

Gil J. Stein

Gil Stein continued with the work toward publication of his 1992–1997 excavations at the fourth-millennium BC Uruk Mesopotamian colony site of Hacinebi. Working with Dr. Belinda Monahan, the work on the publication of the Late Chalcolithic ceramics from the site has progressed greatly. All the plates have been completed, as have drafts of six chapters of this volume. We hope that the manuscript will be completed and ready for review by the Oriental Institute Publications Department by the end of the coming 2013/14 academic year.

As principal investigator of the Oriental Institute's partnership with the National Museum of Afghanistan (see report in this volume), Gil and Oriental Institute executive director Steve Camp made four trips in 2012–2013 to Afghanistan to assess project progress, coordinate with the National Museum director Dr. Omara Khan Masoudi, and deliver supplies to field director Mike Fisher and the Kabul team of registrars, conservators, and consultants.

Gil traveled to the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq in August 2012 and again in May 2013 to investigate the possibility of starting a new Oriental Institute field project focused on the Late Chalcolithic period in this upland area east of the Tigris River. On the 2012 trip, Gil and Dr. Abbas Alizadeh visited potential sites for excavation and examined survey collections in Dohuk, Suleimaniya, and Erbil provinces (fig. 1). Iraqi Kurdistan has a special resonance for the Oriental Institute since it was here, in Suleimaniya province, that Robert and Linda Braidwood conducted their pioneering excavations at the early Neolithic site of Jarmo from 1948 to 1955. It was a wonderful experience to be able to present Kamal Rashid, the director of antiquities for Suleimaniya province, with the Oriental Institute Publication of the Braidwoods' final report on the Jarmo excavations.

Gil and Abbas also visited sites in Erbil province. This area is best known for the city of Erbil, whose citadel sits on top of the massive mound of the ancient urban center of Arbela (fig. 2). The broad Erbil plain is dotted with numerous mounds and remnants of ancient irrigation systems from Assyrian canals to Achaemenid qanats. Surface ceramics at the 46-hectare site of Surezha, about 20 kilometers south of Erbil, showed that this site had a significant occupation in the fifth–fourth millennium BC Ubaid and Late Chalcolithic 1–2 periods (fig. 3). On this basis, Gil applied for an excavation permit, and plans to start a five-year program of excavation at the site in late summer 2013, co-directed with Abbas Alizadeh.



Figure 1. Gil and Abbas examining Chalcolithic ceramics from site collections in the Suleimaniya Museum, Kurdistan region, Iraq

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH



Figure 2. The citadel of Erbil sits at the top of the massive ancient mound of Arbela and towers over the modern city. The citadel is currently the focus of a major program of preservation and architectural restoration



Figure 3. Fifth-millennium BC Ubaid painted ceramics from surface collections at the 46 ha site of Surezha, 20 km south of Erbil

Gil has given several lectures and presentations during the past year. In February 2013 he presented the keynote lecture “Political Landscapes of Distribution: Power Relations and the Circulation of Value in Ancient Complex Societies” at the University of Michigan Collaborative Archaeology Workgroup’s conference Movement in Ancient Economies: Archaeological Approaches to Distribution. On April 16, 2013, he presented a paper on “Cultural Heritage Preservation in Afghanistan Ten Years after the Looting of the National Museum in Baghdad” at the Oriental Institute’s Seminar Catastrophe! Ten Years Later: Looting, Destruction, and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Iraq and the Wider Middle East. On April 25, Gil presented an invited paper, “The Mesopotamian Presence at Hacinebi, Southeast Turkey, and Variation in Modes of Interaction in the Uruk Expansion,” in Berlin at the eighth international colloquium of the German Oriental Society, titled Uruk – Ancient Near Eastern Metropolis and Cultural Center.

Gil also published the article “The Development of Indigenous Social Complexity in Late Chalcolithic Upper Mesopotamia in the 5th–4th Millennia BC – An Initial Assessment” in the journal *Origini* 24 (new series 5): 115–42.