

Report on Graz planning session (ZG924-26)

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Giorgio Buccellati (gB), Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati (mKB) and [Laerke Recht](#) (rL) met in Graz for three days following the [Melammu symposium](#), on Sep. 24-26. This was a detailed planning session following the [Beola 2](#) meeting. Five major topics were discussed.

1 Ceramics

1.1 Ceramics digital book

mKB, with the assistance of rL, will complete the [Ceramics digital book](#) for full opening to the public.

1.2 Unit book A15

rL will complete the analysis of the [A15](#) ceramic q-lots log, verifying the errors that remain after the work done by mKB with the assistance of [Jessica Scaciga](#). Data for which errors remain that cannot be corrected will be removed and listed in the error page of the synthetic section of the A15 unit book.

rL will be assisted by a student to be supported by the [CM project](#). This will also serve as a training experiment, utilizing material from the How-to pages developed by [Federico Buccellati](#) and the instruction manual prepared by [Lorenzo Crescioli](#). [Marco De Pietri](#) will help in finalizing the necessary format.

1.3 Analytical section of other unit books

rL had already completed the analytical section of the following unit books: [A16](#), [J1](#), [J2](#), [J3](#), [J5](#), [OH2](#). It remains to be added to the synthetic part in the [left-hand side](#), and rL will work on this.

It is missing for [A15](#), [J2](#), [J4](#) and J20, on which work is currently being done: this will be produced by rL together with one of her students under the general supervision of mKB. This will serve as a further moment in the training period.

1.4 Synthetic section of unit books

The student training may lead to a point where the student may be able to develop an independent approach to the synthetic assessment of the ceramics of a given unit. This will

help in providing a separate named page to be credited to the student. The first unit book to be so processed will be [I5](#).

1.5 Comprehensive analysis of new unit books

Assuming these steps to be successful, the student will be charged with the analysis of the entire ceramic material for a given unit. The next ones to be so studied are [I4](#) and [A20](#).

1.6 Vector drawings

A certain number of drawings are available only in pencil format. Two young collaborators are working on producing vector versions of the same, [Zichan Wang](#) and [Jessica Scaciga](#).

2 Paleozoology

2.1 Previous work

Prof. Hans-Peter Uerpmann and Dr. Lubna Omar worked extensively on the animal remains, but we do not have their records. Our last contact was in 2016, when Lubna had agreed that she would work on getting the material together, in a readable format. There had in fact been a portability problem with some earlier format of the data base, and there was a need for some conversion of the data. gB will follow up by writing to both.

2.2 Available data

gB will ascertain what material may be available in Syria, whether in the Expedition House or elsewhere if Lubna has had it shipped somewhere else.

2.3 rL's role

Given her long-standing interest in the subject, and her publication record and research interests in this field, rL agrees to take over the supervision of the paleozoological remains from Mozan. If Uerpmann and/or Omar are no longer available, she will look for alternatives.

2.4 Goals

rL will work both on integrating data from individual excavation units in their respective books, and on producing a topical book on paleozoology. We aim to achieve some of these goals by September 2025.

3 Glyptics

3.1 Commitments

mKB will work on the topical book urkesh.org/glyptics, with the assistance of rL, possibly involving one of her students.

3.2 Plans for 2022-23

In this initial period, the goal is to gather ideas and materials. mKB will make available her catalog, which can be uploaded in the DEAR format. Ideas for the content will be uploaded as they occur, identifying possible new major sections of the topical book.

3.3 Long term goals

The goal is to complete the topical book in the following two years, by September 2025.

4 Sections for urkesh.org

4.1 The concept

Sections in the general Urkesh website offer a summary review of the major typological classes. There are two models: one is a digital monograph (e. g., human figurines or texts), others are only a single page (e. g., animal figurines or physical anthropology). Either model is OK, especially for this initial version of the website.

4.2 Ceramics

mKB and rL will produce this section basing it on the [Ceramic digital book](#). Ideally, we would like to have this by September 2023. Only a stub is available for now.

4.3 Glyptics

mKB and rL will produce this section basing it on the [Glyptics digital book](#). We plan to have this by September 2025. Only a stub is available for now.

4.4 Paleozoology

rL will work on this, planning to have it by September 2025.

5 critique-of-AR.net version 2

5.1 The core topic for the second version

The first edition of [Critique-of-AR.net](#) (CAR) was published in 2017, and we are now planning the second edition, according to the criteria spelled out in [Critique-of-AR.net/ephemeris](#).

This edition will be devoted specifically to the theory of heritage and community archaeology, while including at the same time new materials related to the primary topic of the website. It is also in line with this central interest that we will concentrate, with regard to heritage and community archaeology, on the theoretical aspects. We want, in other words, to engage in a critique of this aspect of archaeology. How does a concern for heritage impact the whole archaeological process – from excavation to interpretation and to presentation? Even more deeply, how can a broken tradition be brought back into the life stream of today's stakeholders? How can there be inheritors for a past that has long since been severed from human memory, let alone awareness? How can we add one more layer, if only metaphorically, at the very top of our stratigraphies, the layer of today's metabolized experience of a seemingly alien past?

The editors of this new edition will write a digital monograph highlighting these themes. It will serve as the digital core topic for this edition, to which the concurrent parallel planes of the website will relate – summaries, themes, excerpts, etc. For these, we will rely on additional collaborators. We will thus implement actively the notion of digital discourse, in a more systemic manner than was possible with the first edition, where the core topic was represented by a printed book (instead of a digital core topic).

5.2 rL as editor

rL will serve as main editor, with the assistance of gB and possibly with the help of an additional co-editor.

5.3 Editorial board

gB and rL will select potential members of the special editorial board. A preliminary list has been discussed during the planning meeting.

5.4 Collaborators

Individual collaborators will be asked to contribute summaries, themes, excerpts and reviews, as per the format established in CAR1.

5.5 DABI version

gB will ask [Marco De Pietri](#) if he would prepare a DABI version of *CAR*. For now, it will be placed in *CAR2*, but we reserve for later the option of making this version already available as *CAR1*, without any changes of content, but only of format.

5.6 Deadline

We plan to open *CAR2* by September 2024.