1. TELL KAZEL (SUMUR), Syria 2005 campaign

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2. TELL KAZEL 2005

TELL KAZEL 2005

- Excavated since 1985 under the direction of the American University of Beirut Museum, Tell Kazel was identified with Sumur, subsequently capital of the kingdom of Amurry, satellite of Hittite and Egyptian colonial forces, residence of Assyrian governors, coalition partner of Arwad since Alexander's conquest and, finally, seat of a Byzantine episcopate.
3. TELL KAZEL 2005

• Since 1986, the excavation director Leila Badre (AUB) entrusted the direction of Area I (magenta on map) to Eric Gubel (KMG-MRAH/ VUB).

• As in 2004, Lione du Pied (University of Amsterdam) and Vanessa Bosch (VUB) acted as senior- and assistant supervisors respectively, heading a team of 20 workmen.

• The TK 2005 team consisted of 22 members and 60 workmen.

4. TELL KAZEL 2005

• Ever since 1986, Tell Kazel’s Area I proved to reserve some major contributions to the reconstruction of the Aaker plains’ role in history.

• An ever-growing corpus of inscriptions contradicts Strabo’s identification of Sumur as a Syrian city. Quite the contrary, it is the only site in Syria were Phoenician was the lingua franca throughout the 1st millennium B.C.

• An impressive temple with cultic material (figurines, offering deposits, seals and amulets) continuously offers new insights in the mechanics of the Phoenician expansion, with international trade relations covering the entire Mediterranean realm.
5. “Several figurines from the Phoenician...”

 Several figurines from the Phoenician temple illustrate the perpetuation of Late Bronze Age traditions, as shown here by the comparison of the well-known ivory head from Ugarit and a terracotta head from Tell Kazel.

6. TELL KAZEL 2005

If Tell Kazel’s Area IV yielded the most complete range of Late Bronze Age ceramics since the excavations of Ugarit, the typology based on the Area IV’s ceramic horizon offers Near Eastern archaeology the most panoramic sequel of local “Red Slip” pottery, besides imports from Cyprus and the Aegean alike.

With over 400 samples yet to be analyzed chemically, the publication of Area I’s “Black-on-Red” pottery may reasonably be expected to appear decisive in the long debated issue on the origins of this production.

From the art-historical point of view, Area I did also put a new regional style on the map of the Levantine artistic output.
7. **TELL KAZEL 2005**

[Image of Tell Kazel]

- Archaeologists: Leila Badra (Director), Eric Cubel (Field Director Area I), Emma Capet (Field Director Area II), Lionel du Pied (Senior Supervisor Area I), Vanessa Bosseloo (Assistant Supervisor Area I), Dib Vitale (Supervisor Area IV).

- Junior supervisors: Area I: Patrick Michel, Sébastien & Adolphe.


- Restoration: Anila Vanderkoot, Mohammed Fares, Abu Ahmad (Syrian DCA representative).

- Registrars: Barbara Vitale, Marie Besnier, Brout Kael, Roula Yehia

- Pottery draughtsman: Abdullah 'Ala' Edinne

- Floating biologist: Linda Henrux

- Catering: Umm Aisha, Marie Sophie Ayash

- Administrator: Ahmad Feghali

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8. **TELL KAZEL 2005**

[Map of Tell Kazel]

- The 2005 mission's twofold aim was successfully realized:

- The Iron Age I (c. 1200-900 B.C.) area was considerably extended (orange and red on the map), yielding precious information on this yet ill-known period.

- Constructions of a unique dimension on the Syrian coast confirm that Surnur suffered but very little from the "Sea-Peoples' raid" at the eve of the 12th c. B.C.
9. TELL KAZEL 2005

TELL KAZEL 2005

- Soundings in Area I’s Iron Age II nucleus had to be restricted to both squares in blue in its SE sector (with a third adjoining one not figuring on the map), due to the presence of dense constructions.
- The latter enabled the reconstruction of the towns’ urban development from the 5th c. B.C. to the late 6th c. A.D. as the preliminary associations with preceding excavation results show on both the following maps.

10. URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Hellenistic to Post-Ottoman

URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Hellenistic to Post-Ottoman

- Magenta: Hellenistic
- Orange: Byzantine
- Yellow: Ottoman-1958
11. URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Persian – Hellenistic

URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Persian – Hellenistic
- [Image: Map of urban development]
- [Image: Plan of urban development]

12. EARLY HELLENISTIC HABITATION

EARLY Hellenistic Habitation
- Laid out against the (partly dismantled) Persian fortress wall (to the right), three professionally paved rooms of a rural habitation were exposed
13. EARLY HELLENISTIC HABITATION

EARLY HELLENISTIC
HABITATION

- Exceptionally, four tannourin (bread-ovens), one constructed
into another were isolated, used from the early 4th well into the 2nd
p. B.C.

14. EARLY HELLENISTIC HABITATION : SOME NEW CERAMIC TYPES

EARLY HELLENISTIC
HABITATION : SOME NEW CERAMIC TYPES
15. URBAN HELLENISTIC HABITATION : RECONSTRUCTION OF PHOENICIAN TEMPLE

URBAN DEVELOPMENT:
Reconstruction of Phoenician temple

- In spite of the time-consuming excavation of the Hellenistic and later levels (removal of 30 m³ of building materials), a new wall of the 9th c. B.C. Phoenician temple was exposed at the end of the 2005 campaign.

- Situated in the sector under the tree on the virtual reconstruction (2004) to the left, this new wall prompts us to reconsider the temple’s surface, accounting an additional 40%. Consequently, the TK temple is the oldest and most extensive sanctuary on the Phoenician coast.

16. URBAN DEVELOPMENT Late Bronze – Early Iron Age I

URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Late Bronze – Early Iron Age I

- Top: western half of the Iron Age I sector with the angle of a Late Bronze Age structure repaired and “squatted” after the “Sea Peoples” invasion.

- Right: the eastern half with some of the most impressive Iron Age I walls on the Syrian coast.
17. URBAN DEVELOPMENT Late bronze – Early Iron Age I

URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Late Bronze – Early Iron Age I

- The Late Bronze Age remains (dark red) and the successive construction phases of Early Iron I structures (different shades of blue) illustrated on the preceding slide, as plotted on the map of Area I West.

- Note the dramatic change of orientation conceived for the construction of the Phoenician temple (black) during the transition period of Iron Age I B/C – Iron Age II A.

18. TELL KAZEL 2005

TELL KAZEL 2005

- The installation of five new showcases illustrating the Tell Kazel excavations in the Tartous Cathedral Museum (one of which entirely devoted to the Area I finds), proved to be a considerable contribution to the development of regional cultural tourism since 2004.

- Encouraged by the growing numbers of visitors, the Syrian Directorate General plans another set of showcases in the Arwad Island museum, while awaiting funds for a new museum to open in the spectacular archaeological park of nearby Armit.
TELL KAZEL 2006 - ...

- E. Gubel, Tell Kazel 1995-2005, IULI.
- Séminaire Credo, 15.10.2006, 14.00-16.00.
- Presentation of the Phoenician temple at the 5th congress of Near Eastern Archaeology (Barcelona 2006).
- L. Bade, Fouilles de tell Kazel (Syrie), bilan et perspectives d'avenir. Paris (Louvre), 31.03.2006.

Meanwhile...

Check out the latest titles of the Tell Kazel bibliography on:
http://www.batjakash.net/jubelnatlie_scottas/index3.html