

**A JOURNAL  
OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY IN ARAB WORLD \*\***

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# SUMER

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# AL-HIBA

## A Summary of Four Seasons of Excavation 1968 - 1976

By : Donald P. Hansen

Since the fall and winter of 1968-1969 a joint expedition of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Institute of Fine Art of New York University has been excavating at the

site of al-Hiba in southern Iraq. Until now, four campaigns have taken place, and a fifth season of excavations is planned for the fall and winter of 1977-1978 (1).

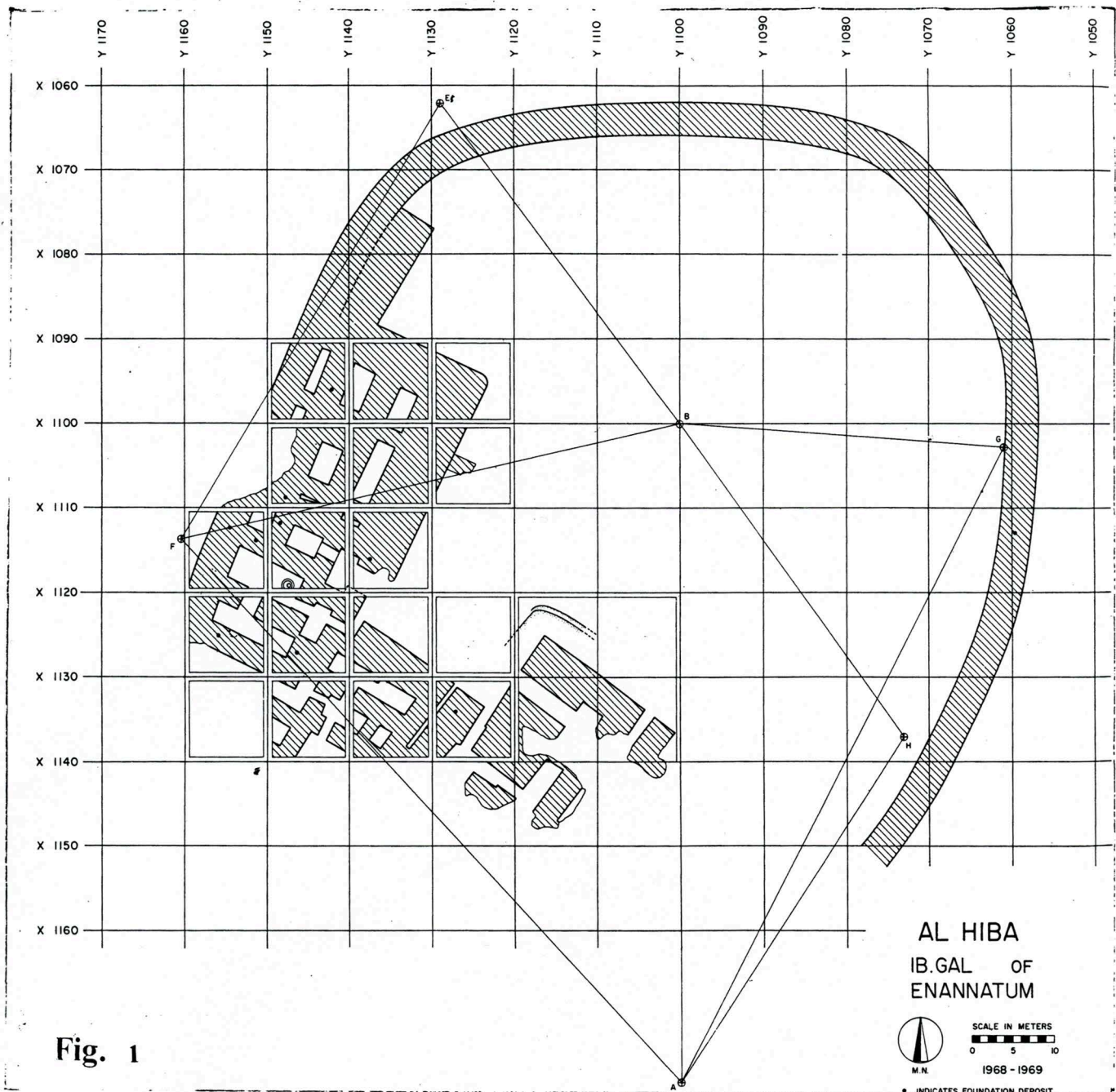


Fig. 1

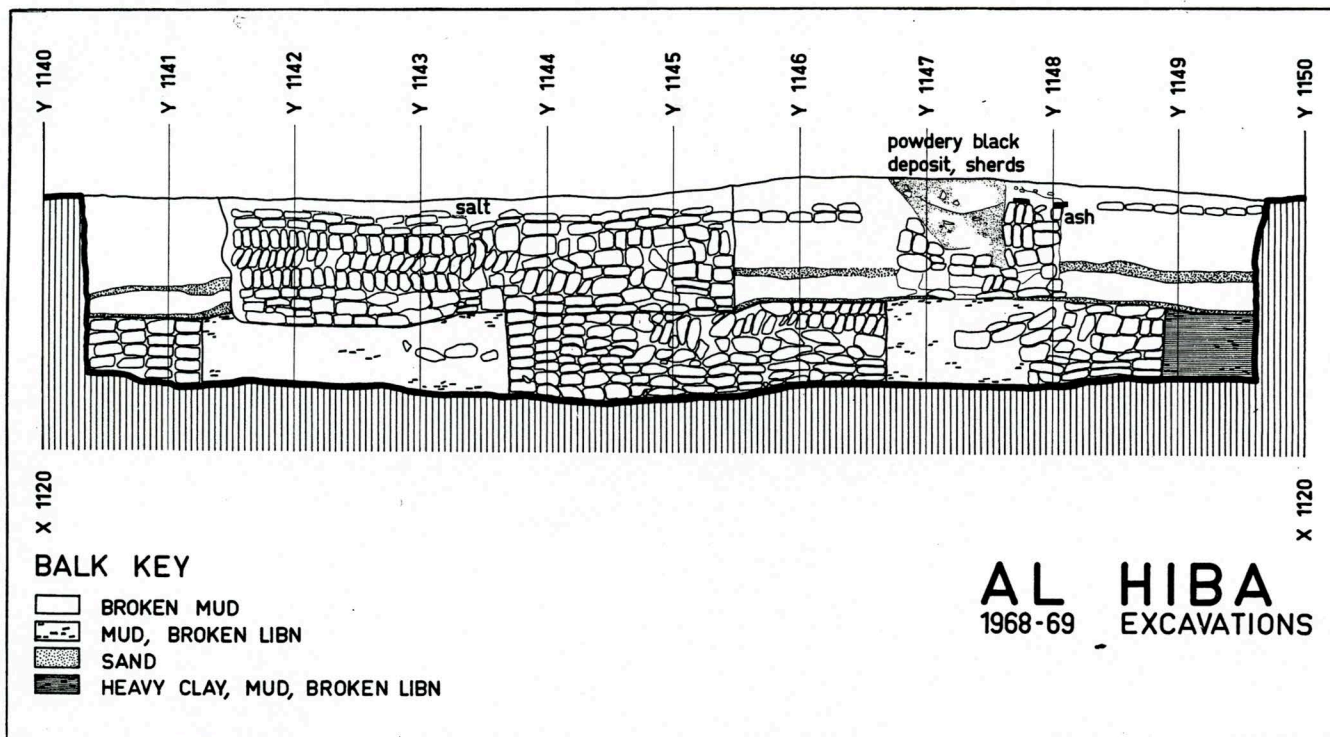
Al-Hiba is located in southern Iraq in the province of Nasiriyah approximately fifteen miles east of the modern town of Shatra. The mound is undoubtedly the largest site in southern Mesopotamia. Its length is approximately 3600 meters and its width is 1900 meters at its largest extent. It is not, however, a high mound; the highest point is over six meters above the plain level. This is located in the central western portion of the mound where occupation lasted into the Old Babylonian period. Elsewhere, the mound is relatively low and the surface remains can for the most part, be dated to the end of the Third Early Dynastic period. A major contour survey of the mound has been completed, but is not yet published. On the map the mound has been divided into series of "Areas" labeled alphabetically. Thus far, the excavations have concentrated in Areas A, B, C and G. Area A is located at the south eastern portion of the mound. Area B is the higher part of the mound in the central western section. Area C is situated between Areas A and B but further to the east, and Area G is also located between Areas A and B but on the western side of the mound.

There is little doubt but that the site of al-Hiba is ancient Lagash. Two of the major temples of that city, the Ibgal of Inanna and the Bagara of Ningirsu, known from textual material to have existed in Lagash, have now been located in Areas A and B respectively. The nearby sites of Telloh and Surghul were ancient Girsu and Nina.<sup>2</sup>

During the first two seasons the Ibgal of Inanna in the

Eanna was investigated (the plan is reproduced in Fig. 1). The remains of Level I proved to be the foundation system of a temple oval dedicated to the goddess and constructed by Enannatum I of Lagash. Enough of the foundations were preserved to a considerable height so that it was possible to gain some understanding of the nature of the temple. In most areas of the temple the earlier Level II building was cleared of all debris within the walls of the rooms, the floors were removed and in many cases even the plaster on the walls. The rooms were then filled with densely packed earth and clay forming a sub-foundation upon which was constructed an upper foundation built of mud brick. These two phases were separated by a thin layer of sand. The building methods can be seen in the section drawing of Figure 2.

The upper foundation was not solid but contained rectangular areas of different sizes resembling rooms, although some were so small as to be nothing but slits. The spaces were filled with broken pieces of mud and some layers of sand. Towards the top of this upper foundation the spaces were capped with libn so that when completed, the foundation appeared as a large solid platform. One can only surmise that even though these spaces were no longer visible, they must reflect something of the plan or distribution of the rooms in the living part of the temple. It may well be that the elaborate method of constructing a foundation was associated with the complex rituals of temple building known from later texts.



The temple was built into the southern and western sides of a precinct defined by a large oval wall over four meters thick. Unfortunately the southern part of the building was completely eroded away. The other known temple ovals of Khafajah and Ubaid were of different plan. They both had a temple placed on a free standing platform in a courtyard. We can now expect that various plan types will be found in future temple ovals.

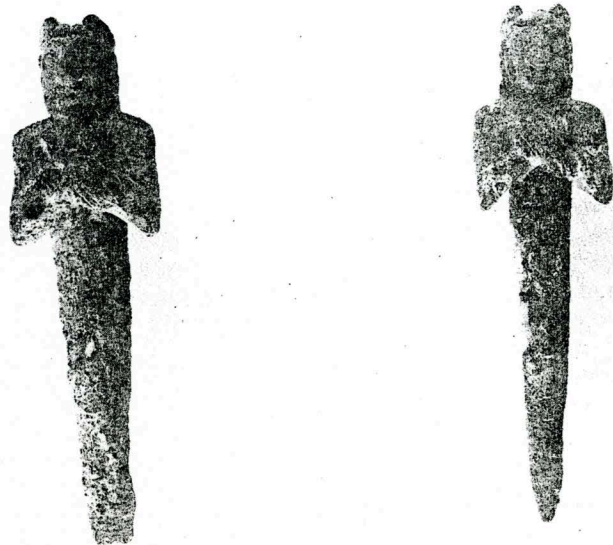
During the course of removing the remains of Level I so that the temple of Level II could be investigated, fourteen foundation deposits were discovered. Ten of these deposits contained a copper figurine and an inscribed stone; four deposits were simply the inscribed stone. Figure 3 shows two of figurines and Figure 4, one side of one of the stones.

Each stone had the same inscription (Fig. 4) which indicated that the temple was the Ibgal dedicated to Inanna in the Eanna, and was constructed by Eannatum I of Lagash and that the copper figurine represented the god Shulutulula, the personal god of Eannatum.<sup>3</sup> There was a consistency in the manner in which the deposits were placed in the foundation. The figurines stood erect with their points touching the ground. Gradually they were covered by the flat courses of mud brick. On top of the third course the inscribed stones were placed behind the heads of the figurines all of which faced roughly toward the east. The black dots on the plan of Figure I indicate most of the deposits. From only the foundations it is not possible to discern any order to the placement of the figurines and stones. They do not seem to be placed at major corners or on either side of doorways as was done in later periods.

Levels II and III of the temple oval were also excavated in part. They are both less well preserved than the foundations of Level I. Level I cut away a good portion of Level II and Level II did the same for Level III. They are both smaller versions of Enannatum's building. Indeed the curved outer wall of Level III is only 1.50 m. wide in contrast to the over four meter wall of Level I. The preserved part of these earlier levels lie under the western side of Level I. They probably also date to the late Early Dynastic III period.

In a small sounding beneath Level III, eight earlier architectural levels were encountered with a ninth level under the present water table. All nine levels date to the Early Dynastic period. From the lowest level came two large spouted jars and three cups which may be dated to Early Dynastic I on the basis of comparable finds in the Diyala region and at Nippur.

Area C was excavated during the second season. This is an extremely flat area in the middle part of the mound to the north and east of area A. The expedition was attracted to the region because of the existence of baked plano-convex brick walls showing on the surface. Originally it was thought that perhaps these walls were parts of tombs, but upon excavation it was immediately evident that we were dealing with a building which had perished in such a hot conflagration that many of the mud brick walls had been turned into red baked brick. Two levels were excavated (Level IA and IB)

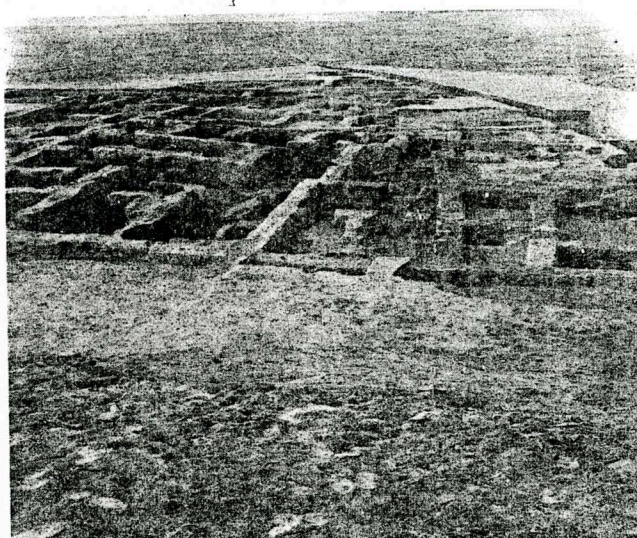


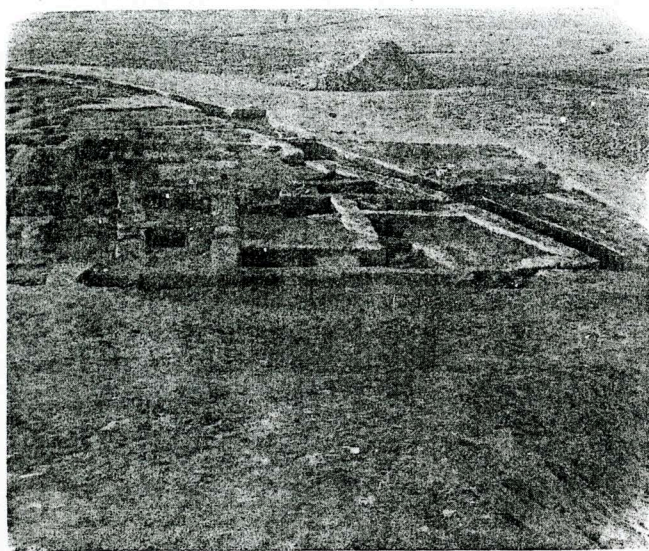
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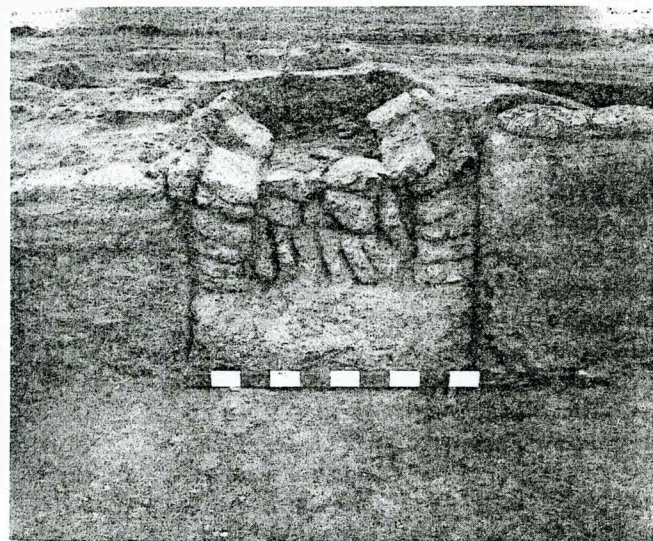
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and where the fire was hottest, the buried lower level was turned charcoal black.

The building is large and covers some 1000 square meters. Its extent and irregular shape can be seen in Figures 5 and 6. Its plan is by no means well-ordered and consists mainly of a series of rooms added to other rooms as needed with circuitous room circulation.

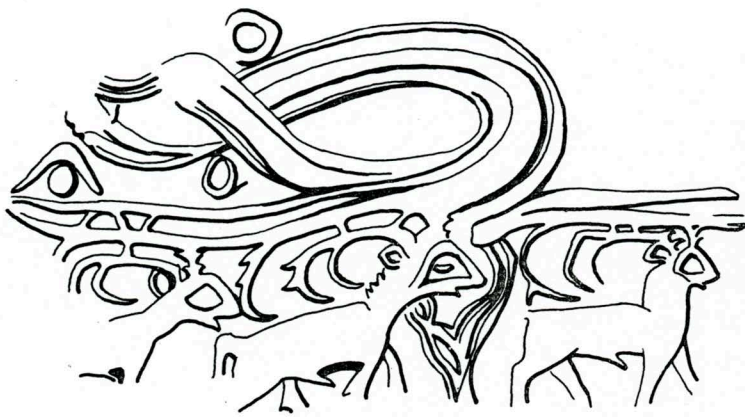
One would have suspected a plan based on a series of well-defined courts surrounded by small rooms on all sides, but this was rarely the case. Indeed the north east section of the building was a warren of tiny rooms with tiny miniature vessels on the floor. Since the plan of Level IB is very awkward, it is difficult to understand why during the rebuilding in Level IA the later plan should so closely follow the earlier. Because the building was heavily burned, several architectural details originally constructed in mudbrick were well preserved. One such feature was a blocked doorway seen in Figure 7. A niche was made in the form of an arch. This is a very early example of an arch, but unfortunately we do not know how it was capped.

Again, on the basis of textual evidence found within the building, it may be dated to specific kings of the Lagash Dynasty. In Level IB were found a royal sealing and several tablets bearing the names of Eannatum and Enannatum I, thus dating the level, or at least part of it, to the time of those famous monarchs. Level IA, then, should date to the time of the later kings of the Lagash Dynasty.

Figure 8 is a drawing of a fragment of the royal sealing of Eannatum. The style is a fully modelled one and a contest between a bull man and a heroic figure is depicted. The group is placed beneath the inscription with the name of Eannatum. To the right and left would have been a larger contest scene filling the height of the entire seal. The bull with head turned back in the larger part of the composition has a small lion attacking the bull's neck. This would seem to be a feature particularly favored in the Lagash glyptic style.

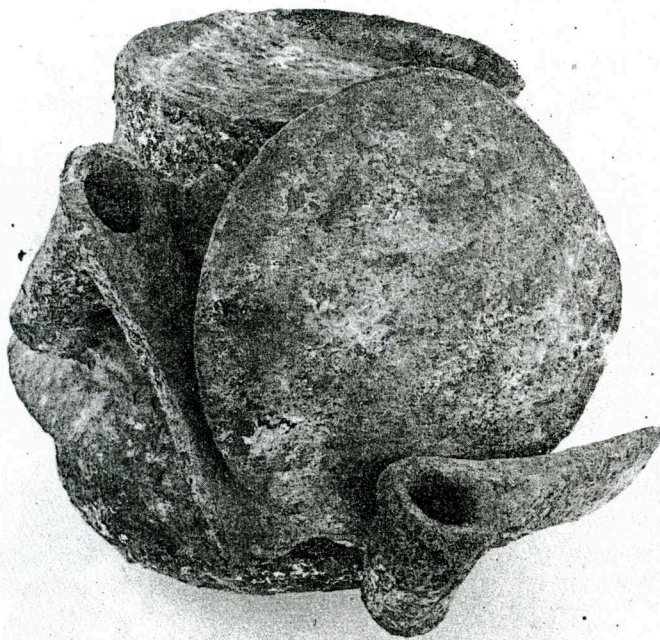
The style of the over fifty sealings recovered in the building of Area C was varied and ranged from a highly geometric style to one employing animals combined with large curving motifs. The latter style is exemplified by Figure 9. In this sealing there is a lower register with an animal file facing right. The horns of these animals are exaggerated and bend downwards toward their backs. The horns become confused with what is probably a register division broken by a swirl emanating from one of the animals heads which leads into a complicated pattern in the upper register.

Beneath the floor of room 5 was found a hoard of copper objects originally wrapped with reeds (Fig. 10). It is difficult to understand the reason for the burial which consisted of a bucket with a handle over which had been placed a large flaring vessel. Attached to the outside of the group were an ax, adze and two perforated, circular pieces of copper. The latter may well have been balance pans. Inside the bucket was a variety of miniature vessels and tools including an axe, "sauce boats" and strainers. Such copper vessels and utensils



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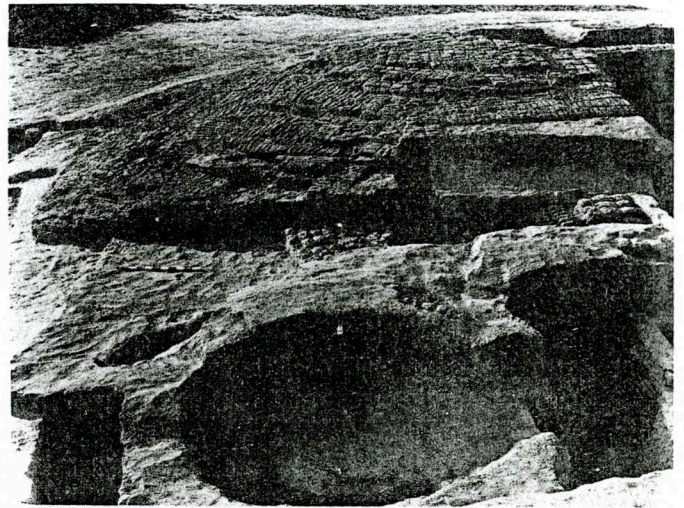
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are known from other sites in Mesopotamia and Elam<sup>4</sup>.

Other interesting finds include an early example of a die, imported painted ware of Susa D, and a necklace with an etched carnelian bead, all of which have relationships with lands to the east of Sumer.

Area G, on the western side of the mound approximately half way between Areas A and B, was briefly investigated during the third and fourth seasons. The finds in preliminary trenches showed that the area was severely disturbed by many late cuts and pits. However, a major north-south wall was excavated and it was clear that it was curving towards the west. Perhaps this was part of another oval building. Pottery undisturbed by the cuts suggested that the upper strata actually date to Early Dynastic I and not Early Dynastic III as one would have suspected. It was decided during the fourth season to sound this portion of the mound in order to determine what early periods have survived above the present day water table. Seven meters of Early Dynastic I remains were encountered before the water was reached. The transition



II ▲

from Early Dynastic I to what we now call Jamdat Near was not forthcoming. The sounding does show, however, that the period of Early Dynastic I, at least at one major site, was a relatively long and important period.

Area B represents that high portion of the mound where occupation clearly continued after the Early Dynastic period. One assumed that the sanctuaries in this region were well maintained after other of Lagash had been abandoned. The expedition worked in Area B during the first, third and fourth seasons.

During the first season a small excavation was conducted in the eastern part of Area B. Four levels with a very complex stratigraphy were uncovered. Most important was Level III. A portion of a deeply niched and rabbited facade obviously signified a temple although to the rear of the facade the remains were very poorly preserved. In the foundations were several burials and one belonging to an infant was of particular interest. The child was placed in a shallow bowl and had another bowl as a burial gift. It appeared as if the shallow bowl burial was partially cut by the foundations of the Level III temple. Inside the burial gift bowl were three tablets detailing contracts. One tablet had the date formula for King Siniddinam of Larsa (1849-1843 B.C.). This meant that the Level III building must post date this king of Larsa. The pottery accompanying these levels was of the general Isin-Larsa-Old Babylonian type.

The western side of Area B was concentrated upon during the third and fourth seasons. A preliminary scraping of the surface dirt composed of earth and disintegrated mud brick revealed the eroded remains of the foundations of a large mud brick platform or terrace. It is doubtful that this was once a true ziggurat. There was some evidence of previous excavation and we know that this portion of Area B received the attention of R. Koldewey in 1887 for only a short period of time. Some of his excavations consisted of shallow trenches cutting through the mud brick and others were larger in scale. It is, of course, difficult now to relate these earlier excavated remains to the plans executed at the time.

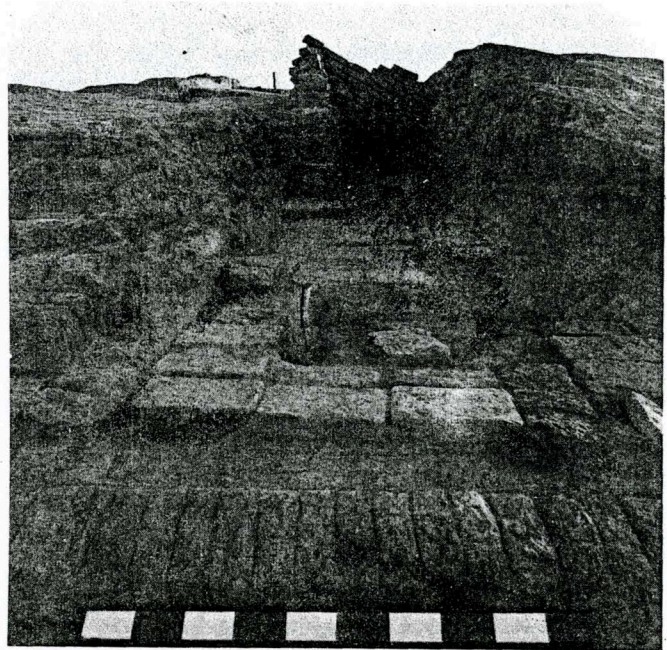


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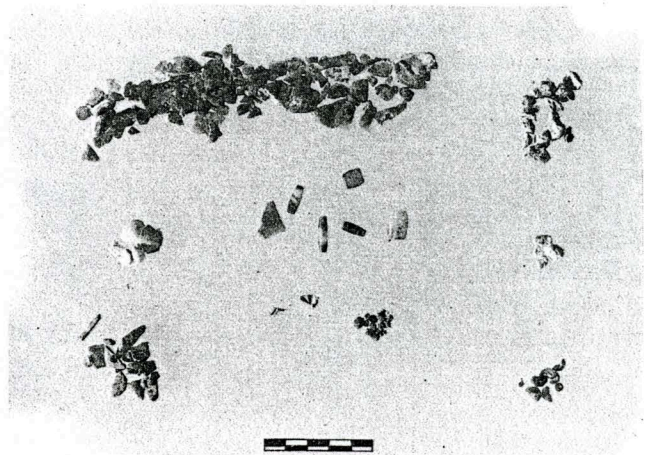
Figures 11 and 12 show a portion of the foundations of this platform. In Figure 11 the platform fills the upper half of the photo and rides on top of the earlier levels dating to the Early Dynastic period. In the foreground the platform libn has been removed so as to expose the Early Dynastic remains. The nature of the construction of the platform can be discerned in Figure 12. Throughout the area the manner in which these rectangular bricks were laid was not always consistent. In some places the bricks were laid flat in alternating courses of headers and stretchers. In other parts of the platform two or three courses of bricks were placed on edge either as headers or stretchers and alternated with one or more courses laid flat. It is impossible now to know the extent of this massive structure or even to determine its original shape. The present eroded extremities on the west would suggest that the platform was either curved or oval. Indeed Koldeway reconstructed it as circular.

At the very highest part of the mound parts of rooms and the bottoms of wall foundations were partially preserved of the building which originally surmounted the terrace. The walls were constructed of both mud brick and baked brick. Where the latter was found, only one or two courses remained. The rest of the wall had been removed and many of the bricks were stacked in one area as if ready to be carted away (Fig. 13). These remains of what must have been once a temple were so fragmentary that it was impossible to reconstruct a truly adequate plan.

From our investigations of the Ibgal of Inanna dating to the Early Dynastic times, we have already noted that the foundation system for the temple at this period could be decidedly complex. This was also true for the mass of mud brick which constituted the foundations and platform of this later temple. First of all, the area was excavated and many of the earlier constructions were razed and removed. At the bottom of this excavation and immediately below the first course of brick of the foundation of the platform, bits of semi-precious stones and other materials were scattered over the



13 



14 

surface. They include worked and unworked pieces of gold foil, lapis lazuli, carnelian, turquoise, agate, copper, gypsum, flint, mother of pearl, and shells (Fig. 14). The strewing of the newly excavated soil with these objects must have been part of a ritual prior to the building of a new temple, perhaps part of a ritual of purification. It is interesting that at Nippur during the Third Dynasty of Ur similar materials were scattered in the foundation boxes of Urnammu found in the Ekur.

Secondly, the platform was not initially solid, but was relieved in many places by long or short rectangular open chambers let into the fabric of the platform. These chambers were filled with earth, sand and for the most part by hunks or broken pieces of pure mud. There is evidence that they were then capped by mud brick. Again, as during the Early Dynas-



tic period, the final form of the foundation and platform would have appeared to be completely solid. The reason for such a construction technique is not easy to discern. Considering the size of the platform and the enormous number of bricks which must have gone into its construction, the idea of economizing on the number of mud bricks used seems hardly a plausible solution. It is equally difficult to understand the use of such chambers in purely architectural terms. Figure 15 is a north-south section through part of the platform and the earlier strata. The upper bricks laid both flat and on edge are the platform and spaces between them the chambers some of which, at least, were finally capped by mud brick. The platform was cut down into the earlier strata shown below with mud bricks of the Gudea period and of the Early Dynastic period visible on the left.

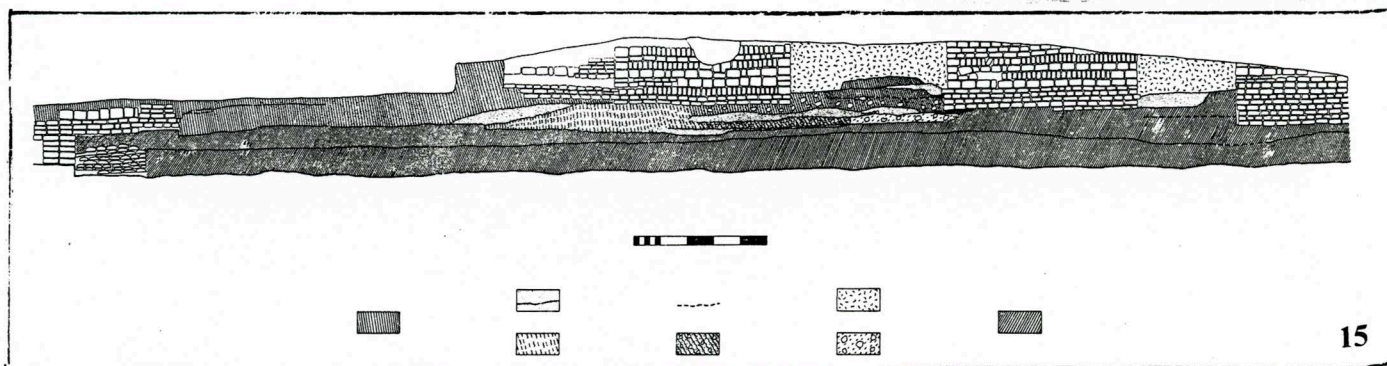
While most of the chambers were probably built in one phase of construction, one particularly large chamber showed two. First the chamber was filled to a height of almost two meters with densely packed earth, mud brick, and broken mud. The wall on the west side then stepped back approximately twenty centimeters to form a footing on which the remainder of the wall stood. Figure 16 shows the lower part of the chamber's west wall with a good deal of the fill removed. In the middle of the photograph the setback of the wall for the footing is clearly indicated. A niched doorway was built into the wall. At this point a mud plaster floor was laid which covered the entire chamber. A single course of mud brick was then placed in the doorway. The room, however, was never occupied and the doorway never used. Instead the chamber and door were filled with the same foundation filling of earth, mud brick and broken pieces of mud for another seventy centimeters before the "living" floor was laid and the wall was plastered. In the upper left of Figure 16 can be seen a portion of the heavy plaster that actually covered the wall of the occupied room. The "living" floor level was at the bottom of the plaster.

It is difficult to understand a reason for this two-part foundation. It is obviously not structural. Once more, one is tempted to think of it in terms of religious practice. However, it is not a building technique known to be used at this time or in earlier periods every where in southern Mesopotamia.

Although there were no small finds or inscriptions from the platform which allowed for a precise dating, a general date can be ascertained. The mud bricks are all approximately of the same dimensions: 25 cm by 18 cm. by 8 cm. They are, in fact, identical in size and appearance to the mud bricks of the badly destroyed temple in the eastern part of Area B which we believe must postdate Siniddinam of Larsa. A date, then, in the Isin Larsa - Old Babylonian period seems reasonable. Perhaps further excavation of the platform will lead to a more precise date.

On the top of the platform, although not *in situ*, were found two almost identical lion heads. The one illustrated in Figure 17 is sculpted of gypsum and has a maximum height of 13.8 cm. The piece was finished at the neck, but there is no evidence that it fit into a body of another material. The head proved difficult to photograph, but nevertheless, it is well modelled with full ears and an emphatic eye with a curved lower lid and a sharply angular upper lid. The eyes are deeply carved in the inner corners. The mouth is closed but apparently the tongue projects in the manner of Gudea's lions. Whiskers are indicated on the muzzle. Full locks of

16



15

hair fall down in tiers on either side of the head and below the square chin. On the top of the head the mane is indicated in a curious fashion with two layers of short locks giving the appearance of a "crew cut" when the head is viewed frontally. Stylistically there is little to which one might compare this lion head; however, there are several details of other lion heads which should be noted. There is no doubt but what this lion with short tufts of hair on the top of the head, tiered sidelocks and mane beneath the chin lies somewhere in the artistic tradition which produced the terracotta lion guardians from the temple at Tell Harmal of the Isin Larsa period and the terracotta forepart of a lion in the Louvre of the same period<sup>5</sup>. These roaring, forceful and fearful lions, however, with their strongly articulated forms are stylistically quite different from this closed mouth, serene lion from al-Hiba. Although the present writer has never seen the monument and the published photographs are inadequate for details, the lions on the so-called Burney relief should also be mentioned<sup>6</sup>. The date of this terracotta relief cannot be precisely fixed; however, it certainly belongs in the early part of the second millennium B. C. The lions are docile with closed mouths. Like the al-Hiba head, the eyes are roughly triangular in shape, and the head with a square chin is framed by a tiered mane with short tufts

17



of hair standing upright on the top of the head. The two pieces are clearly related and chronologically are probably not far removed in time.

Figures 11 and 19 show the Isin Larsa - Old Babylonian platform (the articulated bricks) directly on top of the walls and rooms of an earlier building. This was constructed of planoconvex bricks and hence must date to the Early Dynastic Period. The building, excavated during the third season, proved to be over twenty meters wide and over thirty meters long. Three almost identical levels were excavated and a combined plan of these levels is given in Figure 18. Figures 20 through 22 are taken from the north looking towards the south and are the equivalent of the upper part of the plan. A curtain wall, probably very low and formed mostly by many layers of mud plaster, surrounded the building leaving a narrow corridor on all sides. On the north this curtain wall was provided with two entrances which were partially blocked by rectangular and rounded forms made of a few bricks heavily plastered with mud. In front of the northern buttressed facade of the building was a raised apron higher than the level of curtain wall entrances. This apron was constructed of a few courses of brick laid flat, but most of its height was due to a myriad of successive replasterings. In Figure 23 the core of mud brick is articulated and the plasters have been removed and cut back into a series of stages. Each stage represents many plasterings.

There were two entrances into the building. The one on the west led into a rectangular room from which there was no access to the rest of the building. This had a large altar filling up a good part of the room. The eastern door was the main entrance with a drain below the floor which carried liquids from the interior to the exterior. An entrance vestibule contained a bench of mud brick and a door on the west which led to a rectangular room with an altar, a bench and small mud brick tables. The doorway on the south side of the vestibule opened onto the first of three courts in the building. A long narrow fireplace was situated to the east of the door and a portion of a baked brick paving in the western end of the court. A drain led from this paving through the western wall out into the exterior corridor. In the southern part of the building were two courts or open rooms. The one on the west side of the building was paved with flat baked bricks and edged in part with large, flat baked tiles (Fig. 24). Flat baked bricks were commonly used in the late part of Early Dynastic III in pavings and in wall repairs. The court had been repaired several times after the baked brick paving was no longer used. The later pavings consisted of a course of mud bricks covered by a heavy layer of mud plaster. Mud brick pavings were also found in other parts of the building. One can assume that the long room in the southeast corner of the building was also unroofed since it contained two ovens. In Figures 11 and 19 this room is visible in the foreground of the photographs. Here a large circular oven or kiln completely filled the space between the west and east wall of the room. There was nothing found within the kiln which might have determined how it was used. To the north

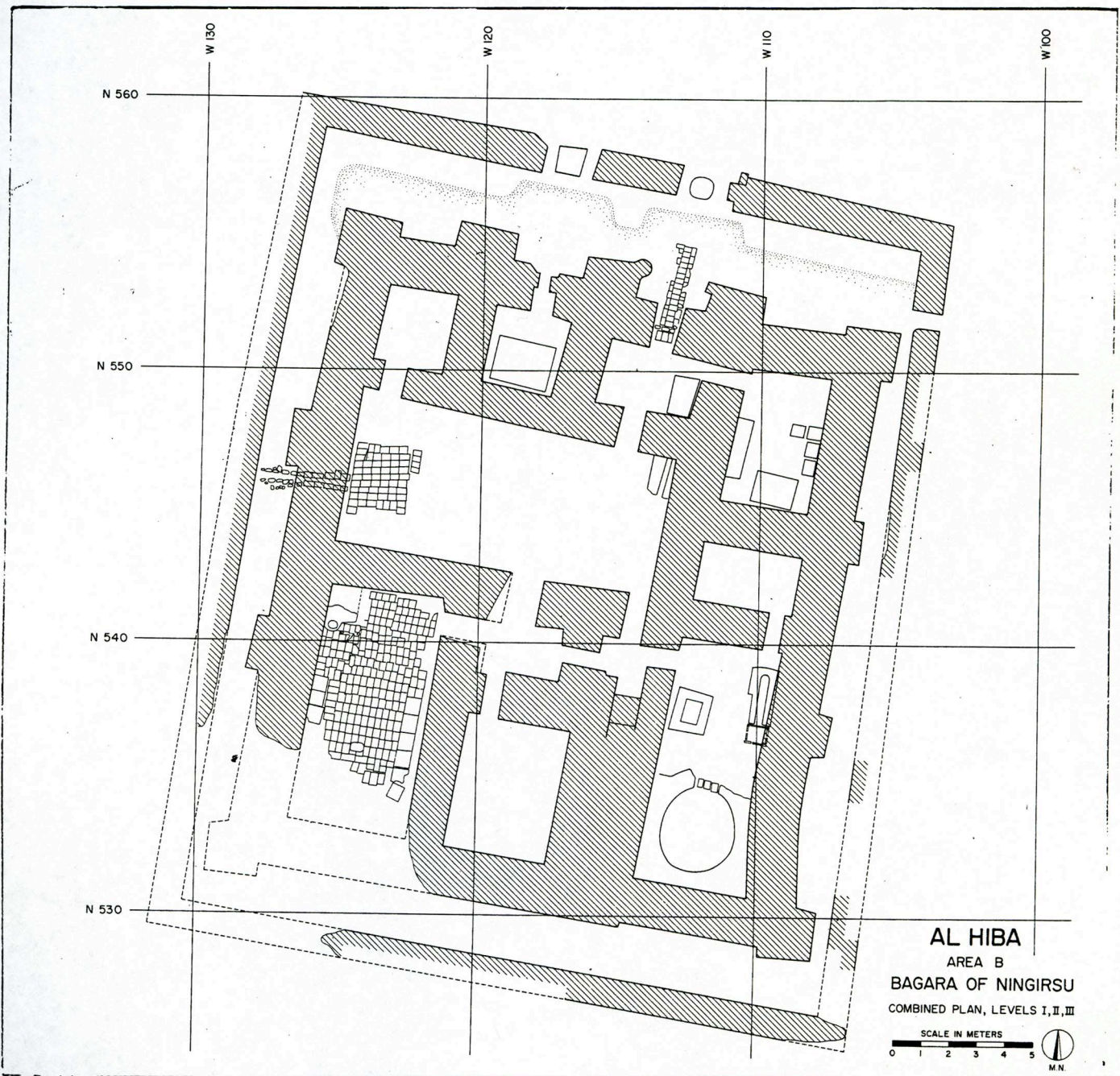
of the kiln was found a tank constructed of baked brick and covered on the inside and top with bitumin. It was undoubtedly a receptacle for some kind of liquid. Opposite this tank was another long fire place or oven with an ash bin at its southern end.

Between these two courts, a staircase to the roof and to what was perhaps the most important room of the complex was found. The room was not large and was devoid of any

furnishings (Fig. 25). A great many fish bones were strewn on the floors and some of the finest objects were retrieved from the floors and the fill immediately above them.

One such object is an almost complete gypsum mace head, 17.8 cm. high, found on floor 3 of Level III (Figs. 26 and 27). In low relief is depicted frontally the Imdugud bird or Anzu (d) whose outstretched talons grasp the backs of two addorsed goats. The latter nibble the leaves of "sacred trees" which

18



are surmounted by rosettes. The donor dressed in a tufted garment and with hands clasped in a prayer gesture faces to the left towards one of the sacred trees. Beside the donor are there signs, apparently his name, which are perhaps to be read

as Adudu. A feature distinctive of the late Early Dynastic III style is the circular disc placed in the center of Imdugud's body. This can be noted, for example, on the silver vase of Entemena.



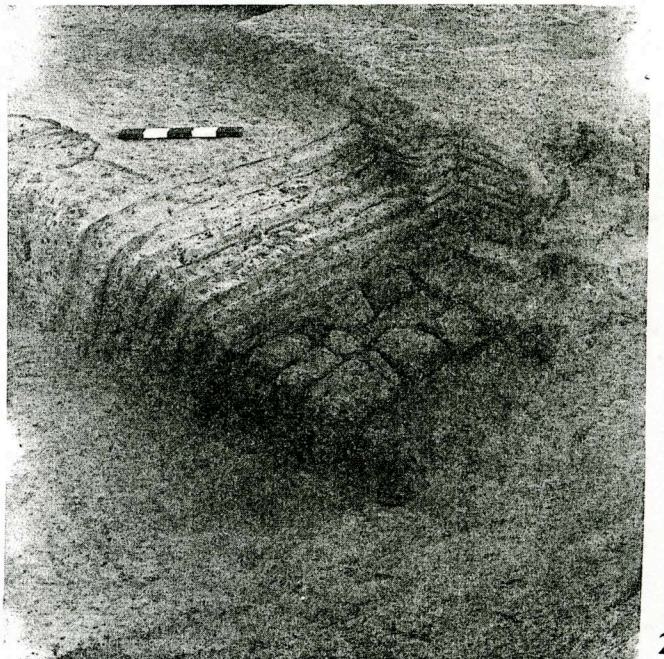
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Other inscribed objects provided information concerning the name of the sanctuary to which this building belonged, the name of the god for whom the sanctuary was built, and a secure date for Level III of this building. It is all contained on an inscribed copper dagger blade found in Level III of the room located to the north of the first courtyard on the west end (Fig. 18). The inscription indicates that the building was the Bagara of Ningirsu, the chief god of Lagash and that the blade was dedicated in the time of the ruler Eannatum<sup>9</sup>. The Bagara was, indeed, one of the prime sanctuaries of Lagash, but it is also obvious from the description of the building given above, that this building or temple excavated

is not the main temple of the Bagara precinct. It could only be a subsidiary building for it lacks a primary focus or an obvious cella. Unfortunately, no complete sanctuary in a primary capitol of Sumer has ever been excavated and therefore a direct comparison cannot be made. We do know, however, that in the time of Gudea a major sanctuary consisted of a central temple and a series of outlying buildings or temples which were designed for specific purposes. This is described in Cylinder A of Gudea, and it would not be unreasonable to assume that the same held true for the late Early Dynastic III period. The appurtenances of our building are not particularly distinctive, but it is not unreasonable to assume that we are dealing with a temple which was dedicated to the supplying of the god's needs. This might well be a forerunner of the "kitchen temple" as we know it from later periods.

During the fourth season work continued in the Bagara of Ningirsu and a building of a different type was excavated. It was located immediately to the east of the temple described above and was separated from it by a narrow street or corridor. In the foreground of Figure 28 is a portion of this corridor. In the central part of the photograph is the new temple or building and in the background is a section of the Isin Larsa-Old Babylonian platform. Again the platform cut down into the Early Dynastic building. In some places, however, parts of an intermediate level were preserved dating to the time of Gudea. In all, four levels were excavated, one of Gudea and three of the Early Dynastic period.

Unfortunately very little was preserved of Gudea's building. Small bits of foundation were found scattered here and there, but it was impossible to reconstruct anything of the plan. A portion of a baked brick pavement was preserved. It consisted of thirty-one bricks (ca. 34 cm. by 34 cm. by 12 cm.). Twenty of these were inscribed with the inscription facing down. One had an outline for an inscription but nothing was written, and ten were plain. The inscription was standard and states that Gudea build the Bagara of Ningirsu.

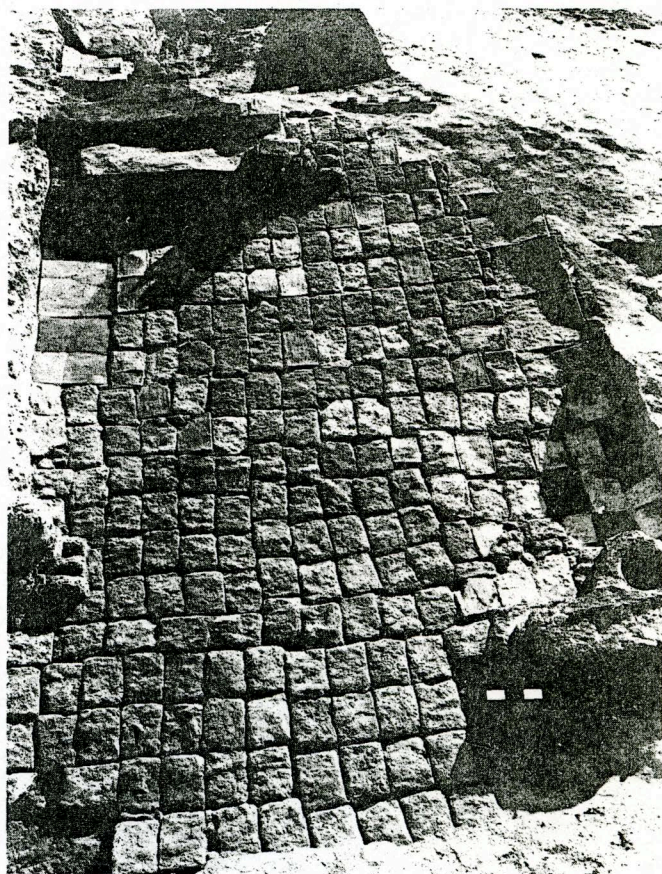
The three Early Dynastic levels were much better preserved. The main entrance was on the western side of the building and was accessible from the corridor between the buildings. The doorway led into an open court (Fig. 30) which had a large baked brick storage tank (?) on the west side of the court and a circular oven with the bottom parts of two vats alongside. In the earliest phase the oven was so large that it practically blocked a door leading into a room east of the courtyard. Vats were used elsewhere. Three were found in a row in a narrow room to the north of the court. Only the bottoms remained and these ranged in diameter from seventy to ninety-seven centimeters. Originally they must have been huge vessels.

Apparently the most important feature of the building was another oven which entirely filled a room to the north of the courtyard (Fig. 28). At each rebuilding a new oven was constructed. The form of the oven was that of a dome constructed of corbelled mud bricks. The technique of construction can be seen in a section of the oven on the left

side of Figure 31. This is undoubtedly the earliest large scale dome for the diameter of the oven was approximately five meters.

There were two rooms to the east of the main courtyard. In the most northern one was another vat with stacks of conical bowls in the bottom (Fig. 32). In the southwest corner of this same room (Fig. 33) was found a door socket of Gudea which had sunk down from far above. Below that, in the fill of the earliest Early Dynastic level, was a fragment of an inscribed, irregularly shaped stone ("galet"). Although the stone is only a portion of the original and the inscription is in part abraded, it is clearly dedicated by Eannatum and is a duplicate of a "galet" from Telloh (Fig. 34).<sup>10</sup> One wonders whether or not such stones may have been inscribed votive grinding stones. Another inscribed object of Eannatum was found in the same level, but in the courtyard. It was part of stone vase and records Eannatum's building of lapis lazuli temple for Ningirsu.<sup>11</sup>

Also worthy of note is a fragment of stela of Urnanshe (Fig. 35). It was not found *in situ* and had later been used as a door socket. The gypsum stela is inscribed on both sides. Part of seven columns of inscription was preserved on the obverse and part of six columns on the reverse. The obverse enumerates various building constructed by Urnanshe and the canals dug by him. It also gives a list of statues which he had sculpted. On the reverse he mentions the various

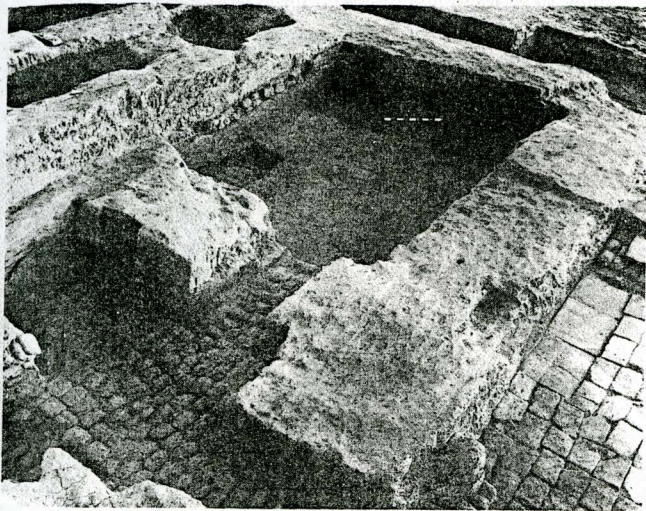


governors and overseers whom he captured and buried. This side of the stele affords something completely new to the corpus of Urnanshe inscriptions.<sup>11</sup>

A single tablet found in a room to the east of the courtyard perhaps throws light on the function of this building which is distinguished by its ovens, fireplaces, and vats; the latter probably used for both mixing and storage. It refers to the *e bappir*, the brewery, and also to the brewer.<sup>12</sup> It seems likely that it was here in the major oven of the temple that the *bappir* for the god was prepared.

The Ibgal of Inanna, the administrative building, and the two temples of the Bagara of Ningirsu have provided us

with distinctly different types of architecture of the latter part of the Third Early Dynastic Period. For the first time in the history of Sumer during the third millennium B.C. buildings have been excavated which may be securely linked to known historical figures .



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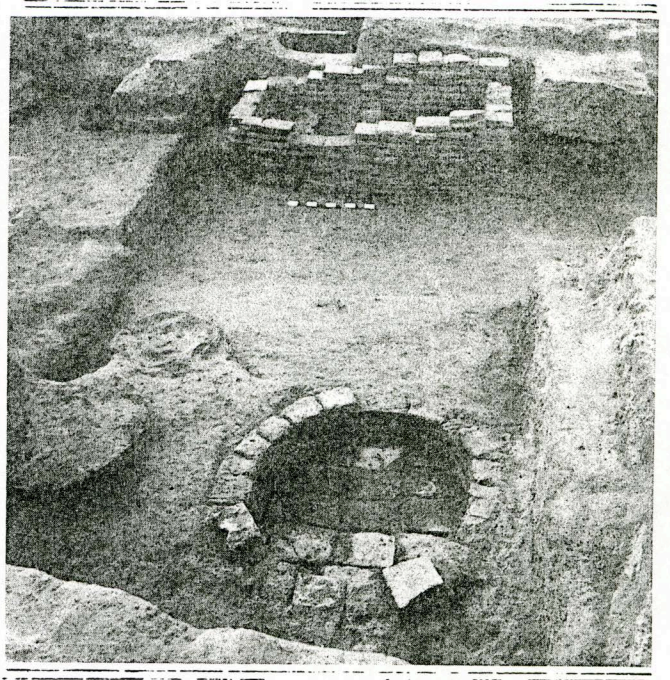
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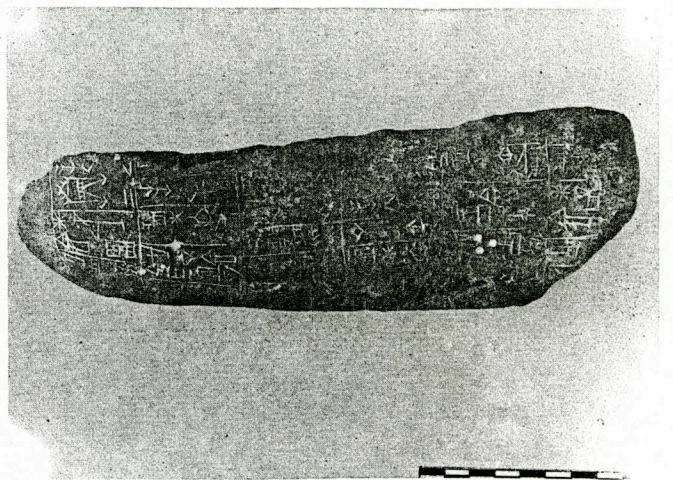





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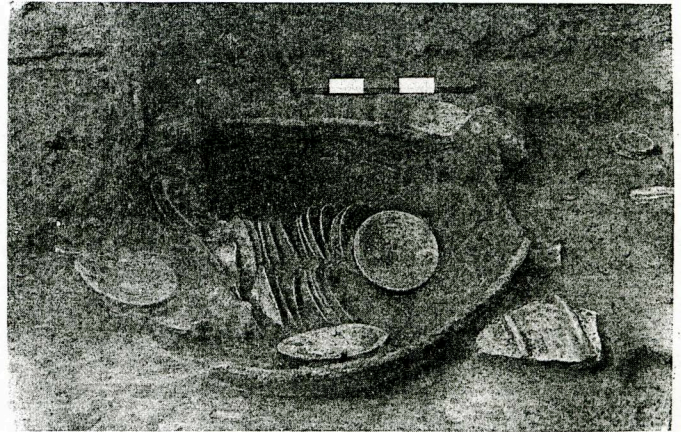
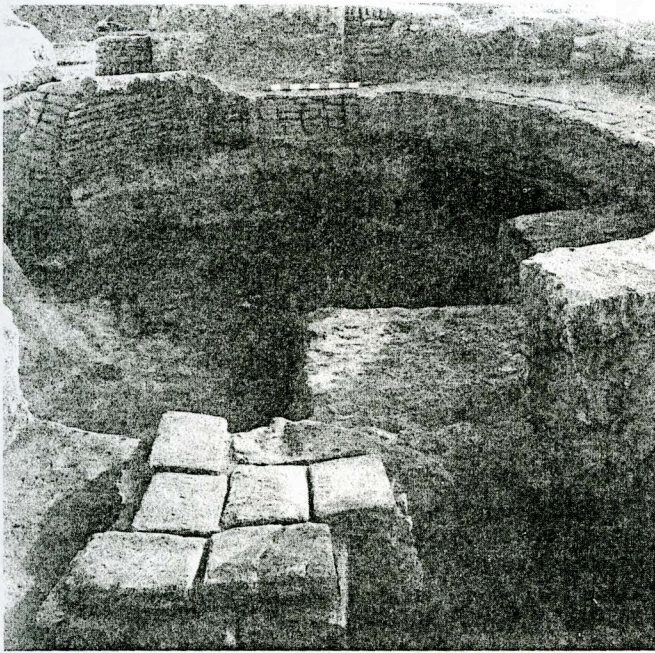


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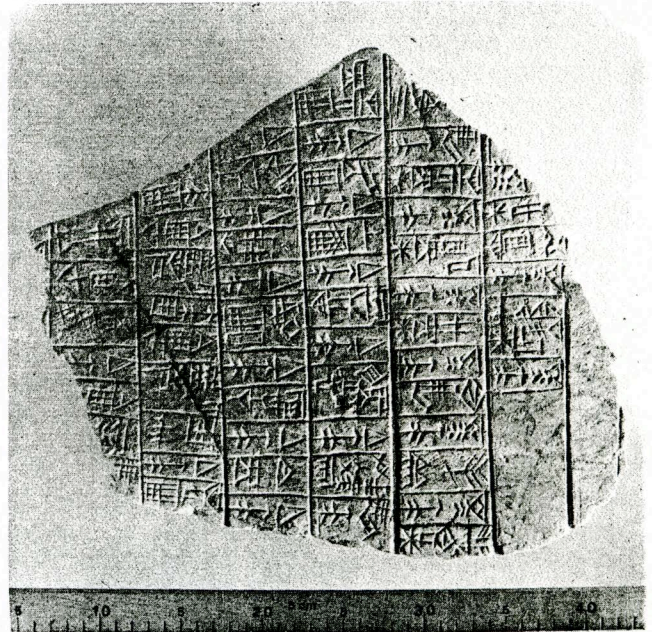
◊ 31

◊ 32



## NOTES ★★★★★

1. The excavations are reported on in the following publications:
  - R. D. Biggs, "Pre-Sargonic Riddles from Lagash," *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 32, (1973), p. 26 ff.  
*Inscriptions from Al-Hiba - Lagash, The First and Second Seasons, Bibliotheca Mesopotamica III* (Malibu, 1976).
  - V. E. Crawford, "Excavations in the Swamps of Sumer," *Expedition XIV: 2* (1972), p. 12 ff.  
"Lagash" *Iraq* XXXVI, (1974), p. 29 ff.  
"Inscriptions from Lagash, Season Four, 1975 - 1976," *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* (in press).
  - D. P. Hansen, "Al-Hiba, 1968-1969, A Preliminary Report," *Artibus Asiae* XXXII: 4 (1970), p. 243 ff.  
"Al-Hiba, 1970-1971, A Preliminary Report," *Artibus Asiae* XXXV: 1/2 (1973), p. 62 ff.
2. cf. the literature cited in f. n. 1.
3. For a translation of the inscription, v. *Artibus Asiae* XXXII: 4 (1970), p. 247 f.
4. *Artibus Asiae* XXXV: 1/2 (1973), p. 69, f. n. 12.
5. A. Parrot, *Sumer* (London, 1960) p. 287 ff, Figs. 354-356. E. Strommenger, *Art of Mesopotamia* (New York, 1964), Pl. 167.
6. H. Frankfort, *The Art and Architecture of the Ancient Orient* (Baltimore, 1954), Pl. 56. A. Moortgat, *Die Kunst des Alten Mesopotamien* (Köln, 1967), Pl. 212.
7. *Iraq* XXXVI, (1974), p. 35, f. n. 17.
8. *Ibid*, p. 29 ff.
9. *Ibid*, p. 32.
10. Crawford, "Inscriptions from Lagash, Season Four, 1975-1976," *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* (in press).
11. *Idem*.
12. *Idem*.



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