, p. 566 "Discovery", quoting the excavation catalogue describing T1260 as "colossal throne and head". This association of the throne fragments with the find spot of the head fragments appears to be incorrect, but the assumption that both formed parts of the same monument may yet be correct.

As noted, the only dating criteria for the inscribed throne fragments are the sign forms, which suggest a late 8th–early 9th cent. dating.

§ 5.3. Orthostat with chariot scene. See Orthmann 1971, 82f., 158f., 534, Taf. 52f.: Tainat 2.

§ 5.4. Double lion column base. See Orthmann 1971, 82f., 534, Taf. 52a; Säule*, Säulenhalte. Abb. 4. Orthmann has identified the lions as purely Assy.

The closest comparanda to this monumental piece are small bronze lion weights from Nimrud (Ma‘as* und Gewichte. p. 516f.), dating to the late 8th–early 7th cent. (cf. Salmanassar* VI). Points of comparison include roaring mouths, snarling muzzle lines, laid-back ears, the rendering of the manes, their couchant posture, and tails looped up over the rump. Similarly sculptured basalt lion figures, including a double lion column base, were found in association with Išilani III at Zincirli. If Assy., the date is most likely to the reign of Tiglath-pileser III, or later, as with the weights.

§ 6. Tall Ta’yinat inscriptions as dating criteria. In the past these have been misused by Gelb (HHM 39) and Haines (1971, 66), and subsequent datings based on these, because the different dates of the two principal groups of fragments (CHLI, TALL TA’YINAT 1 and 2) were not at the time appreciated.

§ 6.1. TELL TA’YINAT 1 see CHLI 1/2, p. 566f.
§ 6.1.1. Date. These fragments were dated by Gelb (HHM 39) by reference to the name Halpahtumtiya appearing on frag. 6, on the assumptions (i) that this is the Qalparunda* of Pattin-Unqi referred to by Shalmaneser III in 857 and 853 B.C.; (ii) that he was the author of the inscription. While either is possible, neither is secure. Other criteria suggest a date earlier than the mid-9th cent.: the monumental sign forms, and in particular the graphic phenomenon "initial-a-final", align this inscription with the Suḫi-Katuwa inscriptions of Karkamš*, thus preferring a date of c. 900 or earlier.

§ 6.1.2. Find spots. The fragments of the inscribed throne (frags. 1 and 2) with the other inscribed fragments (frags. 3, 4, 5, and 6) were associated by Gelb (HHM 39 no. 52) with the remains of
the colossal head (see discussion in § 5.1), but most probably were found in the debris of Courtyard VIII (see Haines 1971, 41 and pl. 118).

§ 6.2. TELL TAYINAT 2 see CHLI 1/2, p. 367f.
§ 6.2.1. Date. The only criteria of date for this group of fragments are the sign-forms (mixed monumental-cursive), and the absence of "initial-a-final", which aligns them with e.g., MARÂS i (lion) (CHLI 1/2), and suggests a date hardly earlier than c. 800.

§ 6.2.2. Find spots. The only fragments found in a clear context are the group referred to by Gelb as Tell Tayinat VII (see "Discovery"), and some scattered pieces have been joined to these. The group is recorded in the excavation catalogue as "T3277 IIB 11/1.0 m 19 frags." (i.e., in the portico of the megaron 1 m below the first floor", cf. Gelb, HHI 38f.). The remaining fragments assembled and identified as part of a single monument were collected in the vicinity of Buildings I and II, unstratified in fill above surfaces associated with these buildings (details taken from excavation catalogue, CHLI 1/2, p. 368, "Discovery").

§ 6.3. TELL TAYINAT 3 see CHLI 1/2, p. 375.
§ 6.3.1. Date. This piece, recut as an Ass. "altar", appears originally to have been a Hier.-Luw. inscription, of which a small, virtually illegible section survives upside down on the base. Not enough remains to show any dating criteria. Only the recutting, presumably under the Assyrian occupation, provides a terminus ante quem.

§ 6.3.2. Find spot. In situ on the right of the colonnaded entrance to Building II. Contrary to what is stated in CHLI under "Location", the piece is on exhibition in the Antakya Museum. The reuse of a Hier.-Luw. inscription to make a typical Ass. "altar" for the temple entrance supports the idea of an Ass. renovation to Building II in the 3rd Build. Per., as does the Ass. double lion column-base.

§ 6.4. TELL TAYINAT fragments (Oriental Institute 1935-1938) see CHLI 1/2, p. 375. None of these fragments preserves sufficient detail to offer dating criteria, nor do any of their find spots as recorded seem to be particularly significant.

§ 6.5. TALL TAYINAT fragments, from the TAP surface survey and excavations. Several fragments, including TT04.G4.56.1.1 and TT07.G1.47.15.830, look likely to have belonged to TELL TAYINAT 2.

§ 7. Small finds. The Syr.-Hitt. expedition's excavations produced a wealth of small finds, including seals (cylinder, stamp and scarab) and sealings, large numbers of figurines, jewelry, stone vessels, censers, cosmetic boxes, pyxides, spindle whorls, moulds, and a wide assortment of bronze and iron tools and weaponry.


T. P. Harrison – J. D. Hawkins

Taymâ's Têmâ.

Tazzigurumâš s. Urzigurumaš.

Tazzuwašši. T. is eine in Kaštama* verehrte hatt.-heth. Gottheit, die als Konkubine (šašant-) des Berggottes Zaliṣ(i)našu* öfter mit diesem zusammen beopfert, aber auch in einem eigenen Jahresfest gefeiert wird (HittPantheon 1, 463–466; Haas, KN 79–82, 311).

G. Wilhelm

Tebah.