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UN ‘CŒUR SYRIEN’

MÉLANGES DÉDIÉS À LA MÉMOIRE D’ANTOINE SOULEIMAN

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Antoine Souleiman à Tell Shamiyeh en 2010 (E. Ishaq)

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Liste des Abréviations

AAAS	= Annales Archéologiques Arabes Syriennes
AAE	= Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy
ADAJ	= Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan
AfO	= Archiv für Orientforschung
AJA	= American Journal of Archaeology
AOAT	= Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AOP	= Antiochian Orthodox Patriarchat
ARCANE	= Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean.
AuOr	= Aula Orientalis
AuOr Sup	= Aula Orientalis Supplementa
BAH	= Bibliothèque Archéologique et Historique
BAMA	= British Academy Monographs in Archaeology
BAR Int	= British Archaeological Reports International Series.
BASOR	= Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
BAT	= Bibliothèque de l'Antiquité tardive
BBVO	= Berliner Beiträge zum Vorderen Orient
BEFAR	= Bibliothèques des écoles françaises d'Athènes et de Rome
BM	= Bibliotheca Mesopotamica
BSOAS	= Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
BUSE	= Bibliothèque de l'Université Saint-Esprit
BVO	= Beiträge zum Vorderen Orient
CAS	= Chrinique archéologique de Syrie
CAAS	= Chroniques des Activités Archéologiques en Syrie
CPG	= <i>Clavis Patrum Graecorum</i> , M. Geerard et J. Desmet, Turnhout 1979-1998.
CRAI	= Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres
CRB	= Cahiers de la Revue Biblique
CWA	= Current World Archaeology
DaF	= Damaszener Forschungen
DaM	= Damaszener Mitteilungen
DAS	= Documents d'Archéologie Syrienne
ES	= Etudes Syriaques
FM	= Florilegium Marianum
IEJ	= Israel Exploration Journal
IGLS	= Inscriptions Grecques et Latines de Syrie
JAE	= Journal of Arid Environments
JFA	= Journal of Field Archaeology
JNES	= Journal of Near Eastern Studies
MDOG	= Mitteilungen des Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft zu Berlin
NABU	= Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires
OBO	= Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OBO, SA	= Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis, Series Archaeologica
PIHANS	= Publications de l'Institut Historique-Archéologique Néerlandais de Stamboul

PHAAUCL	= Publications d'histoire de l'art et d'archéologie de l'Université catholique de Louvain
PG	= <i>Patrologiae cursus completus. Series Graeca</i> , éd. J.-P. Migne, Paris 1857-1866
PS	= Patrimoine Syriaque
QS	= Qatna-Studien
RA	= Revue d'Assyriologie et d'Archéologie Orientale
RAI	= Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale
RSO	= Ras Shamra-Ougarit
SAQ	= Studi Archeologici su Qatna
SC	= Sources chrétiennes
SMFVO-S	= Schriften der Max Freiherr von Oppenheim-Stiftung
SS	= Studi Semitici
SVA	= Schriften zur Vorderasiatischen Archäologie
TMO	= Travaux Maison de l'Orient
UAVA	= Untersuchungen zur Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie
UF	= Ugarit Forschungen
Ug.	= Ugaritica
VFMVO-S	= Vorderasiatische Forschungen der Max Freiherr von Oppenheim-Stiftung
WAAFLNW	= Wissenschaftliche Abhandlungen der Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Forschung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen
WVDOG	= Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichung der deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft
ZA	= Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie
ZDPV	= Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins
ZKPh	= Zeitschrift fur Klassische Philologie

Tall Bwēd - Adališ̄u ?

Hartmut Kühne
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Antoine Souleiman and I never had close contact but whenever we met, mostly in the field, instantly there was a sphere of respect, loyalty, and friendship. In this sense these lines may be devoted to his memory.

Within the international rescue program of the future dam of the Lower Ḥābūr¹ A. Souleiman started excavating the site of Tell Boueid (Tall Bwēd) on the right bank of the river in 1992 on behalf of the Syrian Antiquities Department (Souleiman 1995)². Somewhat later he discovered another small tell at a distance of about 800 m to the north and even a third one still further north close to Tell Melebiya (Souleiman and Nieuwenhuyse 2002 : fig. 1.2). Thus, the original one was designated Boueid I and the newly discovered ones II and III respectively. Boueid I had featured remains from the Late Bronze and Iron Age (Souleiman 1995) and Boueid II was expected to do so also. However, when excavated in 1997 and 1998 Boueid II turned out to be much older dating to the Pottery Neolithic, i.e. Hassuna-Samarra periods (Souleiman and Nieuwenhuyse 2002).

Even though the excavation of Boueid I occurred partially parallel to the German excavation of Tall Bdēri³ just on the opposite river bank I have never seen it. However, I had been the one who first discovered Tall Bwēd in 1977 when screening the other river bank from the top of Tall Bdēri (65) in search of ancient settlements during the Ḥābūr survey of the Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients (TAVO). This is recorded in the field diary on August 18, 1977, when we were able to identify Tall Mēlebiya (86) in the north and Tall Miṣyah (98) in the south but did not have a name ready for the obvious tell in between. On September 4, 1977, Tall Bwēd was surveyed by the TAVO-team⁴ receiving the site number 97, as the sites were counted in the order they had been surveyed since 1975. As usual, the environment was sketched and described, a topographical map was drawn and geodetically surveyed (fig. 1), surface collections were undertaken in topographically defined sampling

¹ I avoid the term ‘Middle Habur’ because Herzfeld defined the Lower Ḥābūr extending from Hassaka down to the confluence with the Euphrates (Sarre et Herzfeld 1911 : p. 175).

² The future dam area had been surveyed a second time by a French team (Monchambert 1984).

³ The excavation of Tall Bdēri was conducted under my supervision with Peter Pfälzner acting as field director from 1985 to 1995 as a joined project of the Freie Universität Berlin and the Damascus branch of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI). The logistic centre was Tell Sheikh Hamad.

⁴ It consisted of Rolf Brock Schmidt, Kate Fielden, Hartmut Kühne, Asa’d Mahmoud, and Wolfgang Röllig.

units (marked by -.- lines and the collection numbers on fig. 1), and photographs were taken (fig. 2).

The documentation of the Ḫābūr survey has not been fully published yet even though preliminary reports have been presented (Kühne 1974-77, Kühne 1978-1979, Röllig and Kühne 1983)⁵. The site Tall Bwēd (97) is mapped on fig. 1 of Kühne 1978/1979 and was mentioned later in two articles concerning the environment and the settlement pattern as well as the Ḫābūr canals respectively (Ergenzinger, Frey, Kühne and Kürschner 1988, fig. 7 ; Ergenzinger and Kühne 1991 : p. 171).

It seems appropriate therefore to present the notes of the Ḫābūr survey 1977 concerning Tall Bwēd (97) briefly here :

‘Environmental situation (fig. 1) : the site is situated opposite Tall Bdēri (65-68)⁶ in the alluvium and surrounded by crop fields; in greater distance it is enclosed by cotton fields. The distance to the river bank is about 400 meters; a ferry boat is based at the bank.

Description of the site (fig. 1-2) : the site is small extending about 90 meters northwest-southeast and 60 meters northeast-southwest. While the northern and the eastern edge are steep, it slopes gently down to the southeast. Cut by an irrigation ditch, an additional low peak extends to the southeast having the shape of a triangle. The surface consists of loamy soil which is rather soft and casually covered with grass’.

The surfaces artifacts collected consisted of ceramics and flints. They indicated settlement periods of the Early Bronze Age (almost certainly), but surely Late Bronze Age (Middle Assyrian) and Iron Age (Neo-Assyrian) (Kühne 2009). The excavation revealed impressive parts of an administrative building dated to the Iron Age II (750-650 BC) by the excavator (Souleiman 1995). Of particular interest are the historical implications for the Middle Assyrian period⁷ because the opposite site of Tall Bdēri (65) was identified with the town of *Dūr-Aššur-kettī-lēšer* (Maul 1992) on account of excavated inscriptions on several fragments of double conical cylinders (Pfälzner 1989-1990). They mentioned a member of a so far unknown dynasty by the name of *Aššur-kettī-lēšer* (II.) who called himself ‘king of the land of Mari’, dated by the eponym *Bēlu-libūr* to the year 1096 BC of the reign of the Assyrian king *Tiglathpilesar I* (1114-1076 BC). After more recent excavations of similar texts at the site of Tall Tab'an (37) by a Japanese mission which identified the site with the Middle Assyrian center of *Tābētu* (Maul 2005), almost the complete ‘dynasty’ has become known extending back to the 14th century BC (Shibata 2011 : p. 178/fig. 5). Furthermore it has been demonstrated that the dynasty most probably had a Hurrian origin and was ‘assyrianized’ (Shibata 2011 : p. 172-174). In another recent study, the status of these kings to the Middle Assyrian state has been compared to the client kingdoms of the first millennium (Shibata 2012).

Just before these discoveries an inscription of unknown provenance had been published mentioning the place name *Adališhu* (Lambert 1991 ; Maul 1992 : p. 35-41).

⁵ A full account of the Ḫābūr survey is still in preparation: H. Kühne and W. Röllig, *Die archäologische Begehung am Unteren Ḫābūr Teil 1: Die Siedlungsplätze*, Beihefte zum Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients B 67-1, Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag.

⁶ The main site of Tall Bdēri has the number 65 ; it is surrounded by three satellite tells which were numbered 66-68.

⁷ No excavation results of this period are published, yet.

According to the given genealogy, the text may now be attributed with certainty to the same ‘king’ *Aššur-kettī-lēšer II* who had captured Tall Bdēri, incorporated it in his state and renamed it *Dūr-Aššur-kettī-lēšer*. As Maul had already pointed out, the arrangement of the text is very similar to the inscriptions from Tall Bdēri, and the eponym had already suggested a similar date (Maul 1992 : p. 40-41). Above that, the act of seizing this town corresponds to the act of conquering Tall Bdēri to the degree that *Aššur-kettī-lēšer II* had a palace and a town wall built in *Adališhu* just as in *Dūr-Aššur-kettī-lēšer*⁸. Therefore Maul had suggested that the site of *Adališhu* should be located within a similar distance to *Tābētu* like *Dūr-Aššur-kettī-lēšer*, in spite of the broken passage of the text that might indicate a location in the province of *Katmuhu* (Maul 1992 : p. 36). It is obvious that this applies well to Tall Bwēd (97) which is situated at the same distance from the centre of Tall Ṭabān (37) as Tall Bdēri (65), e.g. six to seven kilometers to the north.

Lambert had suspected that the place name *Adališhu* may be of Hurrian origin (Lambert 1991 : p. 315). In a recent article, it has been pointed out that the dominant Assyrian presence of the Ḥābūr area may be based on a much more prominent tradition of the Mittanian State than we are usually inclined to admit (Pongratz-Leisten 2011). This corresponds well to the above mentioned statement that the dynasty of *Tābētu* may be derived from Hurrian roots. It must also be considered that the Mittanian centers of power were situated nearby: the distance from Tall Bwēd (97) / Tall Bdēri (65) to the capital *Waššukanni* if identified with Tall Fahariya is 80 kilometers as the crow flies. The archaeological evidence of the Mittanian period as documented by the Ḥābūr survey lists 16 sites as opposed to 9 sites of the Middle Assyrian period (fig. 3) including Tall Ṭabān (37) (*Tābētu*) (Kühne 2009, pp. 26-30). A veritable level of Mittanian occupation has been excavated in Tall Bdēri (Pfälzner 1989-1990 : p. 215-216, Abb. 16-17); the site of Tall Umm Qṣīr (62), three kilometers northeast of Tall Bdēri, has furnished a Mittanian phase 3 according to the excavators (Tsuneki/Miyake 1998) but covers a Middle Assyrian occupation almost certainly as well according to the published pottery. Tall Šēh Ḥamad (16) also betrays strong Mittanian presence by the continuous usage of Mittanian cylinder seals during the Middle Assyrian period. It is therefore just possible that the policy of *Aššur-kettī-lēšer II* to extend his territory may have been motivated by the anachronistic idea to reestablish some territorial unit originally belonging to the Mittanian polity of *Tābētu*, even though he claims in the inscriptions that no one of his ancestors had conquered either one of the places before.

In any case, the Lower Ḥābūr valley did have a Mittanian-Hurrian identity during the 15th and 14th century, which was changed only slowly to an Assyrian one. *Aššur-kettī-lēšer II*’s policy does not seem to have been very successful, but instead caused annoyance on the Assyrian side so that Tiglathpilesar I may have brought the dynasty of *Tābētu* to an end soon (Maul 1992 : p. 50-51).

In conclusion, it is suggested that Bwēd I should be identified with *Adališhu*. The Middle Assyrian evidence of Bwēd I needs to be investigated whether it confirms simultaneity with the rule of *Aššur-kettī-lēšer II* at the beginning of the 11th century BC or not. The fact that no Mittanian ceramic fragments have been discovered in Tall Bwēd either on the Ḥābūr survey⁹ or apparently in the excavation, which one would expect if the place name was Hurrian, should not be considered an argument against it because the Mittanian remains could have been destroyed to the ground by the Assyrians and supplanted by their own buildings. The Iron Age II remains of the administrative building could have a Middle

⁸This may be a topos though used for every conquered and integrated town.

⁹The survey by Monchambert does not record Mittanian remains either (Monchambert 1984 : p. 191).

Assyrian forerunner which would have fulfilled the requirements of the ‘palace’ mentioned in the inscription.

Thus the archaeological arguments in favor of this identification proposal with *Adališhu* may be strengthened once the older levels of Tall Bwēd (97) are published. For the time being the more satisfying argument is its strategic position in relation to Tall Bdēri / *Dūr-Aššur-ketti-lēšer* and Tall Ṭabān (37) (*Tābētu*) which make the localization rather plausible. As opposed to Tall Bwēd I the architectural remains of Tall Umm Qṣīr definitely do not reflect a palace but rather living quarters. Also from the point of the Middle Assyrian settlement pattern Tall Bwēd I is the only candidate to be considered forming a cluster with Tall Bdēri and Tall Tabān (fig. 3).

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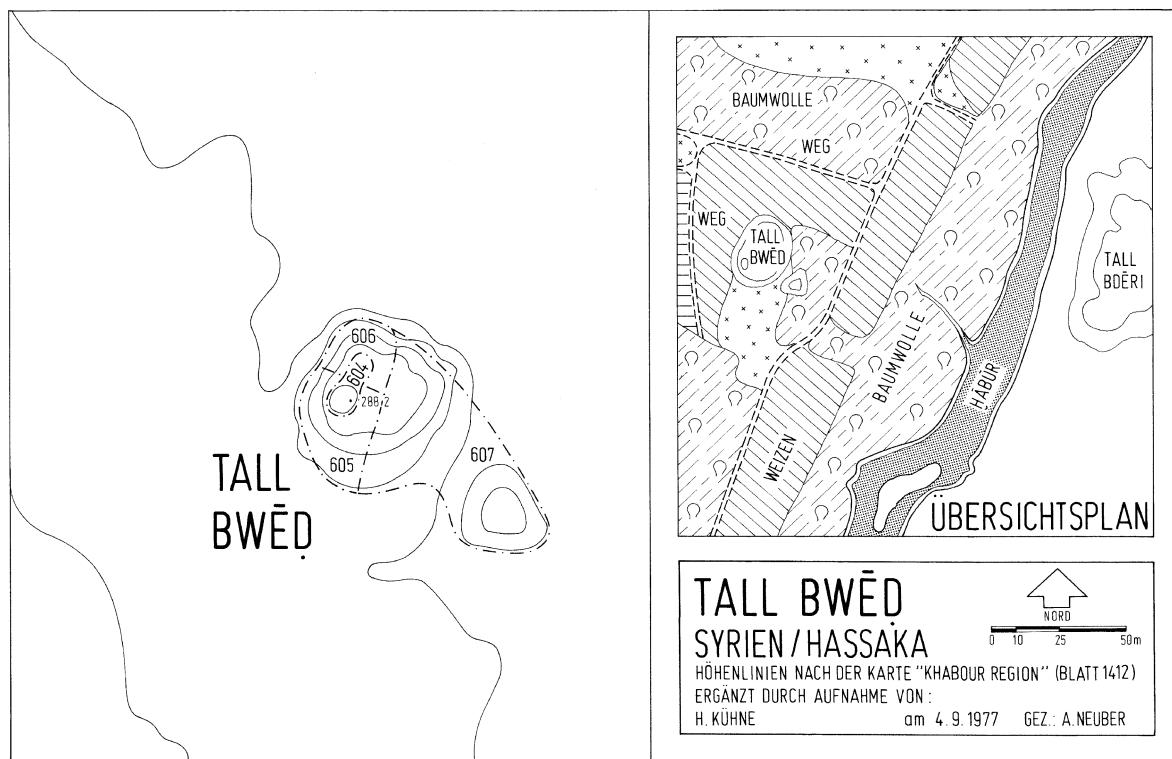


Fig. 1 : Tall Bwēd (97), environment and topographical plan 1977.



Fig. 2 : Tall Bwēd (97), photographed from southwest (1977).

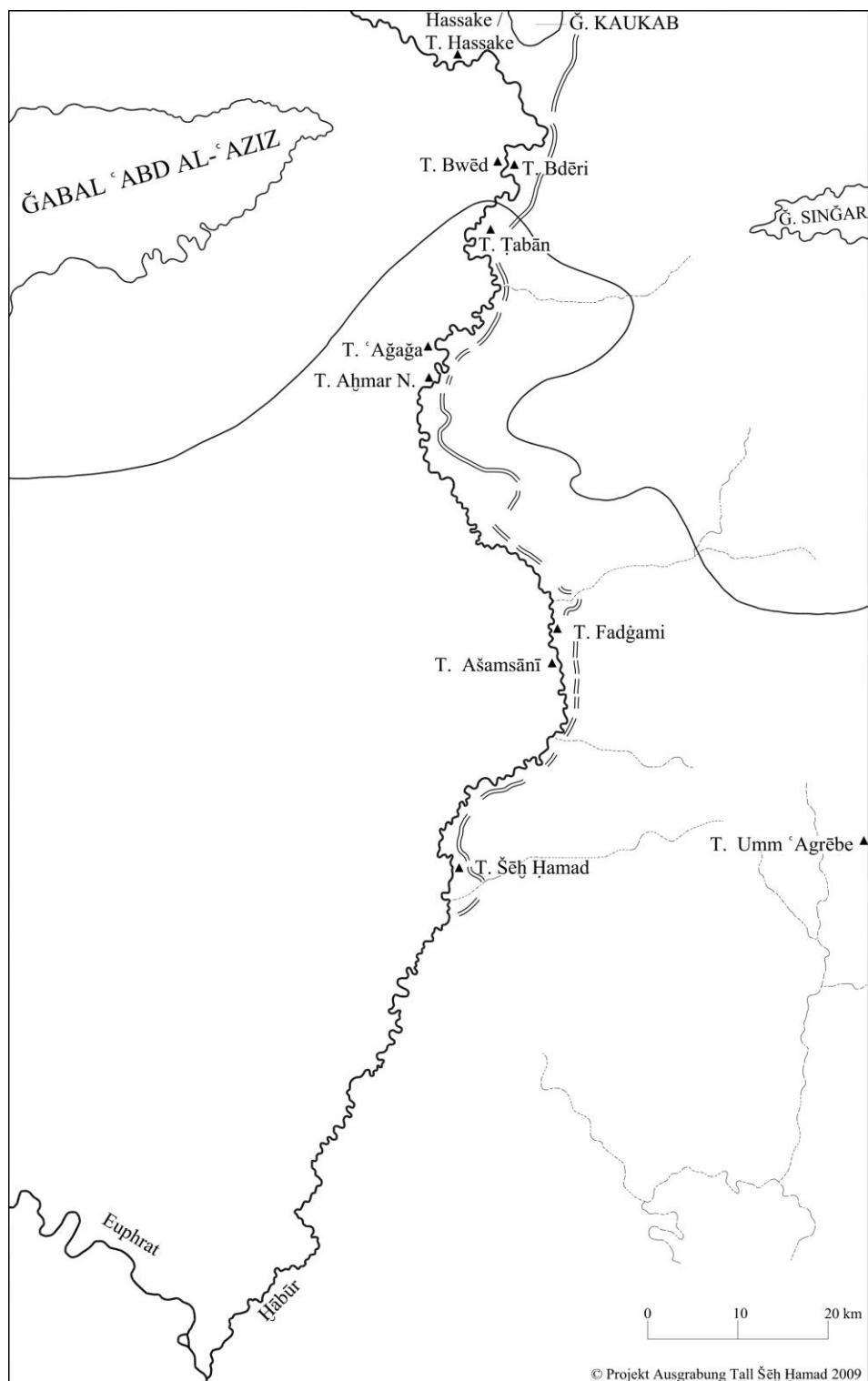


Fig. 3 : Settlements of the Middle Assyrian periods at the Lower Hābūr according to the TAVO survey.