

THE WORKS IN KUNARA IN 2017

In 2017, two campaigns took place. The first, a study mission, took place from 13 to 27 May at the General Directorate of Antiquities in Souleymaniyeh. The second took place in the field from 15 September to 14 October. It had to be shortened due to the regional situation.

The study mission (Aline Tenu & Philippe Clancier)

It was devoted to the study of the 38 cuneiform tablets and fragments of tablets discovered in 2016 on Area C. These are administrative texts belonging to the "flour office." The tablets are, as always, very badly preserved: eight still had writing surfaces and seven had surface traces, without any signs being legible. The texts are very similar to those already known, but a new format has appeared (M. 255). Three new toponyms, two of which are incomplete, are also mentioned in the texts.

The excavation campaign

The three areas opened in 2015 and 2016 (B, C and E) continued to be excavated in extension. The levels discovered there date back to the last centuries of the late 3rd millennium BC.

Area E (Florine Marchand)

The excavation of Area E was extended to the south of the small 26 m² house excavated in 2016 and to the east of the monumental building identified in 2015. We discovered a open area, more than 40m² (but its southern and eastern limits are not yet known) devoid of any layout and empty of any equipment. The house was therefore not part of the urban fabric. The southeast corner of the monumental building was discovered this year. Its east facade was therefore about 20 m long. For the moment, we know nothing about its function and its excavation is scheduled for 2018.

Area B (Aline Tenu)

The eastern facade of the monumental building at Area B, which has been explored since 2012, has been recognized along its entire length, which reaches 40 m. Only the rooms on the outer edge of the building were identified. They define two distinct sectors. To the south-east, traffic is very controlled and the thresholds of the doors are well marked, unlike the northeast district where the spaces, less compartmentalized, were largely open. Moulds for the manufacture of metal blades and a rich lithic material, in flint and obsidian, studied by Florine Marchand, were discovered.

Area C (David Sarmiento Castillo)

Two main sectors were excavated on site C: the buildings to the north and the semi-buried cellar to the south. In particular, one of the latter's pieces delivered nearly 70 cuneiform tablets and fragments from the "flour office." Their study is scheduled for spring 2018. To the north, the plan of the two buildings was completed. A room, identified in 2015, was fully recognized: it covers 90 m² and installations suggest that it was an open-air space. A very abundant ceramic material, studied by Cécile Verdellet, comes from this Area.

Page written by A. Tenu, November 2018