

Greater Toronto

»TORONTO STAR«

U OF T'S LION PRIDE

Toronto archeologists unearth ancient stone sculpture in Turkey, **GT2**



Expedition led by U of T finds 3,000-year-old lion sculpture

'Gripping' discovery for archeologists in Turkey

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STAFF REPORTER

A University of Toronto-led expedition in southeastern Turkey has unearthed a 3,000-year-old roaring stone lion.

The 2,000-kilogram cat was discovered by archeologists working with the university's Tayinat Archaeological Project — an international project involving 12 countries and more than 20 universities and research centres — in a farm area in southern Turkey, about 50 kilometres outside Antakya.

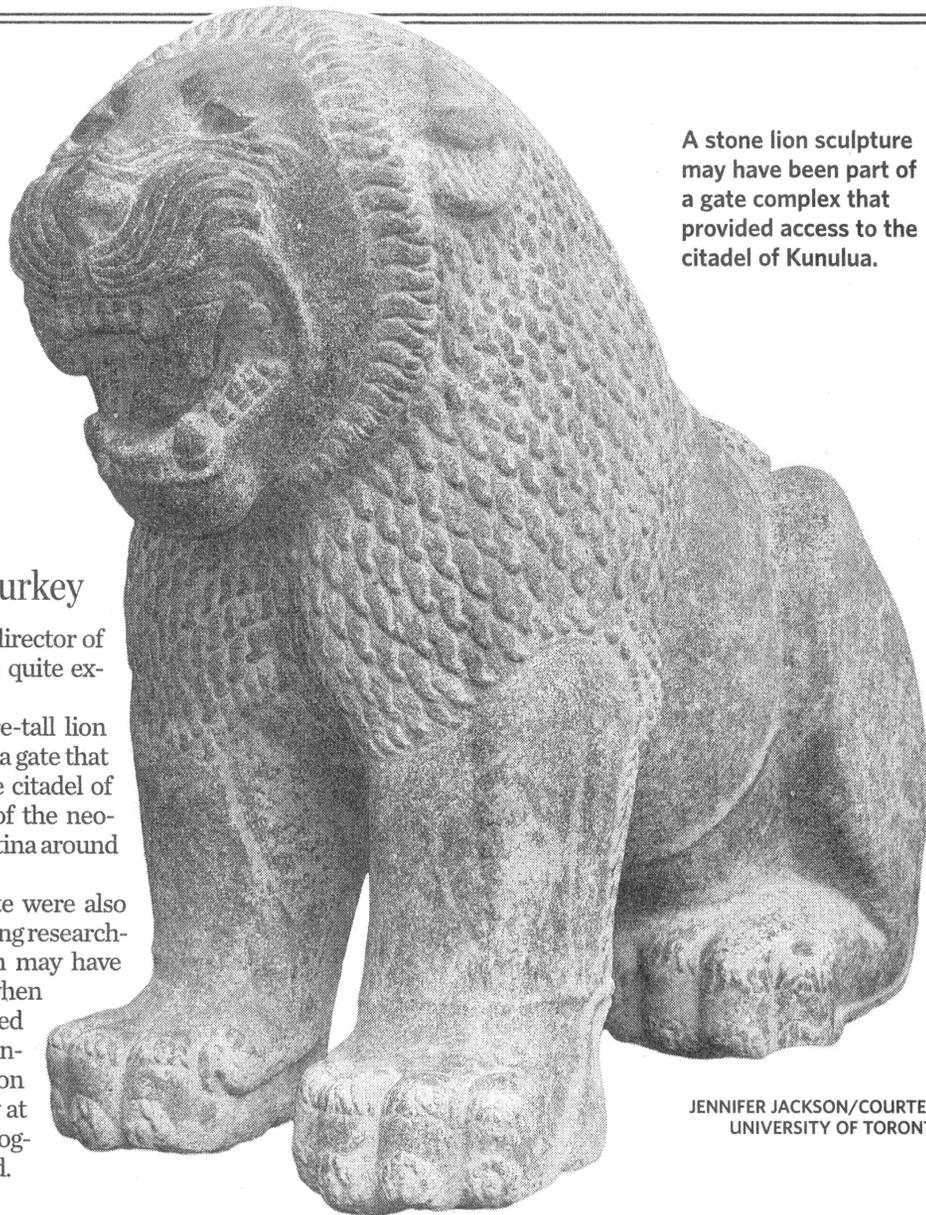
"It's a beautifully carved lion and I think it's quite gripping," said Timothy Harrison, professor in the Department of Near and Middle East-

ern Civilizations and director of the project. "We were quite excited."

He said the 1.3-metre-tall lion may have been part of a gate that provided access to the citadel of Kunulua, the capital of the neo-Hittite Kingdom of Patina around 950-725 BC.

Remnants of the gate were also found on the site, leading researchers to believe the lion may have been knocked over when the gate was destroyed after the Assyrian conquest in 738 BC. The lion is currently on display at the Antakya Archaeological Museum, he added.

A stone lion sculpture may have been part of a gate complex that provided access to the citadel of Kunulua.



JENNIFER JACKSON/COURTESY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO