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Van Tušpa Excavations 2013*

Erkan KONYAR – Can AVCI

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Located approximately 850 m inland from the eastern shore of Van Lake, Van Fortress / Tushpa Citadel extends roughly in the east-west direction. To its north is the Van Fortress Mound and to its south lies the old city of Van. Covering an area of 85 hectares the site was occupied from the Early Bronze Age through the early twentieth century, i.e. for about five millennia. Tushpa Citadel is known for its monumental Urartian buildings, Early Bronze Age Van Fortress Mound and Urartian settlement strata, whereas Old City of Van is better known for the monuments from the Turkish-Islamic era. In the 2013 campaign, excavations were conducted in three different areas, namely the citadel, Old City of Van and Mound of Van Fortress (Fig. 1). The plans and sections of the rock-cut Urartian royal tombs on the citadel of Van Fortress were drawn and marked in the layout map. New evidence was gathered regarding the post-Urartian and Late Iron Age strata uncovered in the previous campaigns. In the Old City of Van, excavations were carried out in the north-south area between the city walls and Çifte Hamam (Double-Baths) and in the east-west area between Kaya Çelebi Mosque and the Middle Gate.

Old City of Van

The Old City of Van lies to the south of Van Rocks covering an area of some 46 hectares. Settled from the thirteenth to the twentieth century, the site encompasses numerous monuments including the Ulu Cami (Great Mosque)

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and the Red Minaret Mosque from the Seljuk period, Hüsrev Pasha and Kaya Çelebi Mosques from the Ottoman period as well as Armenian churches. The practice of mud brick walls rising on stone foundations is seen widespread across the site. This technique is attested even on the buildings of different periods. In addition, stone constructions of Classical Ottoman period buildings are also found. The city is encircled by Van Fortress Rocks in the north and walls in other directions. The walls pierced with four large gates have not survived to a great extent.

The 2013 campaign in the Old City of Van focused mainly on the areas that were settled from the thirteenth to the early twentieth century. The 800 year-old Seljuk and Ottoman urban street network and associated civil architecture were explored in 42 trenches reaching about 4200 sq. m. In this context, stone-paved side alleys with rainwater troughs along their axes joining into the stone-paved and carinated main streets, and architectural remains of two-storied mud-brick structures with stone foundations were uncovered. A wide range of artefacts such as articles of daily use, as well as seals and coins, which contribute to dating, were recovered. The excavations of 2013 have also shown that the settlement in this area goes back to the Early Bronze Age based on the pottery finds.

The changes and development in the settlement pattern of the Old City of Van can be followed in some miniatures, engravings and photographs. The earliest examples would be the miniature named "Kala-i Sengi Van" at the Topkapı Palace Archives and the information in the *Travels of Evliya* Çelebi (Cantay 1994). Both of these sources indicate that the Old City of Van was surrounded with walls pierced with gates at various intervals. However, there seem to be contradictions on the names and number of these gates. Similarly, there are contradictions regarding the towers and bastions on the city walls. However, it is possible to state that there were four city gates. Saray Kapı (Palace Gate), which was close to Hüsrev Pasha Complex and provided access to Pasha's Palace, and Orta Kapı (Central Gate) located 250 meters east of Palace Gate both provided access from the south. Tabriz Gate, located in the east, is understood to be the grandest and busiest gate. Sources state that at the west of the city, near the orchards of Horhor, there was a gate called either İskele (pier) or Yalı (shore). The structural character of the encircling walls is debated. Even though the seventeenth-century miniature depicts the city encircled with double-fortifications, this has not been verified. However, it is generally agreed that a moat filled with water ran along the walls. The moat was crossed over via wooden bridges in front of the city gates.

The engravings, drawings and photographs of the Old City dating back to the 1830's to the 1940's provide important information on the development of the city's texture. The images of the city from the end of the nineteenth century show administrative, public structures and important religious and commercial units, which were substantially damaged and are understood to have been abandoned. Earthquakes, Ottoman-Russian War at the end of the nineteenth century and the local tribes' uprisings against the central government accelerated this process. That the finds uncovered during excavations mostly belong to the late nineteenth century supports this hypothesis.

At the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the city centre seems to lie about Great and Red Minaret Mosques on the route leading to Tabriz Gate. In particular, Tabriz Gate and its surroundings step forth as an important trade centre. Again, it is understood from some other illustrations that Muslims and Christians lived together in this area.

In the early years of the twentieth century, social unrest rooted in earlier periods augmented gradually. In subsequent years, the clashes and the destruction of the city accelerated. At this stage, it is seen that the city was abandoned to a great extent. The building materials of abandoned buildings were both used in the new buildings of the Old City and in the administrative buildings of the new city, which moved to the Van Plain. Archaeological data show that the city was destroyed mostly by the process of removing building materials.

The abovementioned sources also reveal important information on the architectural features of civic and public buildings. First of all, it is understood that the city's monumental religious structures were built with stone and bricks. As uncovered in the excavations, the streets and alleys were paved with stones (Fig. 2). In the civil architecture, the entrances have a stone-paved area. The walls were built with mud bricks on top of two or three courses of stones while some of them were built with only stones up to the upper floor level and then with mud bricks above. Houses had flat roofs. Generally there was a courtyard in the middle. Surrounding this court were a two-storey house and one-storey auxiliaries like barn, toilets, pantry and tandoor. The courtyard was paved with stones and had open work-areas. This building ensemble was sometimes surrounded with a garden wall built with mud bricks on top of stone foundations. The streets formed according to the houses, as is the case in all eastern Muslim cities (Fig. 3).

The road between Kaya Çelebi Mosque and the Central Gate is one of the central areas of the city as inferred from its structural character and architectural units flanking it, which are thought to be public structures and shops. These have stone-paved areas before them. Findings uncovered in these structures yield striking information on their functions. For example, some glass artefacts unearthed in one of these rooms contain pieces heavily deformed during the production process and this indicates that there was a glass workshop here. A rectangular structure uncovered at the easternmost part of this area contained shoes, tools, and paint containers; therefore, this place is thought to be a shoe-making workshop.

Furthermore, striking evidence was obtained regarding the infrastructure of the Old City of Van. Both street systems with mid-way channels and carinations have drainage channels connecting to the houses with pipes under the street surface.

The Mound of Van Fortress

2013 campaign at the Mound of Van Fortress was carried out in three trenches. In the previous years, new data had been collected regarding the Urartu and post-Urartu stratification of the mound. Certainly, it takes time to attain healthy interpretation of the stratification data obtained here in an area such as Lake Van Basin with limited number of settlement mounds and also with limited number of excavated mounds. In this context, new and different identifications and approaches have emerged as a result of the interpretation of data regarding the Urartian period chronology and settlement character at the Mound of Van Fortress during our study of four years.

First of all, many problems were encountered when the architectural finds uncovered in the excavations between 1989-1991 were evaluated with the new excavation approach. Passive protection measures taken at the time, and damage caused by elements and mankind have made it very difficult to evaluate the previously uncovered architectural remains. At this point, new reference points and the need for interpretations to be made in light of new excavations arose. Within this frame, important conclusions were attained in 2012 (Konyar *et al*. 2013) Architectural elements uncovered in trenches N20-N21 primarily suggest the presence of a three-phased building layer. However, the masonry attributed to the later period could be followed only in a considerably small area but not in other trenches; thus, new perspectives had to be developed on Urartian building layer of the late period. Also, the finds and remains thought to be related with a new phase, and uncovered beneath

the architecture of the early phase in 2012 excavations, may actually belong to a restoration/repair phase, thus leading to new results on the stratification. Comparing the Urartian architecture uncovered in trench M26 with other architectural finds in the other trenches suggests that a new stratigraphic evaluation is necessary. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the information on the stratification compiled in a limited period of time in a limited space shall become clearer when the excavation area will be expanded in the coming season.

Excavations in Area A

The trenches in the westernmost part of Van Fortress Mound are defined as Area A. This is the highest point of the mound. In the 1989-1991 excavations under the direction of Prof. Dr. M. Taner Tarhan brought to light in the trenches N18 (K10) and N19 (L10) a building complex, which was described as a "magnificent mansion of a nobleman of Tushpa" (Tarhan 2011). In order to determine the eastern extent of this complex, trenches N20 and N21 just to the east of N19 and trench M26 further east were excavated in 2013.

As attested across the entire mound, in these trenches too, the top layer with a thickness of 1.5 m served as a cemetery from the Middle Ages until the twentieth century (Konyar 2011: Konyar *et al*. 2012). Individuals were buried here according to their faith, in general, i.e. in Christian and Islamic customs. In the Muslim burials individuals are laid in the east-west direction with their faces to the south and slightly crouching. In the Christian burials, individuals were buried supine with a stone or earth or mud bumps under the heads. In general, the lower level burials belong to Christians and upper level ones to the Muslims while some burials of the Islamic period penetrated into and disturbed the Christian burials. Burial typology includes those with or without slabs. Small finds from burials include pottery, painted glass cups, glass and iron bracelets, iron rings, earrings, hair pin, and bronze rings.

In 2012 campaign, it was noted that the orange coloured layer with a thickness of 70-80 cm under the medieval layer is sterile filling (Konyar *et al*. 2013). Mud brick debris and potsherds of Late Iron Age attested in these layers in trench M26 in 2012 and trench N21 in 2013 indicate that the layer in N20 also belongs to the Late Iron Age. Absence of architectural remains or other finds at this level of trench N20 can be explained by the heavy damage caused by the medieval burials. In the future, new trenches to be dug in Area A will help clarify this issue.

Right beneath is the Urartian layer with an ashy grey coloured fabric. Excavations in 2012 indicated a two-phased – i.e. early and late – building layer of Urartian period. The buildings of the earlier phase are dated to the eighth century B.C. The walls of the earlier phase buildings were built with mud bricks on top of a single course of foundation stones and vary from 80 to 100 cm in thickness. Also, a hearth was identified in the early phase. The walls of the late phase buildings were built with mud bricks on top of three or four rows of foundation stones and the wall thickness exceeds 1 m However, the 2013 excavations in trench M26 suggest that this may be an Urartian building complex with a single phase, which underwent partial repairs. Thus, the hypothesis emerged that the Urartian buildings in the mound could be single-phased and the structures considered to be of the late phase could actually belong to the restoration and repair phases. We believe that this issue will also be clarified in the future with new trenches.

In 2013, excavations continued in trench N21 in order to clarify the stratification and follow eastward the Urartian structures on the west of the mound excavated in previous campaigns of 1989, 1991, 2011 and 2012. As in other trenches of Area A, the burials can be detected across the entire trench N21 starting immediately from the surface. In 2013, 56 burials were uncovered with 62 skeletons in them. During the excavation of the burials, some remains with locus nos. 01872 and 01877 that may belong to mud brick walls of 20 cm thickness were identified in the northern and the southern half of the trench; they are dated earlier than the burials. This layer ends on the Urartian layer, descending south. In fact, this layer clearly visible especially at the eastern and northern profiles of trench N20 in 2012 is consistent with the structural characteristics and level of the top layer of Urartian structures. These remains could belong to walls, which had fallen down from north towards south (Fig. 4). Both the traces in the trench profile and the horizontal structural characteristic and the finds seem to support this hypothesis for now. In order to better analyse the finds, a sondage of 2 m width and extending along the entire length between east and west profiles was dug intersecting these structures northward. When the remains of the collapsed walls were removed in the sondage area, Late Iron Age pottery was uncovered both in and under the debris (Fig. 5). In addition, numerous pieces of adobe blocks not yielding any proper architecture and looking fused with earth were identified. Especially, this debris of adobe blocks is strong evidence for the area to contain an architectural unit. From this perspective, it is a first for the Late Iron Age in Lake Van Basin. Particularly, it is of great importance that the data was obtained in a mound. That the building remains and related finds were uncovered in the

layers right above the Urartian layers, and that the stratigraphic data observed on the horizontal and vertical dimensions are clearly encouraging for the region because Late Iron Age architecture had not been detected in mounds before[1]. Abovementioned building remains on top of the Urartian layer, albeit weak, animal bones of consumption waste as well as pottery of Late Iron Age point to the fact that the area was settled after the Urartian period.

In 2012, architectural remains and finds uncovered in trench M26 in the east signalled to the Late Iron Age (Konyar *et al*. 2013). In 2013, in order to determine the characteristics of mud brick architecture excavations continued at the locus nos. 00292 and 00293 with mud brick blocks (flooring?) of 45x45 cm., which were uncovered in the previous campaigns and thought to belong to post-Urartian era.

Describing the Urartian buildings in trench M26 in general it is seen that the southern one of the two square rooms adjacent to each other opens to the paved area and the northern one opens to the area identified as pantry (Fig. 6-8). There is no clear architectural separation between the paved area and the pantry; however, it is clear that there are two different structural characters and plans. The paved courtyard has a length of 5.90 m in the north-south direction and has currently a width of 3 m; it actually extends further south and east. The paved area formed with small river stones seems to be arranged in three rows in some parts, which must be due to the repairs and levelling of the ground. In the north of this paved area is the room identified as pantry or storage room with its *in situ* finds. This unit, which extends outside the trench, measures 2.90 m north-south and 2.50 m east-west. Along the south and east sides of the room are platforms of 45-60 cm width built with a single row of stones (Fig. 9). About the middle of the southern platform are two slab stones placed perpendicularly forming a niche-like area of 85 x 60 cm with compressed earth ground. Similar architectural elements are also known from Ayanis and Yoncatepe. Such small rooms connected to kitchens and work-areas via doors were arranged with platforms. Based on similar evidence, it can be suggested that storage jars were stacked on these platforms (Fig. 10).

The storage area opens to a room via a doorway of 1.00 m width; this room's mud brick walls have survived to a height of 160 cm and its foundations have three courses of stones. The well-preserved height of the walls is remarkable for Urartian remains in mound settlements and these are the first

[1] For comments on the post-Urartian, Late Iron Age in the Lake Van Basin see Sevin 2012.

to uncover reaching such a preserved height. The south wall of the room is 3.10 m long while 3.40 m section of the west wall was uncovered. On the floor of the room were *in situ* storage jars, broken but can be pieced together. It is worth noting here that relatively small stones were used in the carelessly built foundations. On the other hand, the mud brick part of the walls was built quite carefully.

As mentioned above, on the south is a room with mud brick walls on stone foundations reaching 1.60 m in height and sharing a common wall with this room; the south room measures 3.20 m east-west, and 2.60 m north-south. The two rooms are separated by a mud brick wall of 1.05 m in thickness. This room opens to the paved area via a 90-cm wide doorway and its walls also are of mud brick with stone foundations; however, its foundations have two different arrangements. The south foundation was built with three rows of stones and it is inward from the foundation of three rows of stones lying above it (Fig. 11). In this area, especially at the corners, lower and upper stone foundations overlap. The foundation arrangement here may be explained in two ways: either a structure with two phases or a local repair phase. However, evidence available is not sufficient to pinpoint two different phases. For instance, no finds or traces of flooring have been uncovered in the later phase while significant amount of waste / debris mud was found. At this point, a phase or an architectural arrangement of this type could not be identified in the north room and this may rather suggest partial repairs.

Assessment of stratigraphy in trench M26 clearly shows that beneath the medieval building layers is the architecture of Late Iron Age, first attested in 2012 and clarified this year. This period is architecturally represented in this trench possibly as flooring of 45x45 cm mud-brick blocks, extending over most of the M26. Other stratigraphic data regarding the Late Iron Age of the mound was explored in trench N21. Remains of collapsed walls and Late Iron Age painted pottery give important information on the stratigraphy of the area. Beneath the Late Iron Age layers are architectural remains pointing to strong Urartian civic architecture. The walls reaching a height of about 1.60 m with stone foundations and rectangular mud bricks, some repaired, are quite remarkable. Especially, evidence from trench M26 indicates a single building layer. However, it is clear that the structures in question do have repairs in some parts. In order to attain more reliable results regarding stratigraphy, 2014 excavation will be quite promising.

Documentation of Van Citadel

On the south façade of Van Fortress are eight rock-cut tombs, five of which are multi-roomed and date to the Urartian period. These rock tombs hewn from the bedrock have some common features such as a platform in front of them, a main hall reached by stairs from the platform, and side rooms opening into the main hall. Some of such ensembles comprising rooms and halls interconnected with each other via doors have a height of 9 m and an area of 200 m^2.

In 2013, within the frame of excavations at the Old City, Fortress and Mound of Van, documentation work was initiated in these tombs. As known, correct and precise mapping of the Van Citadel has been a major problem. Furthermore, some problems in architectural drawings of these monuments were leading to incorrect results in the evaluation of the architecture. Therefore, the work for detailed topographical plan of Van Fortress and drawings of buildings and monuments using digital tools initiated in 2012 continued (Fig. 12-13). The fieldwork was carried out by architects Aykut Fenerci, Nurgül Tunç, and Mustafa Durcan. First of all, the sketches of buildings were prepared for use as base for measurements in the field. Then, in order to generate the plans, elevations and sections of the buildings and their surroundings were prepared in 3-D, photogrammetrically and photographically using optic/electronic devices. Point clouds and digital photographing data were evaluated at the office and drawings were rendered digitally.

As a result of the documentation work, some new evidence regarding the tomb plans, structural and decorative details have been obtained. Some new properties and errors have been identified in the axes of the burial chambers, in the hall and room sizes, heights, in the layouts of the halls and their lateral rooms. Some architectural details offer new tips on the process of use and construction of the burial chambers. In the tomb of Argishti I, on the left diagonal corner of the main hall, stone bedding was hewn as steps due to deterioration of bedrock, and this area was most likely paved with dressed stone blocks (Fig. 14). The same practice is also seen in the left side room. This area may have also been designed specifically to strengthen the ceiling. It is important at which stage this was implemented in Argishti I's tomb. The general opinion is that while the chamber tomb was in the course of construction, the bedrock was carved out where it was deteriorated and stone paving was applied. The mouldings, which were made at the last stages of the construction, were cut where concave square plates were placed for the lighting apparatus, and this gives us the stratigraphy, i.e. the chronology. It is understood that

the application was introduced here later. After the tomb chamber was completely finished -including the decorations-, the rock crack emerging by some reason, was paved off. Unfortunately, it is difficult to determine the chronological process of this application.

Another application stands out in the tomb of Argishti, precisely in the area called the "pit room". The doorway leading into this room is lower and it is quite different from other applications –there is a lighting sconce on it. Keeping in mind the plan of the front hall, rooms and the niches, one immediately thinks that there might have been originally a niche here. In our opinion, Argishti tomb was originally designed as a four-roomed tomb and then this room was added. The formerly existing niche was turned into a door (Fig. 15). The door width is narrower than the other doors but the same as the niches' width (75 cm). This newly opened room is offset from the main axis of the burial chamber and it has different style in terms of workmanship.

Assist. Prof. Erkan Konyar
Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters
Department of Ancient History
Fatih - İstanbul / Turkey
ekonyar@gmail.com

Can Avcı (M.A.)
Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters
Department of Ancient History
Fatih - İstanbul / Turkey
ucancanus@gmail.com

Van Tuşpa Çalışmaları - 2013

Van Gölü'nün doğu kıyısından yaklaşık 850 m içerde, kabaca doğu-batı doğrultusunda, Van Kalesi/Tuşpa sitadeli uzanır. Sitadelin kuzeyinde Van Kalesi Höyüğü, güneyinde ise Eski Van Şehri yer alır. Yaklaşık 85 hektarlık alanı kaplayan alan İlk Tunç Çağı'ndan 20. yüzyılın başına değin iskana sahne olmuştur. Tuşpa sitadeli Urartu dönemine ilişkin anıt yapıları, Van Kalesi Höyüğü İlk Tunç Çağı ve Urartu dönemine tarihlenen sivil karakterli yerleşme katmanları ve Eski Van Şehri ise daha çok Türk-İslam Dönemi yapı toplulukları ile tanınır.

2013 kazı sezonunda sitadel, Eski Van Şehri ve Van Kalesi Höyüğü olmak üzere 3 farklı alanda çalışılmıştır.

Yaklaşık 46 hektarlık bir alana yayılan Eski Van Şehri'nde 2013 yılı çalışmaları kentin daha çok 19. yy'da iskân görmüş alanlarında yürütülmüştür. Bu kapsamda omurgalı taş ana caddeler, bu caddeleri kesen yine taştan ortası oluklu sokaklar ile bunların üzerindeki taş temelli kerpiç bedenli ve daha çok 2 katlı mekanlara ait mimari kalıntılar ortaya çıkarılmıştır. Yine bu alanlarla bağlantılı günlük kullanım eşyalarından mühür, sikke gibi alanı tarihlendirmeye yardımcı olan buluntulara değin geniş bir yelpazede izlenebilen taşınabilir kültür varlığı saptanmıştır.

Eski Van Şehri'nde 2013 yılında yapılan çalışmalarda ortaya çıkarılan İlk Tunç Çağı ve Urartu çanak çömlekleri de bu alanın yerleşme tarihinin İlk Tunç Çağı'na kadar indiğini göstermektedir.

2013 yılı Van Kalesi Höyüğü kazıları ise höyüğün batı uç noktası olarak tanımlanan A Alanı'nda, 3 açmada sürdürülmüştür. Höyüğün genelinde olduğu gibi bu açmalarda da yaklaşık 1,5 metre kalınlığındaki en üst tabakanın Ortaçağ'dan 20. yüzyıla kadar kullanılan mezarlık alanı olduğu tespit edilmiştir. N21 açmasının kuzey ve güney yarısında yaklaşık 20 cm kalınlığında kerpiç dolgu tabakası tespit edilmiştir. Bu tabaka güneye doğru eğim yaparak Urartu tabakasının üzerinde son bulmaktadır. Aslında söz konusu bu tabaka özellikle 2012 yılı çalışmalarında N20 açmasının doğu ve kuzey kesitlerinde oldukça net olarak izlenen, Urartu yapılarının üst sınırını oluşturan katmanın seviye ve diğer yapısal özellikleriyle örtüşmüştür. Söz konusu kalıntıların genel itibariyle kuzeyden-güneye doğru devrilmiş yapı duvarlarına ait olabileceği düşünülmektedir. Bu kalıntılar arasında ortaya çıkarılan *in-situ* Geç

Demir Çağı çanak çömleği söz konusu mimariyi tarihlememize yardımcı olan buluntu grubudur.

Doğudaki M26 açmasında ise 2012 yılı çalışmalarında Geç Demir Çağı'nın habercisi niteliğindeki mimari ve buluntulara rastlanmıştır. 2013 yılında, Urartu yapı kalıntıları üzerinde tespit edilen ve Post Urartu/GDÇ dönemine ait olduğu düşünülen 00292 ve 00293 locus numaralı 45x45 cm boyutlarındaki kerpiç bloklarla (taban?) kaplanmış alanda çalışmalar devam etmiştir.

M26 açmasında, bu kerpiç taban altından gelen Urartu yapıları dönemin evsel mekânlarını karakterize eder. Kuzey-güney doğrultusunda birbirine bitişik 2 kare planlı odadan, güneyde olanının kuzey-güney istikametinde uzanan taş döşeli alana, kuzeydekinin ise kiler olarak tanımlanan alana açıldığı anlaşılmaktadır. Taş döşeli alan ile kuzeyindeki kiler olarak tanımladığımız alan arasında belirgin mimari bölünme yoktur. Ancak iki farklı yapısal karakter ve plan anlayışı olduğu açıktır. Güneydeki odanın açıldığı taş avlu kuzey-güney doğrultusunda 5.90 m uzunluğundadır. Taşlık alanın kuzeyinde içinden çıkan in-situ buluntularıyla kiler/küçük depo odası olarak tanımladığımız alan yer alır. Bazı bölümleri açma sınırları dışında kalan bu birim, kuzey-güney yönde 2.90, doğu-batı yönde ise 2.50 m ölçülerindedir. Mekânın güney ve doğusunda 45-60 cm arasında genişliğe sahip tek sıra taşlarla oluşturulmuş sekiler yer alır. Güneyde yer alan sekinin hemen hemen ortasına denk gelen alanda ise dikine yerleştirilmiş iki sal taşı ile 85 cm uzunluğunda ve yaklaşık 60 cm derinlik oluşturulan zemini sıkıştırılmış çamur ile oluşturulmuş nişe benzer bir bölüm yer alır.

Kiler olarak tanımladığımız alandan yaklaşık 1.00 m genişliğindeki bir açıklıktan üç sıra taş temelli ve 160 cm'ye kadar korunagelmiş kerpiç bedene sahip odaya geçilir. Odanın güney duvarı 3.10 m uzunluğundadır.

Daha önce de belirttiğimiz gibi güneyde, bu oda ile ortak duvarı paylaşan doğu-batı doğrultusunda 3.20, kuzey-güney yönünde ise 2.60 m uzunluğunda ve yine 1.60 m yüksekliğinde taş temelli kerpiç bedenli duvarlarla oluşturulmuş diğer bir oda bulunur. İki odayı 1.05 m kalınlığında bir kerpiç duvar ayırmaktadır. Bu odaya geçiş taş döşeli alandan yapılabilmektedir. Yaklaşık 90 cm genişliğindeki bir kapı açıklığı ile geçilen odanın duvarları da taş temelli kerpiç bedenli olarak inşa edilmiştir. Burada dikkati çeken iki farklı veya iki aşamalı temel düzenlemesidir. Güney duvarında altta 3 sıra olarak düzenlenmiş taş temel, üstündeki yine 3 sıra taşla düzenlenmiş temel kalıntısından daha içerdedir. Bu alanda özellikle duvarların köşe yaptığı kısımda altta veya üstte yer alan temel kalıntıları birbirileriyle aynı açıda oturtulmuştur.

Buradaki temel düzenlemesi iki biçimde açıklanabilir. Öncelikle iki evreli bir yapı katı veya lokal bir onarım evresi.

Özellikle M26 açmasındaki stratigrafi genel olarak değerlendirildiğinde. Ortaçağ yapı katlarının altında 2012 yılında tespit ettiğimiz ve bu yılki çalışmalarda daha net biçimde ortaya konan Geç Demir Çağı mimarisidir. Bu açmada söz konusu dönem mimari olarak 45x45 cm ölçülerinde ve açmanın neredeyse tümüne yayılmış bir taban döşemesi olarak temsil edilir. Höyüğün Geç Demir Çağı'na ilişkin diğer stratigrafik veriler yine yukarıda daha ayrıntılı belirttiğimiz üzere N21 açmasında izlenebilmiştir. Bu alanda ortaya çıkarılan yıkılmış duvar kalıntıları ve aralarından çıkan in-situ Geç Demir Çağı boyalıları, stratigrafik açıdan önemli bilgiler vermektedir. Geç Demir Çağı tabakasının altından ise güçlü bir Urartu sivil mimarisine işaret eden mimari kalıntılar bulunmuştur. Bazı alanlarda yaklaşık 1.60 m yüksekliğe ulaşan taş temelli, kimi zaman onarım geçirmiş, dikdörtgen kerpiç bloklarla inşa edilmiş duvarlar oldukça dikkat çekicidir.

2013 yılı çalışmalarında Van Kalesi Sitadeli' nde özellikle anıt yapıların belgelenmesi üzerinde çalışılmıştır.

Van Kayalığı'nın güneye bakan cephesine açılmış 8 adet kaya mezarı vardır. Bunlardan 5 tanesi çok odalı olarak tanımlanan ve Urartu'ya tarihlenen kaya mezarlarıdır. Ana kayaya oyulmuş bu mezarların bazı genel özellikleri bulunur. Önlerinde bir platform, platformdan basamaklarla ulaşılan bir ana salon ve bu ana salona açılan yan odalardan oluşan bir plan söz konusudur.

Yapılan belgeleme çalışmaları sonucunda elde edilen verilerde, mezarların plan, strüktür ve süsleme ayrıntılarında kimi yeni bulgulara ulaşılmıştır. Mezar odalarının genel akslarından, salon ve oda boyutları, yükseklikleri, odaların kendi içindeki ve ana salonlarla oluşturdukları düzen ve kuruluşta kimi yeni özellikler ve eski planlarda da bazı yanlış ve eksiklikler saptanmıştır.

Kimi mimari ayrıntılar mezar odalarının yapım, kullanım sürecine ilişkin yeni ipuçları sunar. I.Argişti mezarında ana salonun sol karşı köşesinde, ana kayanın bozulmasından dolayı ana kaya basamaklanarak, taş yatakları hazırlanmış ve olasılıkla bu alan düzgün kesilmiş taş blokları ile kapatılmıştır. Bu uygulamanın bir nevi devamını salonun karşı sol odasında da izlemek mümkündür. I.Argişti mezarındaki bu uygulamanın hangi aşamada yapıldığı önemlidir. Genel kanıya göre mezar odası yapılırken ana kayanın deformasyona uğradığı bu alanda ana kaya kesilerek taş kaplama uygulaması yoluna gidildiğidir. Ancak bu noktada mezar işçiliğinin son aşamasında uygulandığı anlaşılan, aydınlatma aparatlarının konulduğu, iç bükey kare levhaların

oturduğu silmelerin -bu alanlarda- kesilmiş olması ana kayada da bize bir "tabakalanma", kronoloji verir. Mezar odası -süsleme programı dahil- tamamen bitirildikten sonra, herhangi bir nedenden oluşan kaya çatlağı/boşluğu taş bloklarla örülerek kapatılmıştır. Bu yeni uygulamanın kronolojik surecini belirlemek ne yazık ki güçtür. Diğer bir uygulama ise Argişti mezarında, çukur oda olarak adlandırılan alanda göze çarpar. Bu alana girişi sağlayan kapı açıklığı daha alçaktır ve mezar odasındaki diğer uygulamalardan oldukça farklı olarak, üzerinde aydınlatma apliği bulunmaktadır. Öndeki mezar odasının plan anlayışı ve nişler göz önünde tutulduğunda orijinalinde bu alanda da bir nişin olabileceği hemen akla gelmektedir. Bizim görüşümüze göre başlangıçta 4 odalı olarak tasarlanan Argisti mezarına sonradan bu oda eklenmiştir. Mevcut niş açılarak bir kapıya dönüştürülmüştür. Buradaki kapı açıklığı diğer kapı açıklıklarından da daha dardır ve niş genişlikleriyle (75 cm) aynıdır. Yeni açılan bu birim, mezar odasının ana aksından da kaymış olup plan ve işçilik bakımından da farklı bir anlayış söz konusudur.

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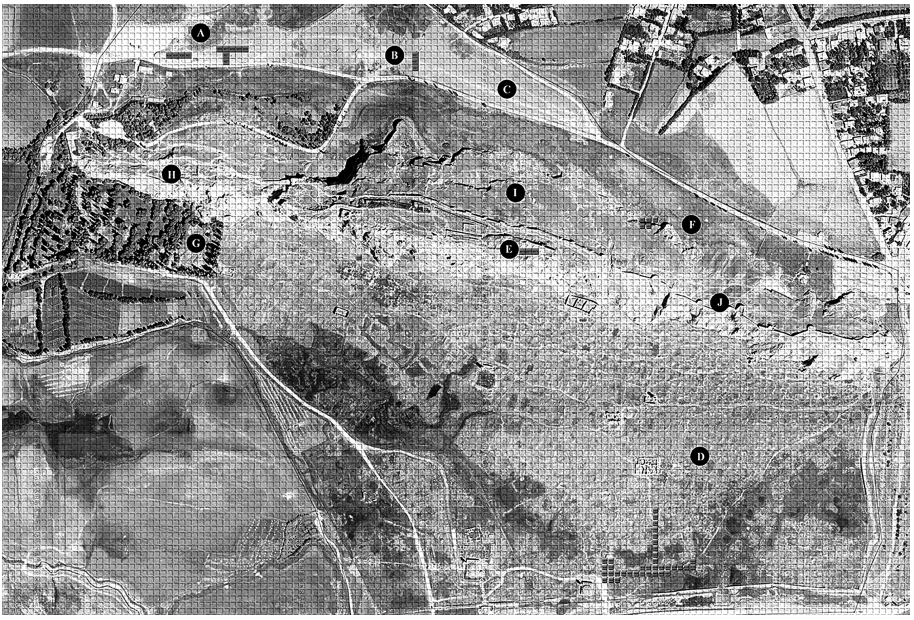


Fig. 1
Old City of Van,
Citadel and Mound
excavation areas, 2013

Fig. 2
Paved road to the east
of Kaya Çelebi Mosque,
Old City of Van

Fig. 3 Streets with rainwater trough in the middle and settlement pattern developing around streets, Old City of Van

Fig. 4 Van Fortress Mound, trenches N20 and N21, Urartian layers and building remains of Late Iron Age

Fig. 5
Festoon ware pottery from trench N21, Van Fortress Mound

Fig. 6
Urartian period residential areas, trench M26, Van Fortress Mound

Fig. 7
South wall of the room opening to the storage area (01717). Stone foundations and brick body. Van Fortress Mound, trench M26

Fig. 8 Plan and section Urartian period residential areas, trench M26, Van Fortress Mound

Fig. 9 Storage area with platforms, in situ Urartian storage jars, Van Fortress Mound, trench M26

Fig.10
Urartian period
egg-bodied storage pot,
Van Fortress Mound,
trench M26

Fig. 11
Southern room opening
onto the courtyard,
stone foundations and
mud-brick walls.
Van Fortress Mound,
trench M26

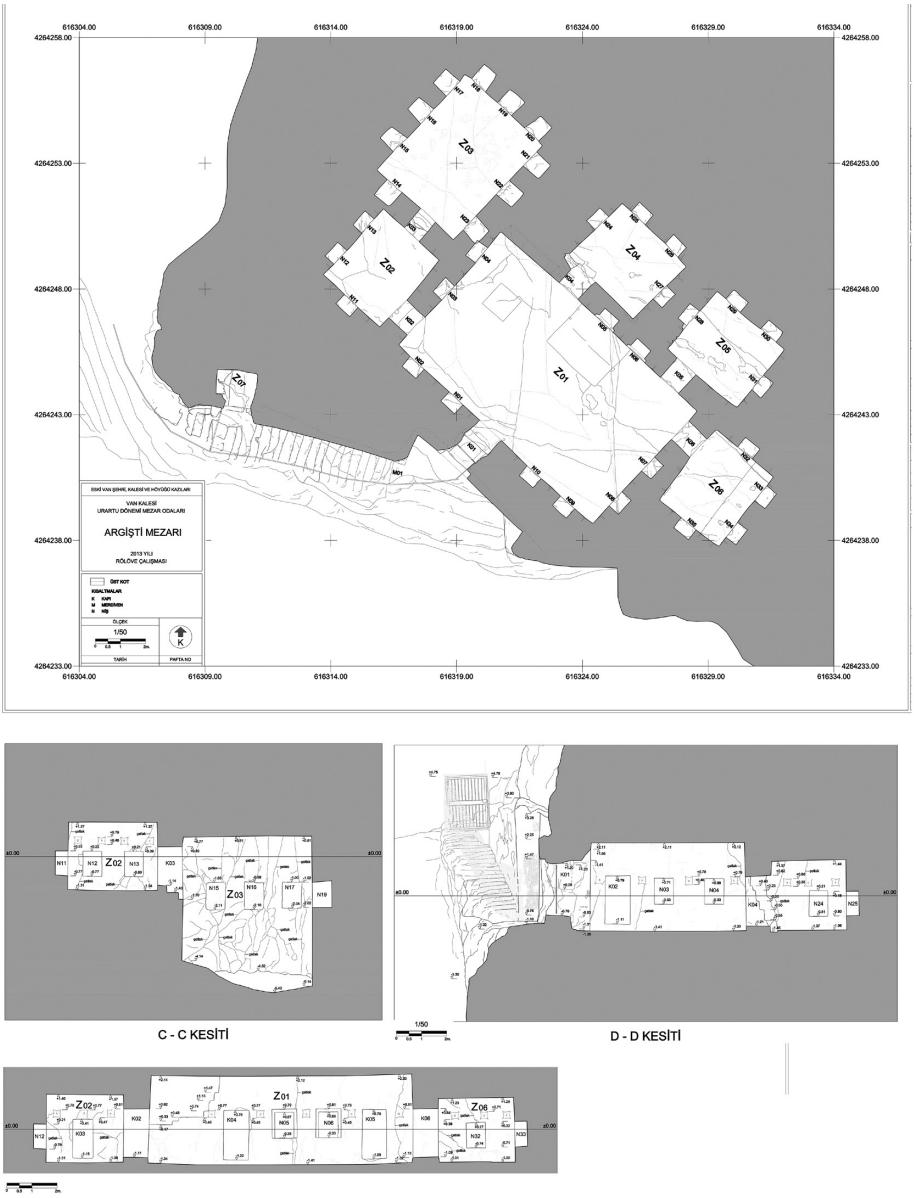
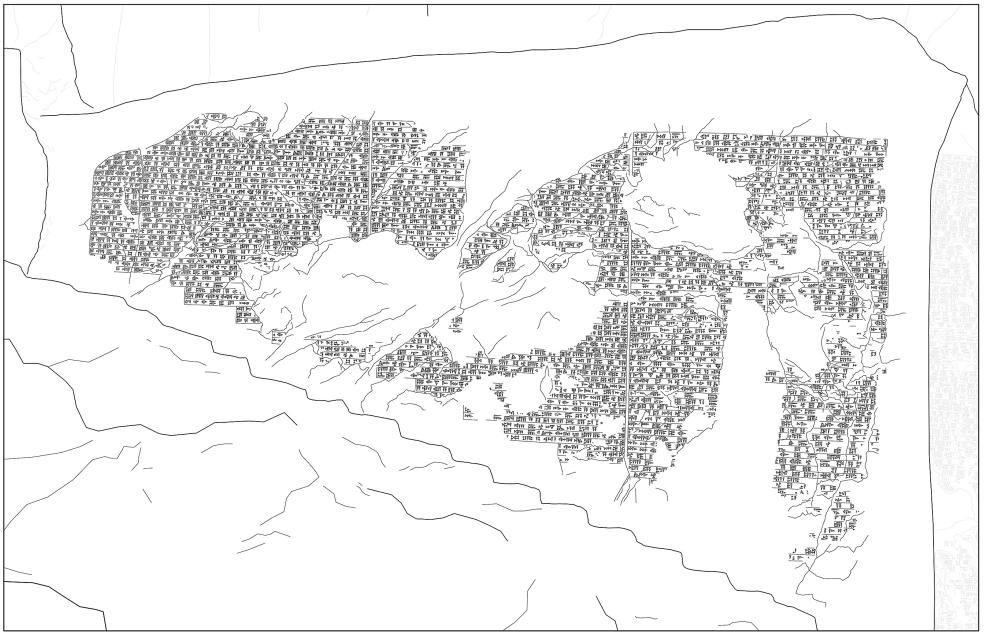


Fig. 12 Plans and cross-sections of the tomb of Argishti I



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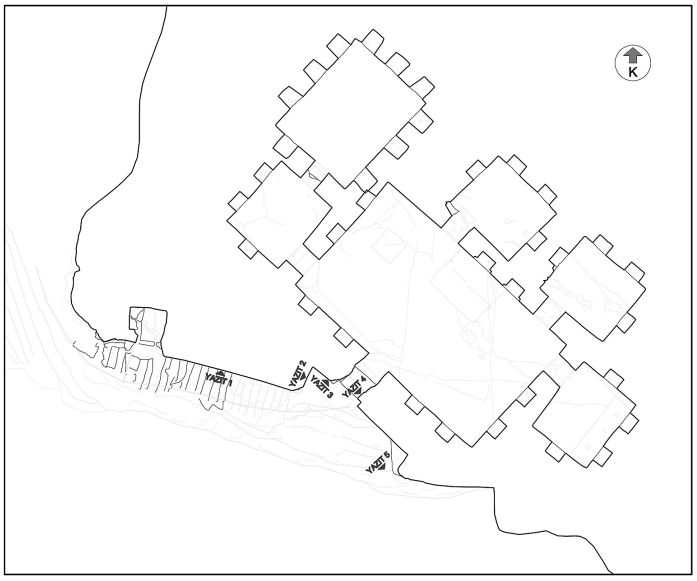


ANAHTAR PLAN

ESKİ VAN ŞEHRİ, KALESİ VE HÖYÜĞÜ KAZILARI

VAN KALESİ
URARTU DÖNEMİ MEZAR ODALARI

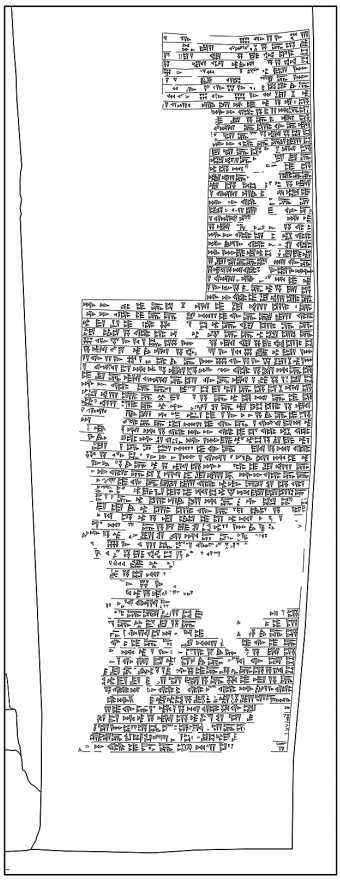
ARGİŞTİ MEZARI

2013 YILI
RÖLÖVE ÇALIŞMASI

YAZITLAR

ÖLÇEK
1/20
0 0.2 0.4 0.8m.

Fig. 13a
Documentation of façade inscriptions, tomb of Argishti I



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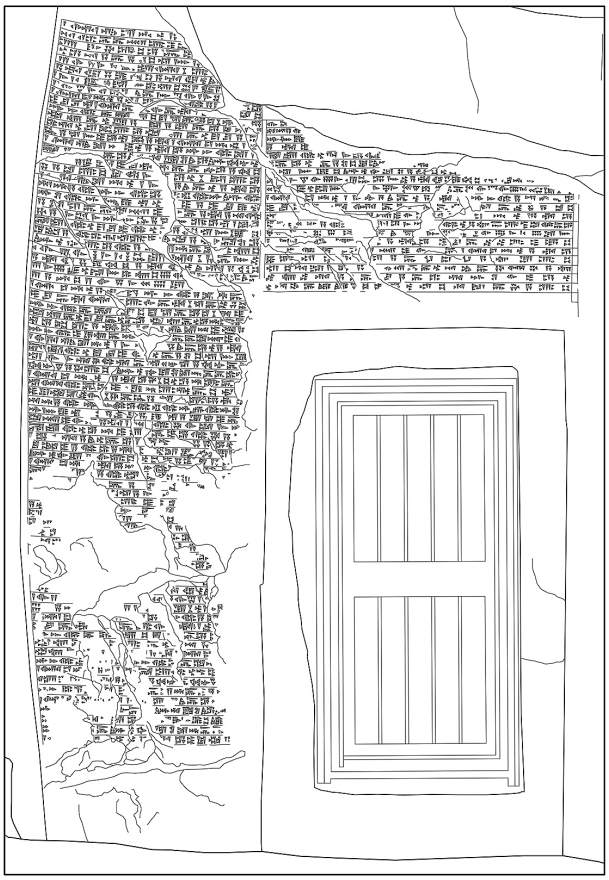

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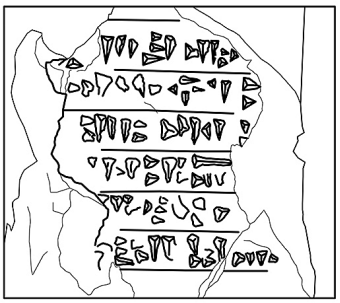
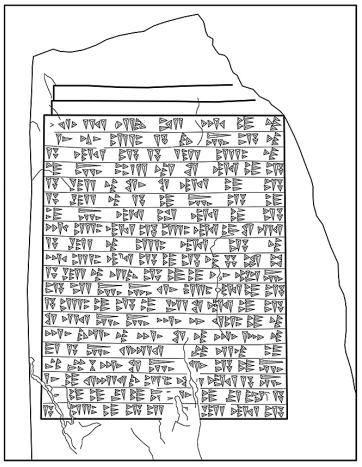


YAZIT 4 - ÖLÇEK 1/5



YAZIT 5 - ÖLÇEK 1/10

Fig. 13b
Documentation of façade inscriptions, tomb of Argishti I

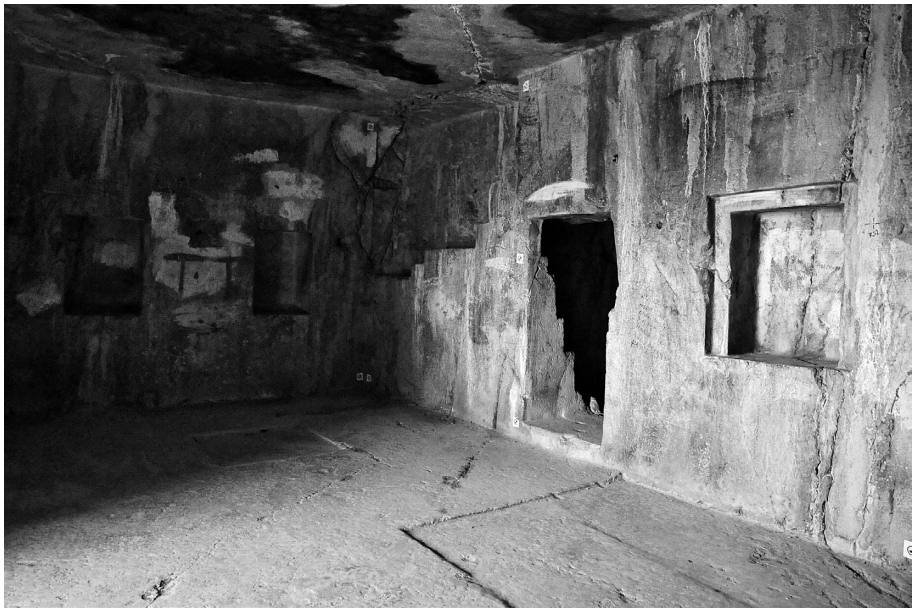


Fig. 14 The main hall of Argishti I tomb

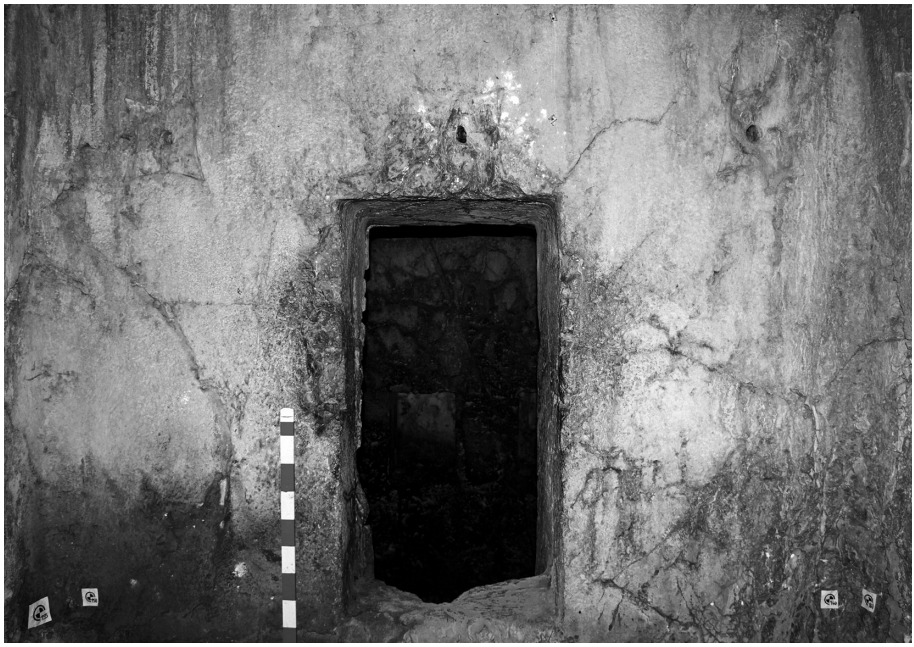


Fig. 15 Doorway of the "pit room"