

Report on Berlin meeting (ZGy16-z31)

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Giorgio Buccellati (gB), Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati (mKB) and Federico Buccellati (fAB) held a series of meetings during a protracted period of time in Berlin to define the nature of the project's website and to determine the respective tasks within the overall project. Seven major topics were discussed.

1 The overall structure of cyb-mes.net

- 1.1 We **designed** the website in detail, giving it a double structure, one that is discursive and brings out the main focus of the research project.
- 1.2 We discussed at some length the **contents**, particularly with regard to the first three parts that aim to describe the substance of the work done and in progress.
- 1.3 Giorgio Buccellati will be responsible for the **writing of the website**.
- 1.4 We plan to open the website by **February 2023**, in time for our next meeting in Berlin, when we will take up the development of the next major website, d-discourse.net.
- 1.5 cyb-mes.net is currently accessible **through password only** (<CM> for both ID and PW).
- 1.6 For the website we will sue the **format** established by Bernardo Forni using the DABI program.

2 The content of the discursive part of the website (sections 1-3)

- 2.1 The **first part will describe the project** in detail, and in particular will give an extended history of its early phases: this is to illustrate the coherence and continuity of the issues that we take up in the current phase

of the project. This will require considerable research, since no previous work was done to this effect.

- 2.2 The **second part will define the system** as a whole, illustrating the various components (domains and clusters), and it will also show what the structure of this particular website is meant to be.
- 2.3 The third **part will articulate the goals** of the current phase of the project, with a view especially to show how these meet the challenge presented by the [Balzan prize](#), while at the same time fulfilling the promise implicit in the early phases of our work.

3 The content of the aggregative part of the website (sections 4-5)

- 3.1 The second section of the website is **aggregative in nature**, meaning that it does not follow a discursive thread, but rather serves a container for ongoing information.
- 3.2 While we are designing this second section of the website, it will be effectively managed by [Marco De Pietri](#) (mDP).
- 3.3 The fourth part will contain information about **work in progress**: this will be the most extensive, with detailed information about all various initiatives undertaken by various members of the staff. It will also be a useful sounding board for us to monitor the progress of the project as it happens.
- 3.4 The last part will list **the results** as they happen, in terms of both digital and paper publications.

4 Publications and outreach

- 4.1 **Goals.** We have a number of publications in the pipeline. Federico Buccellati is responsible for the overall coordination. During our meetings in Berlin, we reviewed the status of the individual titles.

- 4.2 **Terqa Final Reports 3.** This another volume in the same series: it is largely ready for publication, it needs some final overview, and should go to the printed by the Spring of 2023.
- 4.3 **Articles.** A number of articles has been submitted for publication, see the relevant [section](#) in cyb-mes.net. We reviewed the program for articles to cover our work, to be written in 2023.
- 4.4 **Digital Discourse. A View from the Field.** A considerable effort was made to identify a way to include all the members of the research project in a joint publication that would illustrate how the project is impacting our way of relating to the data. The tentative title is meant to emphasize this approach. We will jointly oversee this project, and we plan to have the individual chapters on hand by September 2023.
- 4.5 **Lectures.** A number of public and specialized lectures is planned for 2023, including presentations at international congresses. We reviewed the various outlets, and we plan to encourage our younger collaborators to take active part in the process.

5 *Urkesh beyond Urkesh*

- 5.1 Since the start of hostilities in Syria in March 2011, we have been unable to continue with our regular excavations. But we have intensified our presence at the site, not only with our conservation program, but also with an extended [educational program](#).
- 5.2 Federico Buccellati is in charge of this aspect of the project, coordinating it with the resources made available by the Kaplan Fund.
- 5.3 In September 2022, Federico Buccellati with the two PIS had planned a trip to Damascus, at the invitation of the DGAM. This turned out to be impossible because of family reasons. We have now received another invitation for May 2023, and we discussed the possibility of accepting it:

we are still in the process of deciding whether this may fit in our schedule.

- 5.4 Following a successful collaboration in 2021 (avasa.it/ZFy15e and avasa.it/ZFy16e), there is a shared interest in continuing to work together on the larger issue of what is known as public archaeology on the one hand, and the digital turn on the other.

6 *The conservation program*

- 6.1 We discussed at length the details of the current work and our involvement in it, especially after [Amer Ahmad](#)'s decision to leave the country. We will rely especially on [Hamrin Omo](#) to keep tab of developments.
- 6.2 [Yasmine Mahmoud](#) was unable to come to Berlin, but we met with her mother and sister, to discuss the overall situation in Syria. We were also able to organize for the delivery of a camera to be used at Mozan in the documentation of the preservation work begin done there.
- 6.3 [Samer Abdel Ghafour](#) is an important resource, and we plan to develop more his involvement in the project.

7 *Education*

- 7.1 The [school](#) and [One-on-One](#) projects are progressing with great vigor, under the direction of [Hiba Qassar](#). We will expand it to include other areas, ad in particular the following two.
- 7.2 The local youth orchestra at Mozan has proposed a project of great interest, that involves the creation of an instrument that will be a copy of an ancient instrument, for the performance of music by the youth orchestra. This project is in part supported by Intiqal, and will focus on putting in contact the youth from Mozan with those of Gaza, music serving as the common thread.