

**TAYINAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT
2018 SEASONAL REPORT**

[Not for Publication]

Prof. Dr. Timothy P. Harrison
Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations
University of Toronto
4 Bancroft Avenue
Toronto, ON, M5S 1C1
CANADA
tim.harrison@utoronto.ca

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INTRODUCTION

The Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP) held a study season between June 21 and July 30, 2018, under the supervision of the Hatay Archaeological Museum.

The 2018 TAP senior staff consisted of Dr. Timothy Harrison (Project Director), Dr. Elif Denel (Assistant Director and Field 7 Operations), Dr. Stephen Batiuk (Senior Field Archaeologist), and Dr. Lynn Welton (Field 1 Operations). The project was assisted by Dr. Mark Weeden (Epigrapher), Doğa Karakaya (Archaeobotanical Specialist), Dr. Radovan Kabatiar (Zooarchaeologist), Dr. Matthew Harpster (Archaeological Specialist), Julie Unruh (Conservator), Stanley Klassen (Laboratory Manager), and Dr. Fiona Haughey (Artifact Illustrator and Registrar). The project staff was assisted by nine archaeology and conservation students (Burcu Aydin, Bianca Hand, Amber Hutchinson, Skyler Jenkins, Emilee Lawrence, Golnaz Hossein Mardi, Zerrin Mutlu, Tracy Spurrier, and Rana Zaher).

The primary objectives of the 2018 TAP field season were as follows: (1) to initiate conservation and restoration on the sculptures discovered by the Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP), which are currently stored in the Hatay Archaeological Museum, most notably the damaged female statue discovered in 2017; (2) to conduct analyses and documentation of the artifact assemblages recovered during the TAP excavations in preparation of forthcoming publications; and (3) to continue the development of a comprehensive plan for the Tayinat Archaeological Park and Excavation Compound, including resolution of the ongoing landownership issues, working closely with the Hatay Archaeological Museum, the Hatay Governorate, the Antakya Municipality, and the current landowners at Tayinat.

STONE SCULPTURE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The priority focus of the 2018 TAP study season was to develop a comprehensive Conservation and Restoration Program of the Neo-Hittite sculptures discovered during the TAP excavations. These sculptures are currently stored in the Hatay Archaeological Museum, most notably the Suppiluliuma, lion, and winged bull and sphinx sculptures, but also the damaged female statue discovered in 2017. To date, five monuments (statues and stelae), and the fragments of at least four more, have been recovered, consisting of more than 5,000 basalt fragments in total (see attached database of all the registered basalt fragments).

Thanks to the support of the Hatay Archaeological Museum, we have been able to initiate this conservation program, including a 3D-scanning, photogrammetry and shape-matching project, and the development of a systematic tracking system for all of the basalt fragments. The initial focus of the 2018 season was on the female statue. Most of the fragments from her face and chest area were identified, and the joins located. The next stage will be to restore these fragments to the statue. In addition, a comprehensive conservation plan to restore these monuments was prepared, and an application to initiate this project will be submitted to the Directorate. We believe that a significant number of sculptural fragments remain unexcavated at Tayinat, and they will need to be excavated before we will be able to complete this project.



Figure: Statue of woman from the 2017 season with orange dots showing the connection points of the parts found

ANALYSIS OF ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGES

An important priority of the TAP 2018 study season was to conduct the analyses and documentation of the artifact assemblages recovered during previous TAP excavation seasons in preparation of forthcoming publications. This included the analysis of ceramic, botanical, faunal, shell assemblages.

Ceramic Analysis

Field 1

Analysis of ceramics from levels dating to the Iron I-III periods from Fields 1, 3, and 4 was conducted in the 2018 season under the supervision of Lynn Welton and Stan Klassen, with assistance from Amber Hutchinson and Golnaz Hossein Mardi. For Field 1, the analysis conducted this season achieved the following goals:

- 1) Comprehensive analysis of the Iron I ceramic sequence from Square G4.56 according to a typology established prior to the season in order to allow identification of temporal trends in ware types, form types and vessel metrics. Analysis of FPs 6c, 6b and 3 was completed during the 2014 season, so this season focused on analysis of material from FPs 6a, 5b, 5a, and 4. This analysis involved individual inspection and recording of **7608** sherds, and the completion of **287** new pottery drawings from these levels.

- 2) Completion of similar analysis of Iron I remains from Square G4.66 according to the same typology. This involved individual inspection and recording of an additional **767** sherds.
- 3) Analysis and inspection of ceramic material from Squares G4.65 and G4.66 from early Iron II contexts believed to date to the late 10th century in order to identify the repertoire of forms present and to develop a ceramic typology specific to the early Iron II and its development from the Iron I sequence in Field 1. This involved the individual analysis of **1373** sherds, and the illustration of a sample of **154** sherds.



Figure: Mended Iron I painted amphora from Square G4.56

Field 3

Analysis and inspection of ceramic material from Field 3 (Square H3.77) was also conducted in 2018. This excavation area appears to represent a continuous sequence of material spanning the late Iron I/early Iron II to the Iron III period. Its analysis therefore aimed to elucidate ceramic development through these periods, and to contribute to a ceramic typology of the Iron II-III periods. This involved the individual inspection and analysis of **1123** sherds, and the illustration of a sample of **201** sherds.



Figure: Red Slipped and Burnished Ware platter from Iron II-III levels in Field 3

Field 4

Iron I remains from Field 4 (Square G3.34) were also analyzed according to the same ceramic typology originally developed for Field 1. This analysis will allow more precise dating of the remains from Field 4 based on its ceramic assemblage, as well as shedding light on spatial variation in the ceramic assemblage in different areas of the site. This analysis involved the individual inspection and recording of **681** sherds, and the completion of **25** new pottery drawings.



Figure: Fragment of possible pyrotechnic installation from Field 4

Field 7

The analysis of the ceramic assemblages from Field 7 focused specifically on material recovered during the 2017 season, specifically from Squares G4.47, G4.48, G4.49, and G4.57. The analysis was conducted by Elif Denel, Tim Harrison, Matthew Harpster and Rana Zaher. A

total of xx pottery sherds were drawn and descriptive information (shape metrics, color, fabric, etc) collected; the pottery dated to the Iron II and III periods, and provides important chronological and stratigraphic context for the stone sculptures discovered in this area.

Faunal Analysis

The faunal analysis was conducted by Radovan Kabatiar, and concentrated on achieving two particular goals:

- 1) Analyzing a significant sample of material from the earliest Iron I levels at the site, from FP6c, dating to the mid-12th century. Material analyzed includes faunal material from Square G4.56 from the 2010-2011 seasons. Total fragments analyzed: **1937**.
- 2) Analyzing a sample of material from Field 7, in order to provide a dataset from the Iron II-III period relating to the various statues excavated at the site. Material analyzed this year includes material from the 2017 field season, from Squares G4.47 and G4.48. Total fragments analyzed: **2119**.

Season	Square	Time Period	# Fragments
2010	G4.56	Iron I	1844
2011	G4.56	Iron I	93
2017	G4.47	Iron II-III	215
2017	G4.48	Iron II-III	1904
Grand Total			4056



Figure: Faunal remains from Tayinat, showing cutmarks

Shell Analysis

The analysis and identification of shell species represented at the site of Tayinat continued in the 2018 season and was conducted by Fiona Haughey. The goals of the analysis this season were to identify specimens that had remained unidentified up to this point and to create a comprehensive list of species represented at the site.

To date, the total number of fragments excavated from the site over all seasons is **68358**. The total number of species identified to date is **41**. Of these, **14** are new species that were identified this season.



Figure: Shell species from Tell Tayinat

Archaeobotanical Analysis

The archaeobotanical analysis of samples from Tayinat continued this season under the supervision of Doğa Karakaya, with assistance from Burcu Aydın. This year, **27** soil samples excavated during the 2017 season were floated in order to facilitate archaeobotanical analysis. In addition, heavy fractions from samples that had already undergone flotation in previous seasons were sorted, totaling **353** heavy fractions. This sorting process identified additional macrobotanical remains for archaeobotanical analysis, as well as facilitating a future program of micro-refuse analysis.

Object Photography

Photography of objects excavated in the 2017 season continued this year, focusing on those objects (primarily basalt fragments) that were not photographed in 2017. The photography was performed by Bianca Hand, who photographed 201 objects.



Figure: Basalt object from 2017 excavations, showing possible mend

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION AND SITE MAINTENANCE

The 2018 architectural conservation program at Tayinat focused on cleaning the site pathways and repairing the geotextile protective covering of the architecture and excavation areas (**Resim xx**), in particular Fields 1 (Temple II), 2 (Temple XVI), and 7.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

The Tayinat Archaeological Project's 2018 investigations continued to document the rich archaeological remains of the succession of Early Bronze and Iron Age settlements that occupied the ancient site, as preserved in the artifact assemblages from Fields 1, 2, and 7. Most importantly, the 2018 TAP season saw the launch of the stone sculptural conservation and restoration project, thanks to the support and assistance of the Hatay Archaeological Museum. The remains of more sculptures at Tayinat, clearly indicated by the fragments we have recovered to date, and which includes parts of the statues currently on display in the HAM, needs to be addressed as an urgent priority. Specifically, we believe there should be continued excavations in this area of the site.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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