

# RIVAGES DE LA CASPIENNE

## CASPIAN SEA SHORES

Contacts, espaces et territoires  
autour de la Caspienne  
aux âges du Bronze et du Fer

*Contacts, Spaces and Territories  
along the Caspian Sea  
during the Bronze and Iron Ages*

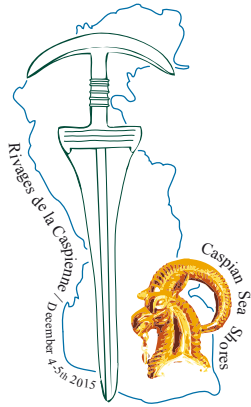


4-5 décembre / December 2015

Maison de l'Archéologie et de l'Ethnologie  
(Nanterre, France)

Musée d'Archéologie Nationale  
(Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France)

# Programme / Program



Les activités archéologiques ont connu un large développement ces dernières années dans les territoires qui jouxtent la mer Caspienne méridionale, l'Azerbaïdjan, l'Iran, le Turkménistan et le Kazakhstan. Ces régions présentent aujourd'hui encore une grande diversité environnementale et culturelle, résultat de milliers d'années d'interactions entre populations d'origine et cultures différentes. La mer Caspienne joue le rôle clef d'un carrefour entre les civilisations de l'Eurasie qui ont eu des relations et des échanges variables entre les âges du Bronze et du Fer.

Le colloque a pour objectif de confronter les données des recherches récentes afin de mieux connaître les séquences d'occupation des régions voisines de la mer Caspienne durant les âges du Bronze récent et du Fer et la manière dont la complexité culturelle s'est mise en place au cours du temps. Ces régions semblent avoir développé une identité culturelle propre. Il s'agit de faire un état des connaissances des parties occidentale, méridionale et orientale de la Caspienne concernant l'organisation spatiale des sites d'habitat et des nécropoles, les pratiques funéraires, les cultures matérielles, ainsi que de discuter des relations interculturelles qui ont pu s'exercer entre les pays du Caucase, l'Iran et l'Asie centrale.

*Archaeological activities have considerably developed during the last years around the Caspian Sea including the Caucasus, Iran and Turkmenistan. These areas have a very significant environmental and cultural diversity resulting of several millennia of human interaction. The Caspian Sea has acted as a crossroad between Eurasian civilizations that have had variable exchanges between the Bronze and Iron Age.*

*The goal of this conference is to confront recent archaeological data from this region for a better understanding of the human occupation sequence during the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age and the way the cultural complexity has established in time. These areas have developed a specific cultural identity during these periods. Main topics of interest are the spatial organization of the settlements and the necropolis, the funerary practices, the material cultures, environment and subsistence economies, as well as a critical discussion on intercultural dynamics between the Caucasus, Iran and Central Asia.*



Les communications (20 mn) et les débats seront organisés autour des thèmes suivants :

*Communications (20 mn) and debates will be in English all around the following themes :*

## VENDREDI / FRIDAY - 4/12/12

9h00

Accueil / Welcome

9h30-10h00

Introduction : R. Vallet, C. Lorre, M. Casanova, M. Mashkour, J. Bendezu-Sarmiento.

**Session 1** - Paléoenvironnements et subsistance à l'âge du Bronze et à l'âge du Fer sur les rives de la Caspienne (Caucase, Iran, Turkménie) / *Paleoenvironment and subsistence in the Bronze and Iron Ages on the Caspian Shores (Caucasus, Iran and Turkmenistan)*

**10h00-11h00 – Chairman : Pr A. Sagona, université de Melbourne (Australie)**

- C. Kuzucuoglu, directrice de recherche, Laboratoire de géographie physique : Environnements quaternaires et actuels – UMR 8591, Meudon :

« **Geography, Geomorphology and Impact of the fluctuations in the Caspian Sea** ».

- L. Shumilovskikh, M. Djamali, P. Ponel, V. Andrieu-Ponel et J.-L. de Beaulieu, équipe Paléoenvironnement et Paléoécologie, Institut Méditerranéen de Biodiversité marine et d'Écologie marine et continentale - UMR 7263, Aix-en-Provence :

« **Palaeoenvironment of the Gorgan Plain (NE Iran) since the last 7000 years** ».

**11h00-11h30 - Pause**

**11h30-12h30 – Chairman : Pr A. Sagona, université de Melbourne (Australie)**

- A. Decaix et M. Tengberg, équipe de recherche "Archéozoologie, Archéobotanique : sociétés, pratiques et environnements" - UMR 7209, CNRS-MNHN, Paris :

« **Bronze Age Environment and Plant exploitation around the Caspian Sea** ».

- M. Mashkour, équipe de recherche "Archéozoologie, Archéobotanique : sociétés, pratiques et environnements" - UMR 7209, CNRS-MNHN, Paris :

« **Animal Exploitation along the Caspian sea Region during the Bronze Age and the Iron Age** ».

**12h30-14h00 - Déjeuner / Lunch**

**Session 2** - L'âge du Bronze et l'âge du Fer sur les rives de la Caspienne : deux cultures successives ou l'émergence d'une nouvelle culture ? / *The Bronze Age and the Iron Age on the Caspian Shores: two successive cultures or the emergence of a new culture ?*

**14h00-15h30 – Chairman : Dr V. Jahani, Centre de recherche sur le patrimoine culturel du Ghilan (Iran)**

- K. Alizadeh, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA :

« **The End of the Kura-Araxes 'Culture': A View from Nadir Tepesi in Mughan Steppe, Iranian Azerbaijan** ».

- S. Kroll, département d'archéologie du Proche-Orient, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich :

« **The Bronze to Iron Age transition in the Urmia Basin, North-Western Iran : Continuity or Discontinuity?** »

- J. Lhuillier, équipe "Hellénismes d'Asie et civilisations orientales", AOROC – UMR 8546 :

« **New Perspectives on the Archaic Dehistan Culture** ».





## 15h30-16h00 - Pause

### 16h00-17h30 – Chairman : Dr A. Khalmyradov, Parc archéologique d'Abiverd (Turkménistan)

- H. Fahimi, Institut d'archéologie du Proche-Orient, Freie Universität, Berlin :

«Transition between Bronze and Iron Age at the Southwestern Shores of the Caspian Sea».

- C. K. Piller, département d'archéologie du Proche-Orient, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich :

«Towards a definition of the Late Bronze Age in the Southern Caspian Region».

- R. Vallet et J. Bessenay, CNRS/Université de Paris 1, UMR 7041 ArScAn-VEPMO, "du Village à l'État au Proche et Moyen-Orient", Nanterre :

«New look on the Iron Age fortified settlements of Tureng Tepe».

## Samedi / Saturday 5/12/2015

### 9h00

Accueil / Welcome : Dr Hilaire Multon, directeur du musée d'Archéologie nationale - Domaine national de Saint-Germain-en-Laye

**Session 3** - Les pratiques funéraires sur les rivages de la Caspienne : organisation spatiale, architecture, rituels funéraires / *The funerary practices on the Caspian Sea Coasts: spatial organisation, architecture, funerary rituals.*

### 9h15-11h15 – Chairman : Pr J. Cordoba, université autonome de Madrid (Espagne) et Mission archéologique turkmène et espagnole au Déhistan (Turkménistan)

- J. Bendezu-Sarmiento, Délégation archéologique française en Afghanistan :

“Funerary Diversity Practices during the Bronze and Early Iron Age in Turkmenistan”.

- A. Khalmyradov, Réserve archéologique d'Abiverd, Turkménistan :

“Bronze Age and Iron Age sites in Turkmenistan. History of researches and new discoveries. A state of the art of the conservation work in the Abiverd Archaeological Park”.

- M. Rahimova, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, Bakou, Azerbaïdjan :

“The results of French-Azerbaijani archaeological investigations in Azerbaijan”.

- M. Casanova, université Lumière Lyon 2 et laboratoire Archéorient, CNRS, Lyon, A. Alakbarov, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, Académie Nationale des Sciences d'Azerbaïdjan, Bakou et M. Haze, Université de Paris I, équipe Vepmo  
- ArScAn, CNRS, Nanterre :

“Ritual and Burial Practices during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages in Southern Caucasus”.

## 11h15-11h45 - Pause

### 11h45-13h15 – Chairman : Dr M. Rahimova, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, Académie nationale des Sciences d'Azerbaïdjan et Dr N. Valikhanli, Académie nationale des Sciences d'Azerbaïdjan, Musée national d'Histoire, Bakou (Azerbaïdjan)

- O. Akhan, Institut de recherche pour le patrimoine national, Musée national de la République du Kazakhstan, Astana, Kazakhstan :

“Examination of cult Monuments of Ustyurt Ancient Nomads”.

- V. Bakhshaliyev, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, branche du Nakhchivan, Azerbaïdjan, and S. Ağasoylu :

“The Late Bronze and Early Iron Culture in Nakhchivan”.

- J. Cordoba, Mission archéologique turkmène et espagnole au Déhistan, Turkménistan :

“In the surroundings of the Silk Road. Izzat Kuli and the Dahistán Archaic culture during the Iron Age. Impressions after last archaeological season (May-June 2015)”.

- N. Ateshi, département d'Histoire et Archéologie, Université Khazar, Bakou, Azerbaïdjan et Institut de recherche sur le Caucase, Berlin, Allemagne :

“Problems in the Historiography of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages in the Southern Caucasus: Facts and Proposals by way of illustration of new unknown Collections in the Museum for Prehistory and Early History (MVF) in Berlin”.



### 13h15-14h30 - Déjeuner/Lunch

**Session 4** - Cultures matérielles et relations interculturelles sur les rivages de la Caspienne / *Material Cultures and Intercultural Relations on the Caspian Sea Shores.*

**14h30-16h30 – Chairman: Pr S. Kroll, département d'archéologie du Proche-Orient, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich (Allemagne)**

- A. Sagona, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, Université de Melbourne, Australie :

**" Cultural interrelations between Caucasus and Anatolia "**

- E. Muradova, Département national pour la protection, l'étude et la restauration des monuments historiques et culturels de Turkménistan :

**" The South-West of Turkmenistan in Early Iron Age "**

- V. Jahani, Centre de recherche sur le patrimoine culturel du Gilan, Direction de l'Artisanat et du Tourisme, Gilan, Iran :

**" New Evidence of Iron Age Settlements on the Southwest Coasts of Caspian Sea (Gilan) in Light of Archaeological Excavation in Kafarestan, Gilan Province, Iran "**

- N. Valikhanli and N. Guluzadeh, Musée national d'Histoire d'Azerbaïdjan :

**" Role of National Azerbaijan History Museum in studying tangible Cultural Heritage of Late Bronze and Early Iron Age of Azerbaijan "**

### 16h30-17h00 - Pause

**17h00-18h30 – Chairman: Dr V. Bakhshaliev, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, branche du Nakhchivan (Azerbaïdjan)**

- C. Lorre, musée d'Archéologie nationale, Saint-Germain-en-Laye :

**"The research project on the Morgan's Collection of the National Museum of Archaeology (France) in the context of the Bronze and Iron Ages Transition in the Caucasus".**

- M. Haze, doctorant et équipe "Du village à l'État au Proche et Moyen-Orient" - UMR 7041 ArScAn, B. Mille, Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France et C. Lorre, musée d'archéologie nationale :

**"Archaeometallurgical Investigation of the South-Eastern Caucasian collections of the National Archaeological Museum (France)".**

- F. Debrabant, doctorant et équipe "Du village à l'État au Proche et au Moyen-Orient" - UMR 7041 ArScAn :

**"Production and Use of Stone Pearls in the Southern Caucasus".**

### 18h30 – 19h00

Discussion finale et clôture du colloque / Final Discussion and Conference Closing

**20h00 - Dîner de clôture / Closing Dinner reserved for the participants of the Conference**

Brasserie du Théâtre, place C. De Gaulle, Saint-Germain-en-Laye (face au château/in front of the castle)



Vendredi / Friday - 4/12/12 - Maison de l'Archéologie et de l'Ethnologie

10h00-12h30 – Chairman: Pr A. Sagona, université de Melbourne (Australie)

## Palaeoenvironment of the Gorgan Plain (NE Iran) since the last 7000 years

L. Shumilovskikh, M. Djamali, P. PoneI, V. Andrieu-Ponel et J.-L. de Beaulieu, équipe Paléoenvironnement et Paléoécologie, Institut Méditerranéen de Biodiversité marine et d'Écologie marine et continentale - UMR 7263, Aix-en-Provence

The Gorgan Plain (NE Iran), located on south-eastern coasts of the Caspian Sea, is characterized by fertile soils formed on loess plateau and nowadays is intensively exploited for agriculture. Since pre-historical times, landscapes of the Gorgan Plain experienced nomadic pastoral as well as agricultural activities. Especially urbanisation and increased population during the Persian Empires would trigger intensive exploitation of the natural sources. However, timing and intensity of the anthropogenic impact on the landscape are still unclear. In order to shed light on this question, the sediment core, covering the last c.a. 7,000 years, was taken from the Kongor peat, located at the heart of the Gorgan Plain. Palynological investigations, including studies of pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs, in comparison with macroremains, insects, XRF and palaeomagnetic studies provide new insights into important questions of the landscape evolution. When and how intensively was the land exploited by agriculture? How intensive was livestock breeding? How extensively were natural resources, e.g. timber, exploited? What was the environmental impact of these activities? And vice versa, how natural environment and climate influenced human life?

## Bronze Age environment and plant exploitation around the Caspian Sea

A. Decaix et M. Tengberg, équipe de recherche "Archéozoologie, Archéobotanique: sociétés, pratiques et environnements" - UMR 7209, CNRS-MNHN, Paris

Even though the Caspian region, with its diverse ecosystems, is often cited as an important route for the spread of crops and agricultural traditions, from Southwest Asia towards the East and, inversely, from East Asia towards the West, the actual study of plant remains from archaeological sites has so far been limited. The recent development of new excavations in the southern parts of both Caucasia (Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia) and Central Asia (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), associated with sampling for bio-archaeological remains, now allows us to adopt a renewed perspective on the environment and subsistence strategies in the Caspian Sea region sensu lato, from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic to historical periods. All while presenting a general summary on archaeobotanical research in the area, this paper will focalise on the Bronze Age when connections between populations across Eurasia increased and later culminated in the well-known Silk Road. In a comparative perspective we will discuss agricultural economies on the eastern and western shores of the Caspian Sea in regard to crop choices, cultivation practices, water management and the interaction with animal husbandry. The introduction of allochthonous crop species, such as broomcorn millet, is of particular interest. So is also the development of fruit cultivation for example that of grape that seems to have known an important spread in the 3rd millennium BC. The possibility of a local domestication of certain fruit species such as pistachio will equally be commented on.

## The End of the Kura-Araxes “Culture”: A View from Nadir Tepesi in Mughan Steppe, Iranian Azerbaijan

K. Alizadeh, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

**Abstract:** By the late 4th - early 3rd millennium BC, Kura-Araxes material culture spread from the Southern Caucasus throughout much of Southwest Asia and in some regions lasted about a millennium. Despite decades of investigations and studies on the Kura-Araxes Culture, this archaeological culture remains enigmatic in many aspects. Although it is generally agreed that the Kura-Araxes Culture appeared in the Southern Caucasus sometime in the mid-4th millennium BC, there were and are some contentions on origin. However, its end or “collapse” seems more mysterious than its origin. We do not know much about how and why the Kura-Araxes Culture ended and under what circumstances. This paper aims to address the end of the Kura-Araxes Culture generally and in Mughan Steppe to the west of the Caspian Sea particularly. In this paper, I concentrate on data collected from two trenches for stratigraphy at Nadir Tepesi in the Mughan Steppe. Evidence from stratigraphy at the site indicated that more than eight meters of the Kura-Araxes occupation at the site ended abruptly with no evidence of continuity or transition. Based on the data, I would argue that the evidence from Nadir Tepesi may suggest a violent end to the Kura-Araxes Culture at the site and region. I would further argue that Mughan Steppe to the west of the Caspian Sea may shed some light on the end of the Kura-Araxes Culture and dynamics of Bronze Age communities of the region in the late 3rd – early 2nd millennium BC.

## The Bronze to Iron Age transition in the Urmia Basin, North-Western Iran Continuity or Discontinuity ?

S. Kroll, département d'archéologie du Proche-Orient, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich

There have been only a few excavations in the Urmia Basin of north-western Iran which covered the Late Bronze (LBA) and Iron Age (IA). To mention is Geoy Tepe, Haftavan Tepe, Kordlar Tepe, Dinkha Tepe and on a special scale Hasanlu periods V to IV. Yanik Tepe did not show any settlement after the Kura Arax (ETC) period until the Parthian era, only some IA burials were discovered. Gijlar was abandoned in the same way after the Kura Arax period and showed no remains of the Middle or Late Bronze Age. Settlement only started anew in the Iron Age on a limited scale. Surveys performed in the Urmia basin added more evidence that disruptions of settlement activity were quite normal after the end of the long Kura Arax period. Middle Bronze remains are rather limited. Around the middle of the 2nd Mill. B.C., the beginning of the LBA, new pottery forms appear all over the Urmia region. This new horizon was termed by Young and Dyson Grey Ware Horizon and lasted at least on into the 9th century B.C. While many scholars connected this horizon with a wave of migration into north-western Iran, this view has recently been challenged by M. Danti in several publications. The paper will try to give an overview on the problem and present a solution.

## New perspectives on the Archaic Dehistan culture

J. Lhuillier, équipe “Hellénismes d’Asie et civilisations orientales”, AOROC – UMR 8546

The Iron Age Archaic Dehistan Culture is located in southwestern Turkmenistan, a region close to the Caspian Sea called Dehistan, which forms the northern part of Hyrcania. The Archaic Dehistan sites (13th-6th/5th centuries BCE) represent the oldest occupation of the plain, which developed thanks to a complex network of canals. This culture is characterized by a very particular kind of pottery that has also been found in Iranian sites like Tureng-Tepe. Furthermore, some surveys made in northern parts of Iran showed that the Archaic Dehistan Culture was there present in the same areas as the other main Early Iron Age culture of Central Asia, the Yaz I culture. However, in Turkmenistan itself, evidences of contact between these two cultures are extremely scarce, even if new discoveries shed a new light on this perspective. Our paper will thus present the current knowledge about the Archaic Dehistan Culture and consider its relationships with the neighbouring areas of Iran and Turkmenistan, in order to understand the central role it played.

16h00-17h30 – Chairman : Dr A. Khalmyradov, Parc archéologique d’Abiverd (Turkménistan)

## Transition between Bronze and Iron Age at the southwestern shores of the Caspian Sea

H. Fahimi, Institut d’archéologie du Proche-Orient, Freie Universität, Berlin

The first archaeological excavations in the cultural region at the southern/southwestern shore of the Caspian Sea were carried out more than 100 years ago. For the first time, Jacques de Morgans excavations in the Tāleš area at the end of the 19th century demonstrated considerable traces of the second as well as the first millennium BC, although there was no certain chronological study in archeology of this area and nowadays classification of chronology such as “Iron Age” had not existed in Iranian archaeology yet.

When the great archaeological discoveries were made during the first half of the 20th century, most of them just tried to prove philological and ethnological theories about the Aryans and their rise in the Iranian Plateau in the second half of the second millennium BC. A new phase of archaeological expeditions started in the middle of last century: many systematic and methodic archaeological excavations carried out at several key sites became newly determined chronological studies. They showed particular style and chronological pattern. Despite the discovery of important prehistoric and historic results, the first radio carbon dating was determined for the first time in Iranian archaeology at one of the key sites, in Tepe Hasanl ū, located in the southern part of Urmia Lake. Subsequently the word “Iron Age” entered into ancient chronology table of Iran by Robert Dyson. Hence, most datings of excavated sites in many parts of the Iranian plateau were based on and compared with Hasanl ū stratigraphical chronology. Meanwhile the theories about the arrival of new tribes in the Iranian plateau in the middle of the second millennium played an important role on the dating of the finds of this period – such as appearance of the grey pottery ware and/or structure of the graves. Important to note is that most of the old datings and chronological analyses among Hasanl ū is not reliable anymore. Due to additional research and reconsideration studies other comparative archaeological sites in Iran need to be revised.

An existing major problem with the prehistoric sites at the southern/southwestern shores of the Caspian Sea is that most identified and excavated sites consist of graveyards. Therefore, the stratigraphical analysis and identification of cultural sequence of 2nd and 1st Millennium BC is very difficult. A further problem is that most found objects stem from illegal digging. However, during recent decades some settlement sites were identified



to belong to the second half of the second millennium and the first half of the first millennium BC.

Still it is problematic to have a consequent conclusion because the dating of these archaeological sites are still based on old non-archaeological theories and chronological studies. Although the excavations of the Japanese expedition in Deġlamān in 1960s showed the remains of Bronze Age in this area, the notion of existence of Bronze Age in Gġlān is unacceptable for many scholars.

This paper discusses the dating and chronological analysis of the second millennium and the first according to the new investigations in the Iranian plateau with special focus on the South/Southwest of the Caspian Sea. The transition period between Bronze Age and Iron Age at the southern/southwestern shores of the Caspian Sea, which is still unclear in the studies of archaeological investigation, is going to be analysed in this paper.

## Towards a definition of the Late Bronze Age in the Southern Caspian Region

C. K. Piller, d partement d'arch ologie du Proche-Orient, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universit t, Munich

Since its first definition during the course of the 1960s, the "Early Iron Age" period (or simply "Iron I") has become an important research subject within the archaeology of Iran. At that time, the chronology of the late 2nd and early 1st millennia BC was mainly based on the results of the Hasanlu Project in Northwestern Iran. Phase Iron I was originally dated to 1200 to 1000 BC. In the following years, the absolute dating for Iron I was lifted to the 15th to 13th centuries BC, thus covering a timespan that is usually referred to as "Late Bronze Age" in most of the other areas of the Ancient Near East.

Later, this scheme was adopted with some minor changes for the region southwest of the Caspian Sea. Cemeteries such as Tepe Marlik or Ghalekuti were defined as key sites for phase Iron I, although there are virtually no iron artifacts in the archaeological record of this period. This unsatisfactory situation remained unchanged until now.

Nevertheless, recent research in the provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran indicates that there is a chronological horizon with a distinct material culture that covers period between the 17/16th and the 13th/12th centuries BC. This horizon antedates the Early Iron Age of the "Classic Marlik Culture" and is therefore best described as "Late Bronze Age". The present contribution represents an attempt to define the material culture of this hitherto neglected but nonetheless important period of the prehistory of the Southern Caspian Region.

## New look on the Iron Age fortified settlements of Tureng Tepe

R. Vallet et J. Bessenay, CNRS/Universit  de Paris 1, UMR 7041 ArScAn-VEPMO, "du Village   l' tat au Proche et Moyen-Orient", Nanterre

Tureng Tepe is an Iranian archaeological site located in the Gorgan plain, north-eastern Iran, about fifty kilometres from the Caspian shore, and close to the Turkmenistan border.

Tureng Tepe was excavated from 1960 to 1979 by a French team directed by the Professor J. Deshayes. These excavations have especially revealed a series of defensive mud-bricks constructions built atop the ruins of the Bronze Age monumental terrace. The best preserved of these remains correspond to a large Iron Age IV rampart formed by two parallel walls enclosing some small storage rooms.

After a long break, the Tureng Tepe publication project was revived in 2012 by means of the constitution of a

new team in charge of the publication of the protohistoric levels (Chalcolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age). The aim of this paper is to present the preliminary results of the architectural and stratigraphic studies about these Iron Age settlements located at the crossroads of Iran and Central Asia.

Samedi / Saturday - 5/12/2015 - Musée d'Archéologie nationale

**9h15-11h15 – Chairman: Pr J. Cordoba, université autonome de Madrid (Espagne) et Mission archéologique turkmène et espagnole au Déhistan (Turkménistan)**

## **Funerary Diversity Practices during the Bronze and Early Iron Age in Turkmenistan**

J. Bendezu-Sarmiento, Délégation archéologique française en Afghanistan

Burial practices, resulting from deliberate behaviours and actions, lend themselves to social analysis based on the hypothesis that grave are the result of intentionality. The archaeo-anthropological material from central Asia is no exception to this rule, as shown in this overview of the ancient and news discoveries in Turkmenistan. This presentation provides the opportunity to present some of our results and hypotheses on Bronze and iron Ages funerary practices.

## **Bronze Age and Iron Age sites in Turkmenistan. History of researches and new discoveries. A state of the art of the conservation work in the Abiverd Archaeological Park.**

A. Khalmyradov, Réserve archéologique d'Abiverd, Turkménistan

Since more than a century, many protohistoric sites have been surveyed and excavated in Turkmenistan. Already at the end of the 19th century, travelers and scholars are exploring this region, attracted by the first excavations led in 1885 at Merv by the General Komarov. Although many researches are led in the early 20th century, the golden age of Turkmen archaeology happened after Second World War thanks to the creation of the Pluridisciplinary Archaeological Expedition of Southern Turkmenia (YuTAKE) directed by Mikhail Masson. Some archaeologists who will definitely contribute to shed light on Central Asian archaeology began their work during that period, like Vadim Masson, Viktor Sarianidi, and Igor Khlopin. Ongoing researches confirm the existence of some cultural links during the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, which reflect a common ideology throughout numerous sites all across Turkmenistan. Some sites like Anau, Gonur depe, Altyn depe, Namazga depe, or Ulug depe –located for most of them in the Abiverd Archaeological Park- are the most emblematic witnesses of the Turkmen cultural cradle in Central Asia.

## The results of the archaeological investigations of azerbaijan-france international expedition

M. Rahimova, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, Bakou, Azerbaïdjan

One of the most achievements in archaeological science in the last years of Azerbaijan is close relations with foreign scientific centers and founding long-term international archaeological expeditions. It affords additional scientific potential and international experience in studying archaeological heritage of Azerbaijan. This kind of actions promotes not only studying archaeological monuments of Azerbaijan but also its popularization abroad.

At present there are 8 joint international archaeological expeditions function at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography. Two of them are Azerbaijan-France joint projects.

Specially needs to note the investigations of the joint expedition with the Saint German archaeological museum, Lyon 2 University and CNRS.

For the purpose there was founded international expedition at Lerik region in studying the heritage of Jak de Morgan who carried out excavations at the end 19th and early 20th in this region.

Archaeological explorations carried out at Join, Tune, Mistan, Veri, Razgov, Chayrud, Mondigakh, Mastail, Qosmalion villages of Lerik region. In the results of investigations there were investigated ten stone box burials about the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. The range of stone box burials in Azerbaijan is wide spread. This kind of funeral rites discovered at Dashkesen, Kedabekh, Lenkoran, Lerik, Nakhchivan, Shamkir, Khojaly regions.

Together with burial monuments there were discovered settlements at the highland territories.

The epochs of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age characterized decay of the primitive society and birth early class society.

Investigating settlements and burial monuments of above mentioned period require main source in studying actual problems of history. The significance focused on studying migration, habitation, daily life, domestication, ideological view three millennium before. The investigations prove that, in the periods of Late Bronze and Early Iron the producing of iron became growth. At this period the farming and cattle-breeding became develop. Cattle-breeding tribes wide spread at the foothills and mountainous areas. For the first stage the settlements were temporary and with the lapse of time became constant. It is proved with the defining of cultural strata of the synchronal settlements of the mountainous regions of Azerbaijan, as well as Lerik, Iardimly and Jalilabad.

At present in the field of archaeology Azerbaijan France cooperation is in the main interest of two sides. Visiting of France ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Azerbaijan and head of Lerik local power to the archaeological site at Mondigakh village show the interest to the archaeological monuments.

In 2017 the exposition about discovered findings will be organized by joint project.

The Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan will provide opportunities in activity international expeditions, as well as Azerbaijan-France joint team.

## Ritual and Burial Practices during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages in Southern Caucasus

M. Casanova, université Lumière Lyon 2 et laboratoire Archéorient, CNRS, Lyon, A. Alakbarov, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, Académie Nationale des Sciences d'Azerbaïdjan, Bakou et M. Haze, Université de Paris I, équipe Vepmo - ArScAn, CNRS, Nanterre :

Between 1889 and 1891 Jacques de Morgan explored during his Scientific Mission in Persia, the Caucasus, Iran and Anatolia. He is particularly interested in the mountainous region of the Russian Talysh (the present Lenkoran valley, Azerbaijan Republic), where, from April to June 1890, he excavates many graves whose he recovers several objects. The Jacques de Morgan's accounts bring us valuable information on the necropolis of Lenkoran valley (typology of burials and funerary practices) an area which was very few explored.

In the framework of the NABIALLA research project (started in 2012), " the Franco-Azerbaijanise archaeological mission of the Lenkoran valley ", conducted during four years fieldworks in the Lenkoran basin and his tributaries in the province of Lerik in south Azerbaijan. These researches have helped to deepen and enhance the knowledge about funeral practices of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. Prospecting on sites like Mistail, Cönü, Hamarat and especially excavating on sites such as Kaveladi, Cucu Tuk and Monidigah have allowed us to complete the work carried out by Morgan and brought back original elements on burial practices in this area. The Cucu Tuk site has given us examples of circular architecture, and the site of Monidigah, which the exploration started this summer, proved to be a rich necropolis including the discovery of a unexplored collective burial.

**11h45-13h15 – Chairman: Dr M. Rahimova, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, Académie nationale des Sciences d'Azerbaïdjan et Dr N. Valikhanli, Académie nationale des Sciences d'Azerbaïdjan, Musée national d'Histoire, Bakou (Azerbaïdjan)**

## Examination of cult Monuments of Ustyurt Ancient Nomads

O. Akhan, Institut de recherche pour le patrimoine national, Musée national de la République du Kazakhstan, Astana, Kazakhstan

A special category of archaeological monuments of the Early Iron Age are the so-called temple-sanctuaries of Ustyurt which are connected primarily with the religious cult practice of «sarmats» and their worldview. Nowadays there are known more than fifty known temple buildings which have some differences in the parameters, architectural and planning appearance.

Temple complexes identified by us in the space between the Aral and Caspian Seas, are not only the sacred objects of spiritual life aspects, but also the markers of the most important political centers of large associations of nomadic ethnic groups (Sarmatian, Dai, Dakho-Massagetae, Saks et al.), who lived here in the middle of the second half of I millennium BC. – at the beginning of I millennium AD.

The range of expansion of this kind of monuments is not confined to the Ustyurt plateau and or even the Aral-Caspian steppes. In the Aral Sea region, on the territory of the ancient delta of the Syr Darya, for example, the significant part of buildings of the examined time also belongs to the category of temple complexes – they were built with sun-dried earth bricks by people who were close in the culture and ethnic composition and,



most importantly, the religious beliefs. Beyond the Urals (view from the East), temple complexes of early nomads of baytinski type are not yet known to us.

Information on a great number of fragments of stone statues and mounds discovered by geologists in Ustyurt, in Bayte tract has been known already in 1983.

Temple sanctuary Kyzyluiyk is one of the few currently known monuments associated with the spiritual sphere of ancient nomadic people that lived in the Aral-Caspian steppes in the second half of I millennium BC. – beginning of I millennium AD.

The value of the materials obtained as a result of many years of excavations on Kyzyluiyk consists in their representation as a source for the study of a number of important problems of the history and culture of the ancient nomadic peoples: the origins and development of cult architecture and monumental sculptures; the reconstruction of some of the features of cult-ritual practices, as well as ethnic and chronological attribution of the archaeological sites of Ustyurt and adjacent regions.

The multicomponent structure Kyzyluiyk with the dominant object - the magnificent «fire temple» which is a component of an ensemble, is a sacred organized space, where there were the culmination of religious-ritual ceremonies (calendar cycle) associated perhaps with the concept of the cleansing power of fire (like the Zoroastrians), deified heroes of the ancestors, the cult of weapons, etc.

Such kind of temples served a variety of economic and cultural type, ideological orientations and ethnic composition of the peoples who lived at the relevant historical period, to the east of the Caspian Sea, including Khorezm, Kangyuy Bactria and others.

Functionally Kyzyluiyk temples and Bayte in Ustyurt and Mankystau can be compared with the temples of fire, for example, the Eastern Hellenistic appearance and others which naturally differ in typological and architectural and planning unit.

On some episodes that took place in such temples and shrines of the Mysteries, it is possible to make representations on the basis of ancient, Zoroastrian and other written sources and on the remains of the real monuments. However, for the reconstruction of the entire system of philosophy and cult-ritual practices of ancient nomadic people of Ustyurt there are not enough science materials.

Temple Kyzyluiyk is of interest and in the context of ancient construction business development, architectural ideas of ancient nomads, especially in terms of the origin of domed ceilings of cult buildings in the Aral-Caspian region.

Filling the inside facing walls with sub-soil and horizontally laid tiles of shell rocks on a rota basis was apparently the tradition in construction of cult-memorial buildings of the ancient nomads of Ustyurt. The origins of this tradition are lost in the depths of the early Iron Age (supposedly earlier), and saved miraculously, in the cult-memorial architecture of kazakhs of the examined region. There are many such examples.

As for the material complex Kyzyluiyk, we have examined them only in terms of the archaeological procedures and for determination the periods of temple active functioning.

It is noteworthy that among the found artifacts there is not a single sample which is meant for holding temple ritual ceremonies. However, it is clear that in this situation the utilitarian features, pragmatic functions of things (jewelry, tools, weapons and items) are transferred to another semantic field. Functions of things are reinterpreted by grantors in the context of the ritual; decoding occurs, i.e. a kind of entry to another semiotic system, when the symbolic meaning takes place and materiality recedes into the background.

In the framework of the treasures found in this place and individual finds there are arrowheads that prevail

in quantity, saddlery items, and expensive jewelry of men's suit, which indirectly may indicate the direction of the military ceremonies held here. Quantitative and species composition of the offertory was apparently much more diverse than the artifacts that we have recorded here; the most prestigious of them, soon fell into the hands of temple robbers.

Like most cult-religious centers of ancient societies, Ustyurt temples of early nomads possibly contained certain fortunes (not only in the form of valuable offertory) but also they had temple economic structures. In other words, this kind of temples along with the basic spiritual functions were the centers of economic and social life.

The temples-sanctuaries that are known today are concentrated in two areas of the studied region: this is the baytinski group, localized in the central part of the Western Ustyurt and Kyzyluiyk group - in the northwestern part of the Ustyurt Plateau on the border with Donyztau. Both groups of monuments mark, probably at that time existing political and cultural centers of closely related but quite distinct associations of the ancient «sarmatoids»: Saks, Massagets, Dahi, Dai and others, recorded in ancient, Roman and other written sources.

## The Late Bronze and Early Iron Culture in Nakhchivan

V. Bakhshaliyev, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, branche du Nakhchivan, Azerbaïdjan, and S. Ağasoğlu

The Late Bronze culture in Nakhchivan was characterized by painted ceramics as well as by grey ware. This culture represents a continuation of Middle Bronze Age culture, which was also characterized by painted ceramics. Settlements of this period are located at strategic places, and sometimes surrounded by a defensive wall. Funeral monuments are usually marked by stone barrows that have stone chambers in the center and are surrounded by cromlechs. These Late Bronze Age burials are similar to burials of Middle Bronze Age. Human skeletons are sometimes absent in burials. At the end of the second millennium BC in Nakhchivan there is a culture with elements of the Hodjali-Gedabek culture. This culture was characterized by grey ceramics. Settlements were seasonal residences. Burials are marked by soil barrows and stone chambers. Human skeletons are present in burials. Some burials are collective burials. Research shows that at the end of the second and the beginning of the first millennium BC these two cultures merged. Elements of the Hodjaly-Gedabek culture passed to the local culture, and the local culture in turn influenced the Hodjaly-Gedabek culture. Members of this culture lived in flat places and in the foothills of Nakhchivan, creating large settlements in valleys such as Sadarak, Xalac, and others. These tribes in our opinion were those tribes which resisted foreign aggressors, namely those from Urartu. Recent research shows that the tribes occupying Nakhchivan's territory had close contact with tribes of the adjoining regions and created a strong union against the Urartian aggression. One of the main centers of this union was Oglankala, where grey pottery characteristic of the tribes occupying Nakhchivan at the end of the second and the beginning of the first millennium BC is attested. Apparently, they were related to a confederation, which is mentioned in the Urartian cuneiform texts.

## In the surroundings of the Silk Road. Izzat Kuli and the Dahistán Archaic culture during the Iron Age. Impressions after last archaeological season (May June 2015)

J. Cordoba, Mission archéologique turkmène et espagnole au Déhistan, Turkménistan

From the first century b. C. the Silk Road marked an axis of trade and culture unparalleled in his time. But before silk circulated by the caravan routes, from the fourth millennium BC, other goods along with people and ideas circulated by many of the routes later used the silk trade. For example, the lapis lazuli. Dehistan was one of the regions affected by the silk trade, during the time of Khorezmshah. But first, during the Iron Age, the culture of Archaic Dahistan maintained exchanges and contacts. Recent archaeological excavations at sites in the region, as Izzat Kuli, yield some interesting data on this issue.

## Problems in the historiography of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages in the Southern Caucasus; Civilisation of the Central and Southern Caucasus; facts, misunderstandings, results and concrete proposals

### The history of the Caucasus collections and new collections in the Museum for Prehistory and Early History (MVF) in Berlin

N. Ateshi, département d'Histoire et Archéologie, Université Khazar, Bakou, Azerbaïdjan et Institut de recherche sur le Caucase, Berlin, Allemagne

There have been found quite a few problems in the historiography of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages in the Southern Caucasus. Thus, by investigating the material in the museum, the archive documents and the original excavation reports in the German, Russian and Azerbaijani languages it came to light that some different versions of historiography are existing for the very same period.

Furthermore, the history of the Caucasus collection in the Museum for Prehistory and Early History (MVF) in Berlin and the problem of its distribution between museums in Russia, in the Caucasus and in Europe is still a scientific question in Europe, especially Germany, and in Russia and in Azerbaijan. The whereabouts of quite a few collections unknown to date to the international science community which have been kept locked up and have not been opened to international research are shown by concrete facts. At the same time information about new collections of Schweinitz, Korthaus and the Redkin Lager excavation site as well as about ten original bronze belts is provided in the paper for the first time. This paper is casting new light on some aspects still unknown to the international science community concerning the Khojali-Gedebey culture which covered a vast area of the Central and Southern Caucasus in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age. Having a critical look at the research which had already been done in the past, in a general examination taking a pragmatic approach we discovered some problems in the archaeological evaluation of the finds belonging to that culture.

It was proved that a broadly based international research of the culture known in the archaeological literature as Central South Caucasian culture, Gendje-Karabakh culture or Khojali-Gedebey Culture has not yet been possible. This research should include the numerous examples of the material culture (artefacts), the original reports of the excavations starting in the thirties of the 19th century (E. Roesler, W. Belck, Graf von Schweinitz and others), the archive materials treasured in many museums and libraries in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia (including the Republic of Dagestan) and Germany, and the general research on this period published in several languages.

The new and uninvestigated collections (collected by Graf von Schweinitz, F. Korthaus, Fr. Bayern) which we discovered in the Berlin Museum for prehistory and early history (MVF) must be opened for scientific purposes; a great part of the collections which had been treasured in the museum were brought to the Soviet Union after World War II and distributed between Russian museums. They have not been opened to scientific research till today. These problems must be raised to Russian and international archaeological circles.

During the last years some historic, archaeological, anthropologic and geographic errors and mistakes in the historiography (starting with the German authors R. Virchow, W. Belck and E. Roesler) became obvious through concrete facts, as well as additions, distortions and defects in the Azerbaijani editions of their publications (for example in the Kalakent catalogue). It is necessary to reexamine the Khojali-Gedebey culture in the Central and Southern Caucasus taking a new

approach in scientific research.

Today one of the most important tasks consists in restarting the research of the Caucasus collection, which reflects a great part of Caucasian early history and archeology from late Bronze to early Iron Ages. It should be opened to the international scientific community attracting German, French, Russian and Caucasian scientists to fill the gap existing till today in the archeologic research of the Caucasus, starting from the Bronze Age.

**14h30-16h30 – Chairman: Pr S. Kroll, département d'archéologie du Proche-Orient, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich (Allemagne)**

## Cultural interrelations between Caucasus and Anatolia

A. Sagona, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, Université de Melbourne, Australie

The connected lands of Anatolia and the southern Caucasus share similar geographical features. Both are, for the most part, jagged landscapes, defined by sweeping mountain chains and plateaus that enabled and constrained cultural development connected geographically. This lecture will discuss the cultural interaction between the two regions from the Early Bronze Age through the early Iron Age, using select examples.

Drawing on well-established sequences and new data, including those from Chobareti, in the Upper Kura Valley in south-western Georgia, it will firstly address certain themes to explain the expansive cultural interplay that defined the beginning of the Early Bronze Age (Kura-Araxes complex) ca. 3500 BC in the southern Caucasus and eastern Anatolia. Matters germane to this period include the transfer of ideas versus the migration of people, cultural hybridity and entanglement, mobility versus sedentism, and the emergence of social complexity.

Second, it will look at the end of the Early Bronze Age and beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (ca. 2600/2500 BC). At this time the egalitarian traditions and values of the Kura-Araxes communities were abandoned. New pot forms burnished to a lustrous finish, items of prestige, and individual burials under barrows, sometimes in mortuary houses with wooden wheeled vehicles, all seem to point to a growing social inequality — an emergence of elites and with them unequivocal images of war.

Finally, the paper will look at the transition between the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age period in the central southern Caucasus (ca. 1200 BC). The major cultural break in the southern Caucasus appears around 1500 BC and is reflected by the reappearance of permanent settlements, the emergence of fortresses and accompanying large cemeteries, and the increase in the scale of bronze metallurgy.

## The South-West of Turkmenistan in Early Iron Age

E. Muradova, Département national pour la protection, l'étude et la restauration des monuments historiques et culturels de Turkménistan

Tarhandepe, Akdepe, Seipel, Kichi Seipel are situated in valley Chendyr, Turkmenistan. Archaeological researches of valley Chendyr has allowed to establish the fact of presence of the sites belonging to an epoch of bronze and early iron ages, the periods of sasanian and medieval. For the first time the archaeological material documentary confirm the fact of opening of sites of an epoch of bronze and early iron ages, similar to known sites ( Madaudepe, Tangsiklydzha, Chyglykdepe, Izat-kuli, Geokchikdepe, the settlements of the Benguvan



oasis), the located on Misrian and Chat plains is revealed.

Opening of the early Iron Age in a valley of Chendyr expands an area of dissemination of culture of archaic Dahistan, which genetic sources leave in valleys of Sumbar and Chendyr.

Stratigraphical investigations on Madaudepe, the settlements of Benguvan oasis, Tilkidepe, Chyglykdepe, Tang-sikylja, Izat-kuli have established that the archaeological layers containing pottery of Archaic Dakhistan culture lay directly on the ancient delta deposits of Sumbar and Atrek rivers. Nonsaline delta deposits were apparently an ancient surface on which people settled down at the end of the II millennium B.C. A dense irrigation system promoted development of agriculture. On the investigated plain there is a large massif of the ancient irrigated lands testifying to the high level of development of the ancient farming culture.

Archaeological investigations of valleys of Sumbar, Chendyr and Atrek testify to a continuous successive line of development of historical process and the migrations which were taking place in a bronze age. The ceramics are found in the bottom occupation layers of Izat-kuli similar to ceramics of sumbar culture. Apparently, in the end of II thousand BC the tribes from Sumbar and Chendyr migrated to Misrian and Chat plains. These tribes have moved to new fertile oases where they have constructed dams on the river Atrek, have spent a network of artificial irrigational channels. Developing the new earths, they have learnt to build from mud brick. So there were small and large settlements with the allocated central strengthening, cult monumental structures. There was a gradual process of formation and development of the urbanized structures, characterizing an epoch of early iron.

## **New Evidence of Iron Age Settlements on the Southwest Coasts of Caspian Sea (Gilan) in Light of Archaeological Excavation in Kafarestan, Gilan Province, Iran**

V. Jahani, Centre de recherche sur le patrimoine culturel du Ghilan, Direction de l'Artisanat et du Tourisme, Ghilan, Iran

A major question in the archaeology of the southwestern littorals of the Caspian Sea (Gilan) has been the nature of its prehistoric settlements, in particular during the Iron Age, though most of the work on this period, started in Gilan since 1901, had focused on the Iron Age cemeteries (15th-8th centuries B.C.). Due to the lack of basic research questions and systematic surveys in the archaeology of Gilan, the nature of regional settlements and the type of architecture used by the local communities have still continued to elude scholars. Thus, arise the questions as what was the distribution pattern of the settlements, why are only rather limited remains and evidence of Iron Age settlements known, and if there any settlements, what was their architectural plan? Many scholars believe that the regional inhabitants had never built permanent residential structures and rather they had lived a nomadic life. The present paper attempts to offer a preliminary proposal drawing on library research and results of the excavations that have been conducted in the intervening years at such sites as Kafarestan, Motla Kuh, Liyar Sang Bon, Kaluraz, etc. that lie within the southwestern Caspian Sea. The ancient complex of Kafarestan of Yasn includes a number of settlements and cemeteries. The complex lies 35 km southeast of the modern Deilaman city, 81 km from the Siahkal County, and 126 km off Rasht, the center of the province. The village of Yasn is located at latitude 36°48'21" north, longitude 50°03'25" east with an elevation above sea level of 1350 meters

Surveys, soundings and excavations at Kafarestan have produced architectural remains comparable to the Iron Age structures and various burial types, including cist, simple, ovoid, etc. from the same period. On the whole, the exposed architecture at the site reveals an intricate and complicated pattern with stone walls and clay mortar, of which 4 to 6 courses have preserved at some points. The full interlocking of the stone walls suggests a somehow advanced architecture. However, it is not clear whether these structures were provided with foundations, though at the central site the stone walls with clay mortar were set directly on the surface to create square rooms. It appears that beating and firing was used as flooring strategy, and this was repeated several times during the settlements of the site. Presence of films of fired soil in the sections of the excavated trenches attests to the claim. The cooking pots and small simple hearths on the surface suggest that the mentioned spaces served domestic purposes and belonged to the residential quarters of the Iron Age community that

inhabited the area. The excavated settlement deposits date to Iron II and III and contain gray-brown pottery. The residential structures appear to have been re-used in burial purposes in the later periods.

## Role of National Azerbaijan History Museum in studying, preservation and propaganda of ancient tangible cultural heritage of Azerbaijan

N. Valikhanli and N. Guluzadeh, Musée national d'Histoire d'Azerbaïdjan

Since its inception (on 15 May, 1920), National Azerbaijan History Museum has made a significant and sustained contribution to the studies of Caucasian and in particular, Azerbaijan tangible cultural heritage, preservation and propaganda, while performing these tasks, the museum has been very successful in accomplishing its targets.

As a result of absence of any such organizations intended to lead archeological expedition in the country during that period, thus, the museum fully undertook its responsibility to organize archeological expeditions, for this purpose within the museum was established Committee for Old Monuments Protection. In June of the same year was launched the first archeological exploration in the Shirvanshah's palace, Ateshgah and the Maiden Tower. In 1921, June the first formally organized archeological expeditions began in 7 mounds located in 3 villages of Ganja area. In the 1925s-1926s and 1928s under the supervision of director of museum Davudbey Sharifov was organized the archeological exploration in necropolis of Chovdar and Yaloylutepe on the site of Gabala city, located in Gandja and Nukha regions where were found valuable samples of tangible culture. In 1929s, as result of archeological expeditions organized by the museum was launched for the first time regular studying of the cyclopean structures in the upper part of Khachbulaq and Tartarchay located at the mouth of Qoshqar River of Kelbajar area in the Minor Caucasus.

In the 30s of the 19th century archeological research of museum included reconnoitering expeditions in Mingechevir, Old Ganja and Gabala being rich in archeological monumemts and that was continued, afterwards, the first archeological expedition was sent to Qobustan which was famous for its rock engravings. So, after the Second World War the activity of museum in studying of tangible cultural heritage of the South Caucasus was wide –ranging. However, in the 1946s and 1953s in Mingechavir were conducted permanent archeological excavations under the direction of Saleh Qaziyev. Noteworhty, that throughout of the 7 years of investigation carried out in four settlements with revelead some burials sites which cover the long time period from th Bronze age until the end of Middle age, had been found samples of tangible material culture reflecting various kinds of agriculture, household life and culture of local inhabitants. In the 50s of 20th century was launched the first studying of the Old Stone age in Azerbaijan.

In 1953 with participation of museum staff was conducted the short-term archeological excavation in the village of Qiriq-Kasaman located on the left bank of the river Kura in Agstafa region. In 1956 the museum organized for the first time archeological expedition of paleolith period, and afterwards, the expeditions were sent to explore Khizi, Khachmas, Khudat and Gadabay regions. In the 60s of 20th century the museum continued its activity towards studying monumets of Azerbaijan tangible culture. In the 1962s and 1963s in July and August, under the direction of the museum employee Shargiyya Sadikhzadeh was organized the archeological expedition to the summer pastures of Khachbulagh. During the expedition was revealed and studied a mound and 11 stone graves. Futhermore, one of the significant event was the first underwater archaeological expedition in Azerbaijan organized in conjunction with the museum in 1968-87s. The first underwater diving explorations were carried out under supervision of researcher Victor Kvachidze.

On August 9, in 1968 the aforesaid expedition worked for over 20 years, mainly along the Caspian coast (Nord-Ost-Kultuk, Bandovan I, Shuvalan, Bandovan II, Girkhchirag, Amburan, Sangi-Mugan and Baku Bay), and as result of conducted large-scale archaeological exploration had been found thousands of examples of valuable

material culture.

Furthermore, today museum staff actively participate in archeological expeditions organized by ANAS Institute of Archeology and Ethnography.

Archeological and accidental discoveries are manily collected in the Archeology funds of the museum (total number 49982 items); out of them 1191 are being exhibited in the exposition. In 2008, in the fund was launched the electronic passport database (until present 7525 items). As is seen an active part of museum staff in the collating of the fund, inventory of materials, development and updating the electronic database, enhancement of exposition. A major task in museum affair is restoratation and preservation of samples of tangible cultural heritage. Today, with assistance of skilled professional art restorers working in Restoration laboratory every year dozens of exhibits are restored. Museum staff take an active part in the collating of the fund, inventory of materials, development and updating the electronic database, enhancement of exposition,

Therefore, museum of history constantly enriches its collectioin, and every year dozens of museum exhibits stored in the finds afterwards, are being diplayed for museum visitors.

On the other hand, a main task of museum is the development, its transformation into a major research institution, the creation of the display and numerous exhibitions within and outside of country, the development of research and collections, the publication of academic works and press releases. Many informative publications have taken the museum's collections to a wider mass of readers. The academic collection published every year, 'Museum of Azerbaijan History,' follows in the line of articles on archeological findings of Caucasus.

**17h00-18h30 – Chairman : Dr V. Bakhshaliev, Institut d'Archéologie et d'Ethnographie, branche du Nakhchivan (Azerbaïdjan)**

## **The research project on the Morgan's Collection of the National Museum of Archaeology (France) in the context of the Bronze and Iron Ages Transition in the Caucasus**

Christine LORRE, musée d'Archéologie nationale, Saint-Germain-en-Laye

Originally conceived to try to revalue the collection of Caucasian material formerly gathered in the french National Museum of Archaeology (MAN, Saint-Germain-en-Laye), the NABIALLA Program was organized around two main axes of concern. The first one, strictly speaking called "Morgan Project", includes the re-examination of archaeological material formerly discovered and stored in public collections, either in Azerbaijan or abroad in comparison with archaeological remains found more recently.

The paper will intend to review some of the studies previously conducted since the Morgan's Collection entered the Museum and to show the current state of research in connection with the fieldworks made within the framework of axis "Lenkoran Project" and the improvement of knowledge about the regional context.

## Archaeometallurgical Investigation of the South-Eastern Caucasian collections of the National Archaeological Museum (France)

M. Haze, doctorant et équipe “Du village à l’État au Proche et Moyen-Orient” - UMR 7041 ArScAn, B. Mille, Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France et C. Lorre, musée d’archéologie nationale

As part of the project NABIALLA (The Necropolises of Azerbaijan during the Bronze and Iron Ages in the Lenkoran and the Lerik Areas) and the enhancement of collections from the Caucasus and Iran kept in the National Archaeological Museum (Saint-Germain-en-Laye), a series of PIXE analyses was conducted on 58 metal objects (ornaments and weaponry) coming from sites in southern Azerbaijan (Mistan, Aspa Hiz, Amarat, Veri, Hovil, Djuodji Kach and Djönü) and north-western part of Iran (Agha Evlar, Tchila Khané, Chagoula Derré, Chir Chir and Khodja Daoud Köprü).

These different sites are only known for their necropolises dating back to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. These analyzes were led by the French Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF) with the AGLAE Accelerator (Accélérateur Grand Louvre d’Analyses Élémentaires) as part of the European project CHARISMA. The C2RMF also conducted X-radiography on part of the corpus (13 daggers), to better determine the hafting techniques, leading to establish a new typology of the daggers, based on this particular feature.

The expected purpose of this study –still in progress– is to allow us to determine precisely the nature of the copper alloys used for casting the different types of objects. The nature of alloys brings us valuable technical and chronological information on metal products of protohistoric period in Southern Caucasus, so that it will help us to compare results not only with previous studies, but also with artefacts produced within the nearby regions.

### Production and Use of Stone Pearls in the Southern Caucasus

F. Debrabant, doctorant et équipe “Du village à l’État au Proche et au Moyen-Orient” - UMR 7041 ArScAn

In the ancient Near East various materials were used for jewelry production. Among the most prestigious stones, lapis lazuli and carnelian have been regularly documented since the Bronze Age in Levant, Egypt or Mesopotamia. In the Caucasus area many stones beads have been collected from the beginning of the archaeological activities at the end of the nineteenth century till present days. It appears that if lapis lazuli is quiet rare, carnelian is often present. Up to now, no specific study had been led on this kind of ornament. Using the methodologies developed for the study in other cultural areas, we can question and compare the numerous carnelian ornaments from the South Caucasus. In order to do so, we had the opportunity to access the Morgan collection kept in the Musée d’Archéologie Nationale at Saint Germain-en-Laye and the Menguetchevir collection kept at the National Museum of History at Bakou. Beside the classical typological approach, the beads were inspected from the technological point of view. We attempted to reconstruct the different steps of production of the beads. Also, to compare south Caucasian stone ornaments of the Bronze Age and beginning Iron Age with the collections from their Southern neighbors allows to complete the interpretation.

From these observations, it appears that the red aspect of the stone is the main criteria in the choice of the Caucasian users. The perception of carnelian is definitively different from Mesopotamia. While in the Mesopotamian societies the nature of the stone is as important as its aspect for magical, religious and prestigious beliefs, in South Caucasia, the red color comes first and the nature of the stone can be secondary. In that sense, carnelian can sometimes even be replaced by red jasper or amber. For the same reason, people from South Caucasus did not import carnelian beads from other regions as the foreign stone jewelry production did not



correspond to their need. The geological deposits are certainly regional and the technical process of production of these artefacts remains from local tradition for most of the area. Chronologically we see a change in the use of the carnelian, dominant in number in the Bronze Age period, its presence among the materials used for ornament decreases but remains always significant in the Iron Age. If we cannot presently propose a specific meaning for carnelian in South Caucasus, we can state that it was quite different from the Mesopotamian or Levant societies.

## Comité scientifique / Scientific Committee

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Avec le concours des SCAC des ambassades de France en Azerbaïdjan, Iran, Kazakhstan et Turkménistan et le soutien du Musée du Louvre et de la Maison de l'Azerbaïdjan (Paris)  
With the participation of SCAC of French Embassy in Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and support of the Louvre Museum and the Maison de l'Azerbaïdjan (Paris).