
The Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies
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JOURNAL



Egyptian Reflections on Babylon / *Jana Mynářová*

Reconstructing Ancient Babylon: Myth and Reality / *Heather D. Baker*

What's in a Name? Babylon and its Designations throughout History / *Paul-Alain Beaulieu*

Notes from the Field / *Carnets de recherche*

five different time periods and a wide variety of artifact types and materials. The time periods represented are Pre-Pottery Neolithic, Early Bronze Age I, Early Bronze Age IV, Middle Bronze Age II, and the Iron Age. Artifacts include the plastered human skull, a mudbrick, stone and bronze weapons, some domestic tools, objects of adornment, and a variety of vessel types. Each is illustrated by a high resolution colour image photographed for this project by the ROM's staff. Viewers can click on each image to access a detailed description of the object, its archaeological context, publications for further information, and a link to the ROM's digital entry.

Unfortunately, no objects from Dhiban could be included in the gallery, even though material from both Jericho and Dhiban travelled from Queen's to the ROM. After creating an acquisition code for the Queen's Dhiban material, the ROM unfortunately continued to use the same code as an open series for subsequent acquisitions from Dhiban. As a consequence, ROM personnel no longer know which Dhiban objects arrived via Queen's. This context may lie in ASOR's archives, but at the time we conducted our research, it was not possible to access the relevant files.

To learn more about the Queen's Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology, we invite you to view the virtual exhibit. Richardson has also archived her research and sources of information on the Queen's server (Richardson 2019). This research and exhibit benefitted from the assistance of many people at Queen's, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Non-Professional Archaeological Photographs (NPAPH) project, ASOR Publications, and Margot Tushingham. Please visit the acknowledgements page on the virtual display for a full listing. We hope that by reviving the Queen's Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology in a virtual format, we can bring attention to a forgotten chapter in Canadian scholars' involvement in Near Eastern Archaeology and support future research.

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Tell Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP): Seasons 2017–2019

Tell Tayinat (ancient Kunulua) is a large archaeological mound located at the northern bend of the Orontes River, approximately 30km east of Antakya (ancient Antioch) in the Hatay province of southeast Turkey. The site is strategically positioned at the crossroads between the Anatolian highlands to the north, the inland Syrian steppe to the east, and the Levantine coast to the west and south (**Fig. 1**). As the royal capital of a succession of historically attested Bronze and Iron Age kingdoms (ca. 3200–600 B.C.E.), Tayinat preserves a unique record of the rich cultural heritage of the region. The Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP) was originally conceived within the framework of the Amuq Valley Regional Projects (AVRP), which has systematically investigated the archaeology of the North Orontes Valley since 1995. Excavations at Tayinat were initiated in 1999 and continue to document Tayinat's exceptional cultural record, while contributing to the study of early social complexity and the rise of the first stage ordered societies in the ancient world. The project is directed by Timothy Harrison (University of Toronto) with assistant directors Elif Denel (Director of the American Research Institute in Turkey, Ankara) and Zeynep Kuşdil Sak (University of Toronto) and is comprised of an international staff primarily from Canada, England, the United States, and Turkey.

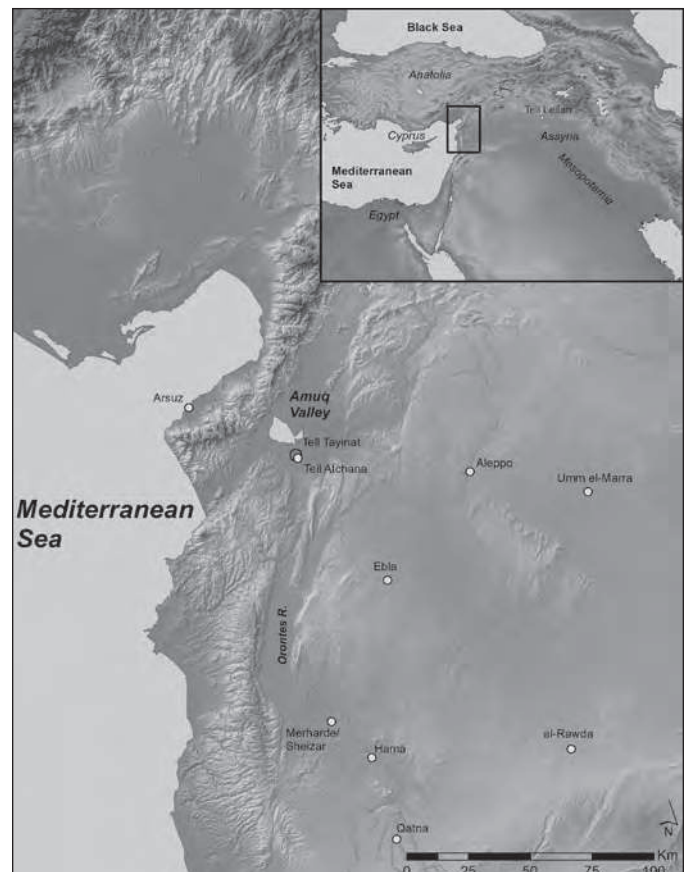


Figure 1. Map of the Northern Levant showing the location of Tell Tayinat and other sites in the region (created by S. Batiuk).

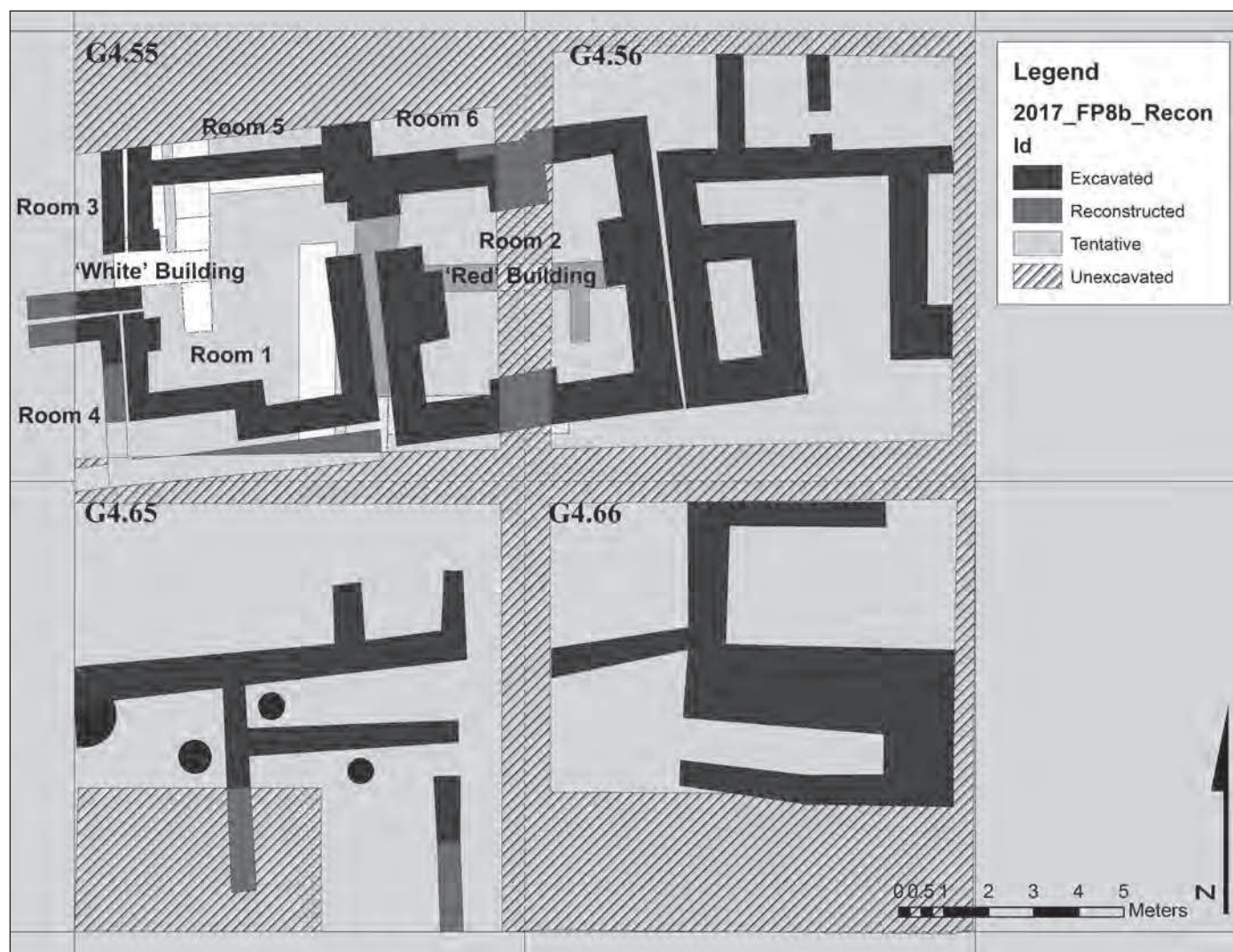


Figure 2. Plan of Field 1 showing the EBIVB buildings of Phase 8b in dark grey with EBIVA Phase 10 “White” and “Red” buildings below (created by L. Welton).

Season 2017

The 2017 excavation season was held between mid-June to mid-August. Although the team was relatively small, some major developments were made in two areas of the site, Fields 1 and 7.

Field 1

One of the main objectives in 2017 was to clarify the architecture in squares G4.55 and G4.56 for Phase 8b, dating to the EBIVB period (Amuq Phase J) in the late third millennium BCE. Much of this phase was excavated in 2015 and previous seasons (Welton 2014) exposing a series of rooms in both squares (Fig. 2). What was made clear in 2017 was that a technique of double walled mudbrick architecture was used to construct these rooms, most evident in the north/south walls between rooms 1 and 3 and 1 and 2 (Fig. 2). These walls, some of which stood to a height of 1.5 metres, contained a mixture of rubble fill between them.

Two walls of an earlier phase (Phase 10) were exposed in 2015 in the north-west corner of room 1, and with the removal of the Phase 8b walls separating rooms 1 and 2 this season, additional walls belonging to Phase 10 were revealed. In the eastern part of G4.55, the mud brick walls belonging to this phase are burned orange red suggesting a massive destruction. Excavation in the western part of G4.56 exposed a continuation of the east west wall from G4.55 under the balk suggesting a larger room exists, however, these walls showed less evidence of burning. With more exposure, two separate buildings have been surmised based on the colour of mudbricks used to construct them. The ‘white building’ is found in the north-west corner of square G4.55 with the ‘red building’ to the east continuing into square G4.56 (Fig. 2). Plaster on the faces of the walls is clearly indicated by white lines marking wall edges on the ‘red building’. The west half of the ‘red building’ identified in square G4.55, shows clear evidence of destruction with friable mudbrick detritus extending beyond the plaster wall lines on both sides of the wall. Previous excavations have demonstrated

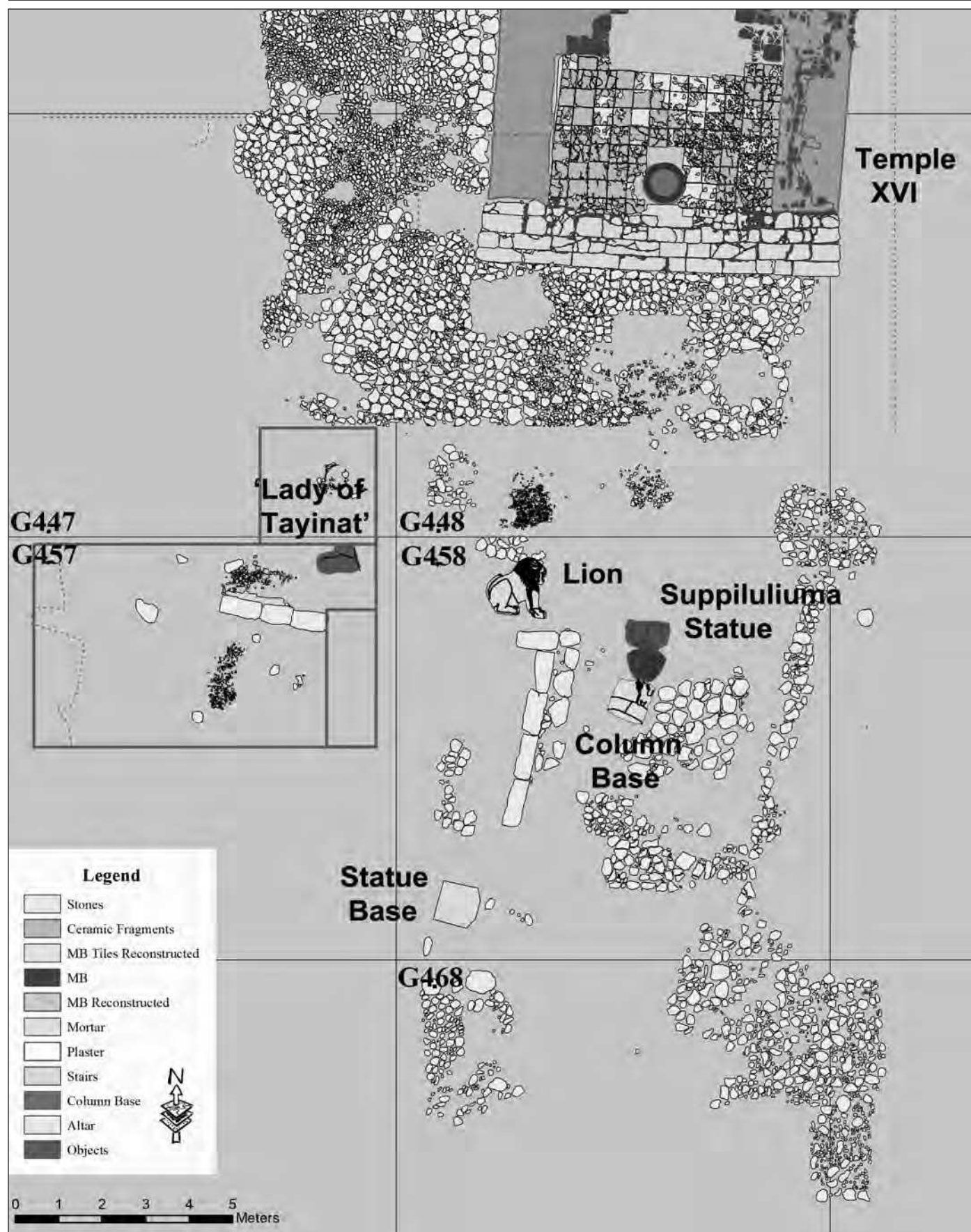


Figure 3. Plan of Field 7 showing Temple XVI and the find spots of the monumental sculptures to the south (created by S. Batiuk).



Figure 4. The “Lady of Tayinat” housed at the Hatay Archaeological Museum.

that an EBIVA phase exists at Tayinat (Braidwood and Braidwood 1960) and preliminary ceramic evidence suggests it is likely that the Phase 10 architecture showing evidence of destruction belongs to this period. This phase is renowned in the region for the destruction of the Palace G complex at Tell Mardikh/Ebla, contemporary with Amuq Phase I.

Field 7

Field 7 was re-opened directly east of Temple II and south of Building XVI to determine the stratigraphic relationship between the temple, a possible inner citadel gate, where the monumental sculptures were uncovered during excavations in 2011 and 2012 (Denel and Harrison 2017; Harrison 2014; see also Osborne et al 2019). Squares G4.47 and G4.57 were excavated to the east of Field 1 next to the trench created by the Chicago excavations in the 1930s in front of Temple II. A major find for the season included an additional example of monumental sculpture uncovered in the northeast corner of square G4.57 (Fig. 3). A basalt female sculpture broken at the waist was found laying face down just to the west of where the lion and the Šuppiluliuma statues were discovered in seasons 2011 and 2012 (Harrison 2019). However, unlike Šuppiluliuma, it appears the female sculpture was intentionally defaced prior to burial (Fig. 4). Remnants of hair curls are visible below what appears to be a head covering, and the remains of one eye socket, once likely holding inlaid eyes, and her right ear

are still intact. Hundreds of basalt fragments were uncovered beneath the sculpture, a number of which were mends used to reconstruct her face.

Squares G4.48 and G4.58 were also opened directly to the east, to further clarify the stratigraphy of Field 7. Exposure below the paving stones in front of Building XVI revealed ceramics and artifacts associated with food preparation dating to the Iron II period, potentially revealing domestic activity predating the temple.

Site Conservation and Historical Park

An important component of TAP is the conservation of the archaeological features of the site along with the development of Tell Tayinat into an archaeological park for visitors. Erosion and weathering of the western balks of squares G4.55/65 required the cleaning of the balk and capping using mudbrick construction. This type of preservation has proved very effective in the recapping and preservation of Building XVI and Temple II. Over two thousand mudbricks were made onsite by local workers and laid in multiple rows, in an effort to both prevent future water damage to the west balk, as well as the potential erosion of the reconstructed walls of Temple II excavated by the University of Chicago in the 1930's (Fig. 5). Plaster repairs were also made to both temples along with pathway upgrades and the replacement of sun damaged signage describing the history and features of the site.

Although the 2017 season did not entail large scale excavations, the summer was highly productive and produced finds adding to our understanding of both the late Iron and Early Bronze IV periods at Tell Tayinat.



Figure 5. Mudbrick conservation of the western balk of G4.55/65 in Field 1. Edip Dinç, TAP site guard, standing top right.



Figure 6. Basalt fragments uncovered at Tell Tayinat housed in the Hatay Archaeological Museum.
TAP staff in background, from left to right, Emilee Lawrence, Bianca Hand and Tracy Spurrier.

Seasons 2018-2019

Work at Tell Tayinat during the 2018 and 2019 seasons was restricted to study seasons lasting approximately 4 to 5 weeks each season. As excavations were not conducted, emphasis shifted to cataloging and analysis of ceramics, conservation of both the site and artifacts, as well as the development of a new program in 3D scanning of basalt artifacts and their conservation.

Ceramic Analysis

A major strategy was to focus on the analysis of ceramics dating to the Iron I phases at the site (Welton et al 2019). Thousands of sherds were analyzed macroscopically with details recorded to determine possible temporal patterns in the occurrence of forms and fabrics, with additional diagnostic sherds drawn, strengthening the typology previously established by Lynn Welton. Although much data had already been gathered on this material, the additional analysis now includes all of the Iron I phases excavated to date at Tell Tayinat.

Ceramic material dating to the early Iron II period was also assessed, and a few hundred diagnostic sherds were drawn to establish a typology for this largely undocumented period. Although excavated in previous seasons, the 2018 study season

allowed extensive documentation to be conducted, bridging the chronological gap between the well documented Iron I and II periods.

The analysis of the Field 7 ceramic material excavated in 2017 continued with extensive drawing of diagnostic sherds to expand the already established typology based largely on the ceramics excavated during the 1930's and housed at the Oriental Institute in Chicago (Osborne 2011).

Object Conservation and 3D scanning

With the spectacular find of the “Lady of Tayinat” in 2017, our conservator Julie Unruh worked meticulously with a team of students and conservation interns in a dedicated space at the Hatay Archaeological Museum to document and preserve the thousands of basalt fragments collected over the various seasons from the TAP excavations (Fig. 6). With the assistance of Stephen Batiuk, numerous fragments (hundreds) of the more than 5000 fragments were scanned using a Artec LEO 3D scanner, in addition to the larger monumental basalt sculptures, in hopes of digitally reconstructing these sculptures at a later date (Fig. 7). A number of facial mends for the Lady were documented, and although it will take years to complete the restoration, the progress showed great promise with the hope



Figure 7. Conservation intern Emilee Lawrence scanning the Tayinat Lion on display at the Hatay Archaeological Museum with the Artec LEO 3D scanner.

that the “Lady of Tayinat” will soon be joining Šuppilumiuma on display as one of the many spectacular finds from the Tell Tayinat Archaeological Project in the Hatay Archaeological Museum in Antakya.

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The Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies La Société canadienne des études mésopotamiennes

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