

Community Archaeology at a distance

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Listed here are all the projects that have been carried out in connection with our work at Tell Mozan, ancient Urkesh. The links provide full documentation.

1. CONSERVATION: the extensive threat posed by very severe winter weather was met with a massive conservation program, which is described in detail at avasa.it/ZD911e.
2. SIGNAGE: the constant monitoring of our signage system indicated which signs were damaged as a result of the severe winter weather (avasa.it/ZE223e), and we are currently in the process of renewing them. We also produced a new brief introduction to the site (avasa.it/ZD712e) to meet the demands of our constant stream of visitors to the site, an unheard of phenomenon in this time of war.
3. EXHIBITS: on October 24th, 2019, the National Museum in Aleppo re-opened its doors – an extraordinary event considering how harshly the war had impacted this city. We were present as the only foreign project contributing to this moment of great national unity, with the Arabic version of the exhibit about our work at Mozan during the war (avasa.it/ZDx24e). A reduced English version of the same exhibit was on display at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology for the UCLA Alumni day on May 18, 2019 (avasa.it/ZD518e). A full scale Italian version had been scheduled for Florence and Domodossola. but was postponed because of the illness of the project director, M. Kelly-Buccellati.
4. ORGANIZED VISITS to the site have continued unabated. Here are pictures of the latest visits a little over a month ago. Particularly touching is the photo (next page) of the little girl standing by the walls of the palace which are covered by our signature protection system.



5. The SCHOOL PROJECT has also continued, and is now entering a new phase, thanks to a collaboration with the Corinth project sponsored by the Steinmetz Foundation (avasa.it/ZE217e).
6. SYRIAN SCHOLARS. We are supporting three post-docs: Samer Abdelghafour in Rome (iimas.org/Samer), Hiba Qassar in Florence (iimas.org/qassar) and Arwa Kharobi in Bornemouth (iimas.org/kharobi); and two doctoral students: Yasmine Mahrnoud in Damascus and Yara Moualla in Berlin.
7. PUBLICATIONS. We published the 7th volume of the Urkesh/Mozan Studies, by Matteo delle Donne, devoted to the archeobotanical remains (avasa.it/ZD617e). I published an article on our community archaeology project at Tell Mozan (urkesh.org/gB2019b) and another on the Urkesh Gilgamesh plaque (urkesh.org/gB2019a). M. Kelly-Buccellati published an article on Urkesh glyptic (urkesh.org/mKB2019a) and another on Urkesh ceramics (urkesh.org/mKB2019b). A volume on Urkesh human osteology by Arwa Kharobi, and two volumes on our older excavations at Terqa (terqa.org/TFR3 and terqa.org/TFR4) are in the phase of peer review. Arwa Kharobi presented a paper on Urkesh human remains at the annual conference of the British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology (avasa.it/ZE109e).
8. URKESH WEBSITE. The eLibrary section of the Urkesh website (urkesh.org/eLibrary) is now almost complete. We are currently working on two other sections (conservation and climate), which will be up to date by the end of the year.

The uniqueness of our project continues to be widely recognized. In particular, I may refer to a volume which has appeared in our honor (avasa.it/ZE107e). Two articles by eminent colleagues refer to our project: Neville Agnew and Martha Demas (Getty Conservation Institute) deal with the conservation program (urkesh.org/AgnewDemas2019a) and Diederik Meijer (Leiden University) with the theoretical background of the project (urkesh.org/Meijer2019).

Work on these projects has been carried out in close cooperation with our sister institution in Italy, AVASA. More can be found at avasa.it.

