1. Early Research and Studies in West Asia

The first Japanese academic research in West Asian Archaeology was carried out in 1907 by an architectural historian, C. Itou, of the predecessor of the present University of Tokyo (Nishiaki 1998). He left a detailed record of many archaeological sites of those times. Afterwards, K. Hamada, S. Umehara and B. Tsunoda, went to Europe to study methodology in Egyptian, West Asian and Mediterranean archaeology; and they had a strong influence on Japanese archaeology.

In 1951, after the second world war, Tsunoda established a research institute designated the Paleological Association of Japan, which disseminated much news and information about West Asian archaeology through its periodical Kodaigaku (Palaeologia). He also applied to the Iraqi authorities for permission to excavate in Iraq. After receiving it, he asked advice from N. Egami on how to proceed. Egami immediately appealed to H.I.H. Prince Mikasa for support, and was thus able to organize the Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition, receiving both official and nonofficial support. In 1956, the first Japanese archaeological expedition to West Asia undertook work at Tall-i-Baqun in Iran and at Tell eth-Thalathat in Iraq (see below). In the meantime, the expedition also carried out a general survey in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, which ended in 1957. The record and photograph data of the survey were subsequently published (TUIIAE, ed., 1958). On the other hand, the surface collection from the survey was stored in the University Museum of the University of Tokyo, and the catalogue of the collection was published in installments (Taniichi & Matsutani 1981; Chiyonobu & Matsutani 1986; Chiyonobu 1993; Nishiaki 1994, 2000). Furthermore, the society for Near...
Eastern Studies in Japan (Nippon Oriento Gakkai) was founded in 1954 and played a leading role in advances in West Asian archaeology in Japan.

In a 16 volume set of books outlining world archaeology in Japanese, two volumes were concerned with West Asian archaeology (West Asia Vols. 1 and 2 = Egami, ed., 1959, 1962), providing the best knowledge of West Asian archaeology of the time for Japanese people who were interested in it. Up to the present, no other such publication has appeared, written in Japanese by the Japanese scholars themselves.

2. Archaeological Research in Iran

The first Tokyo University Expedition in 1956 undertook an overall survey of prehistoric and historic sites of Iran under the direction of N. Egami (TUIIAE, ed., 1958), and excavated at Tall-i-Bakun in the Marv-Dasht Valley, situated in the district of Fars in the southern part of Iran. The expedition further excavated at Tall-i-Bakun, Tall-i-Gap, Tall-i-Jari A, Tall-i-Jari B and Tall-i-Mushki, where the five seasons of excavations were carried out by 1965 (Egami & Masuda, eds., 1962; Egami & Sono, eds., 1962; Fukai, et al., eds., 1973). The main purpose of these excavations was to solve chronological problems involving early farming community sites in the Marv-Dasht Basin. The expedition proposed a new chronology against those of Berghe, Dyson and Sato. Vanden Berghe claimed that Mushki was later than Jari B, and was contemporary with Sialk II; Dyson put forward the view that Mushki and Sialk III were contemporary; Sato argued that Mushki was earlier than Jari B, though both fell chronologically within the horizon of Sialk III. The Tokyo University Expedition, on the other hand, was of the opinion, based on evidence from such excavations, that Mushki was either contemporary with or earlier than Sialk I, and was earlier than Jari B (Fukai, et al., eds., 1973).

After the first season of excavation in the Marv-Dasht Valley, the expedition excavated sites in four regions in Iran: Fahlian, Dailaman, Taq-i-Bustan and Halimehjan. The excavations at Tape Suruban, located near Fahlian in the Fars District, were carried out in 1959 (Atarashi & Horiuchi, eds., 1963). Tape Suruban was the site that had been mentioned by Ghirshman as containing the ruins of a Royal Pavilion erected at one of the stations along the Royal Road connecting Susa and Persepolis. The excavation confirmed, from the type of the column bases, that the site certainly belonged to the late Achaemenian period, and provided evidence that the royal cubit of the Achaemenian Dynasty was 621
to 625mm, shorter than the 640mm, cubit suggested by Skinner. In addition to this excavation, the Palace of Persepolis was investigated from architectural and art historical points of view.

The expedition was also interested in the so-called "Amrash relic," which was displayed in an antique shop. The "Amrash relic" seemed to be of special importance for the study of the cultural relationship between the East and the West. The expedition believed that its provenance might lie in the Dailaman district. To pursue this question, the expedition carried out excavations in the Dailaman district; thus, five such sites, Ghalekuti, Lasulkan, Norzmahale, Horamurud and Hassani Mahale, were excavated in 1960 and 1964 (Egami, Fukai & Masuda, eds., 1965, 1966; Sono & Fukai, eds., 1968; Fukai & Ikeda, eds., 1971).

It is of importance that these sites lie in the Elburz Mountains, on the north side of the Iranian Plateau, and south of the Caspian Sea. Thus, this district is geographically isolated. This suggests that it would be difficult for Achaemenian and Sasanian rulers to control. Many tombs were excavated; they belonged to two periods. The stone-chamber tombs of Ghalekuti and the stone-circle tombs of Lasulkan were dated to the period from the end of the bronze age to the early iron age; and the shaft graves of Ghalekuti, the pit-graves and subterranean shaft-graves of Hassani Mahale, Horamurud and Norzmahale were dated to the Partho-Sassanian period.

In 1976, the necessity of studying neighboring valleys and of proving the uniqueness of the history of the Dailaman was raised. Therefore the Halimehjan Valley, the Shahran Valley, the Estalkhajan valley and the Kharashk Valley were surveyed (Fukai & Matsutani, eds., 1980, 1982). The excavations at Shahpir in the Halimehjan Valley were carried out in 1976, and those at Lameh Zamin in the Shahran Valley, in 1978. Shahpir is located in Shahrestan Rudbar, the Gilan Province, and Lameh Zamin on the east bank of the Sefid Rud river. Both the sites were graveyards. At Shahpir, four tombs dated between the fourth century B.C. and the 1st century B.C. were excavated. This dating was determined from the type of glass beads. On the other hand, the tombs found at Lameh Zamin were dated to the beginning of the first millennium B.C. At this site there were found both adults' and children's graves. The adults were buried in a flexed position in general, but the children, in a crouching position; and grave goods of the children's graves were richer than those of the adults' graves.

The expedition also carried out a survey at Taq-i-Bustan in 1965, 1976 and
1978, under the direction of S. Fukai. The remains of Taq-i-Bustan, located near the city of Kermanshah in the Zagros Mountains, were among the heritage left by the kings of the Sassanian Dynasty. At this site, drawings of the rock-cut reliefs in grottos were made. These drawings were useful for producing photogrammetric survey drawings. Thus a report of the details of the site with such drawings and photographs was made; and the site was studied from art historical and architectural points of view (Fuiki & Horiuchi, eds., 1969, 1972, 1983; Fukai, et al., eds., 1984).

Furthermore, in 1959, the Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan Archaeological Mission of Kyoto University, headed by S. Mizuno, started archaeological activities in Iran, and carried out a general survey (KYM, ed., 1962). In 1977, the archaeological mission of Kyoto University to Iran, directed by J. Ikeda, carried out a survey in the vicinity of Arsanjan in the Far Province in 1977 (AMYU, ed., 1979). Moreover, three seasons of excavations at Tappeh Sang-i Čaxмаq were conducted by the Japanese Expedition for the Prehistoric Sites in Iran of the Tokyo University of Education, headed by S. Masuda, from 1971 to 1973 (Masuda, ed., 1977). Hiroshima University’s Scientific Expedition in Iran, headed by S. Matsuzaki, also participated in the 1971 excavations in the West Tepe at Tappeh Sang-i Čaxмаq (HUSEI, ed., 1971). This site is located in the village of Bastam, 8 km north of Shahrud in northeastern Iran. Many stone artifacts were scattered around the surface of the site. The excavations confirmed six architectural levels, five levels at the east mound of the site and one level at the west mound, all of Pre-Pottery Neolithic – Pottery Neolithic date, thus providing evidence of the importance of this location as an early farming site. Particularly interesting was an unique large-sized terracotta model of a house, found in Level 3 of the east mound. The house model has either a gabled or a hipped roof with a chimney or a skylight, providing data for the reconstruction of houses in this region at that time (Masuda, ed., 1977). On the other hand, the Hiroshima University’s group carried out general surveys in the northern part of Iran in 1971 (HUSEI, ed., 1971) and in the Golgan Plain in the northeastern part of Iran in 1974, producing a detailed archaeological map (HUSEI, ed., 1976).

Since the 1978 political change in Iran, archaeological excavations have not been resumed, but since 1990 a mission from the Middle Eastern Culture Center, headed by T. Ohtsu, has continued to do surveys in Iran. Since 1997 the work of this mission has concentrated on the Gilan province (Yamauchi, et al.,
1998; Ohtsu, et al. 2000). The mission is grouping the excavations and reviewing past research to determine the location of future work. The start of actual excavations in this province by this mission may be nearing.

3. Archaeological Research in the Gulf Region

Two Japanese archaeological missions researched in the region of the Arabian (Persian) Gulf. One of them was the Kanazawa University Mission, directed by T. Sasaki, the main aim of which was to research problems of trade between the east and the west in the Middle Ages within the extent of the Islamic world (U & S, eds., 1990; Sasaki 1991, 1994; Matsumoto, ed., 1995). In 1988 the expedition started work at Julfar in Ras al-Khaimah, located on the west coast of the Oman Peninsula. Six levels, belonging to the 14th to the 16th century, were confirmed. Ceramics found there displayed a change in trade patterns. In 1995, the Mission started work at Jazirat Al-Hulayla to clarify the situation of this site during the 9th and 10th centuries when trade using sailing vessels flourished between east and west (Sasaki 1996a, 1996b; Matsumoto, ed., 1996, 1997; AOM, ed., 1998; Sasaki & Sasaki 1998; AOM & JSWAA, eds., 1998). Remains of the 5th to the 10th century and of the 15th to the 17th century were discovered there. The earliest Chinese coin in the Gulf region was also found. Study of the Sasanian and Abbasid ceramics is now in progress. In 1999, the expedition moved the target of its excavation to Luluiya Fort in Sarjah to gather ceramic material dated between the late 13th and early 14th centuries.

The other mission was the Japanese Archaeological Mission to the Gulf of Rikkyo University (Gulf Archaeology Project), organized in 1986 under the director of M. Konishi. This mission tackled problems of maritime trade conducted across the Gulf during the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C. In 1986-7 the Mission carried out a general and preliminary survey in Bahrain, Qatar, U.A.E., Oman and Pakistan (Konishi, Gotoh & Akashi 1989; U & S, eds., 1990), excavated the Buri Prehistoric Tumuli in Bahrain in 1987 and carried out excavations at the Umm al-Ma’ Cairns in Qatar in 1988. Meanwhile, the mission was given the chance of excavating the extensive site of ‘Ain Umm es-Sujur, located near the village of Diraz in the northwest area of Bahrain and well known as the site of an ancient spring. It had been, however, excavated by a Danish mission in 1954. The Rikkyo University Mission re-excavated Well 1, called the “holy well” by the Danish mission, and carried out three seasons of excavations there (JATB 1994; JAMG 1995; Konishi, et al., 1995; Matsumoto,
ed., 1995, 1996, 1997). They also found other two wells, Well 2 and Well 3, which seemed to be independent structures rather than installations of one large building. Finds from Well 1 and Well 2 suggested the possibility that these wells had been holy places. The excavations further concluded that these wells, constructed one after the other in the late third millennium B.C., continued in use until the early second millennium B.C.

Furthermore, in 2001 M. Kawatoko visited Saudi Arabia and carried out a general survey. He discovered rock cliffs inscribed in old Arabic (Kawatoko 2001). He is in the process of organizing a group to carry out an archaeological survey in Saudi Arabia in the near future under the cultural agreement between Japan and Saudi Arabia.

4. Archaeological Research in Iraq

The Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition, directed by N. Egami, started excavations at Tell eth-Thalathat, an early village farming community in northern Iraq, in 1956. Five seasons of excavations were conducted there, and the work ended in 1976 (Egami, ed., 1958; Fukai, Horiuchi & Matsutani, eds., 1970, 1975; Fukai & Matsutani, eds., 1981). Among the five tells which comprised the site itself, the three designated Tells No. I, No. II and No. V were excavated. Tell No. I is the largest and tallest tell of the site. Three architectural levels were confirmed there, ranging in date from the late 3rd millennium B.C. to the 2nd millennium B.C. Unique structural remains were discovered in Level I, which had a labyrinthine underground structure (TUIIAE, ed., 1980). Unfortunately excavation was stopped part way through, but it seemed to be an important tomb. At Tell No. II, sixteen architectural levels were confirmed, which could be divided into three main periods of occupation, the Uruk, Ubaid and Hassuna (Egami, ed., 1958; Fukai, Horiuchi & Matsutani, eds., 1970; Fukai & Matsutani, eds., 1981). This revealed the early history of the site. Tell eth-Thalathat was first occupied in the Hassuna period. This village was soon abandoned, the site was re-occupied in the Ubaid period, and a temple was build in the succeeding Uruk period. At Tell No. 5, the smallest tell of this site, a full-scale granary and a pottery kiln, dated to the Ninevite 5 period, were discovered (Fukai, Horiuchi & Matsutani, eds., 1975).

After these excavations, nearly twenty archaeological sites in Iraq were excavated by an archaeological expedition organized by the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq of Kokushikan University(4).
The Kokushikan Expedition, headed by H. Fujii, had been long interested
in the cultural relationship between Mesopotamia and its surrounding regions.
From this viewpoint, in 1971 the expedition started excavations at at-Tar Caves,
located on the cliff line of the Kerbala plateau, about 110 km south-west of
Baghdad (Fujii, ed., 1976, 1980; Fujii, Kawana, et al., 1986; Fujii & Sakamoto
et al. 1983; Ii 1986; Matsumoto 1997). Among the some 400 caves along the
cliff line, four groups of hills with several caves were excavated. A considerable
number of textiles were discovered from the caves of hills over the sixth seasons
of excavations in 1971-81. These textiles, dated between the first century B.C.
and the third century A.D., were analyzed from various points of view, such as
size, structure, thickness, raw material, density, colour, dye stuff, weave technic,
etc. These textiles were similar in design to those known from Palmyra, Dura-
Europos and the Letter Caves.

Between 1986 and 1989 three seasons of excavations were performed at
Dukakin Caves and Ain Sha’ia in the Najaf region (Fujii, Ohnuma, et al., 1989;
Okada 1990; U & S, eds., 1990). The ruins of a Christian church dated to the
8th-9th centuries A.D. and the remains of a qanat water system were discovered.

In the meantime, three large archaeological salvage projects in advance of
the construction of dams were carried out by the Directorate General of
Antiquities and Heritage, Baghdad. The areas involved were the Himrin basin
of the Diyala River (the Himrin Dam Project), the Haditha region of the
Euphrates River (the Qaddisiya Dam Project) and the Eski-Mosul region of the
Tigris River (the Saddam Dam Project). The Kokushikan expedition took part in
these projects, excavating a total of fourteen sites.

First of all, the expedition participated in the Himrin Dam Salvage Project
in 1977, and continued to work until 1980. In this project area, five sites were
chosen, Tell Songor A, B and C, Tell Gubba, and Telul Hamediyat(5) (Fujii, ed.,

The three Songor tells were sites belonging to the Neolithic period (ibid.,
1995; Yokoyama & Matsumoto 1990). Songor A was occupied in the Samarra
period; Songor A and B were occupied in the Halaf period; Songor A, B, and C
were occupied in the Ubaid period. The location of Songor was important,
because it was situated at the southernmost point of the distribution of the Halaf
culture. The excavations at Songor A thus provided significant data regarding
the chronology of the Samarra, Halaf and Southern Ubaid periods. The Samarran structures of Songor A had characteristic mud bricks which were flat on their bottom and sides, but had some dented lines of finger width on their tops. In the structures of the Halaf and the Ubaid periods, however, mud bricks were never used. On the other hand, the excavation at Songor B suggests that there might have been some contact between the Halaf and the Ubaid cultures (Southern Ubaid 3) during the period of Level II of Songor B. Moreover, some characteristic red burnished pottery found there suggests that the Himrin area might have been in contact with the Iranian Highland.

A large round building, measuring about 80 m in diameter, was discovered in the Jemdet Nasr level (Level VII) of Tell Gubba (Fujii, ed., 1981; Ii 1988, 1989, 1990a, 1993). The building consisted of multi-circular walls with a cylindrical platform in the center. Parts of the walls of Level VII were reused as walls of later constructions of the upper levels (Levels VI, V and IV) in the Early Dynastic I period. A considerable number of painted pottery vessels were found in these levels. A large building belonging to the Achaemenid period was also discovered in Level II. The plan of the building was similar to the 'Fort' of Nusi-i Jan in Iran.

In the Qadisiyeh Dam Project in the Middle Euphrates region carried out from 1981 to 1983, the expedition undertook excavations at Tell Abu-Thor and ‘Usiyeh, and a general survey at Rayyash. Abu-Thor had a mesa-like formation, which was considered to have been used as a Neo-Assyrian watch-tower. The remains of an animal-driven wheel, called saqiya in Arabic, was discovered at the foot of the mesa (ATPKAE 1983). At ‘Usiyeh in Area A, a large tomb dating to the Isin-Larsa period and the remains of other structures were discovered (Fujii, Okada, et al., 1986; Oguchi 1992, 1998, 1999, 2000). The tomb, built in a rectangular pit, had five chambers with a front room functioning as a forecourt. Many luxury grave goods, such as cylinder seals, beads, stone objects, metal objects, etc., were recovered from the tomb. Many life-sized terracotta lions, terracotta models of chariots, terracotta figurines, pottery vessels were also found in Area A. These objects had been produced under the influence of southern Mesopotamia, except for some showing local features. A distinct type of incised pottery, “Circular Impressed Ware”, occurred, which must have been locally manufactured within the district of Suhu during the Old Babylonian period (Oguchi 1997). From 1983 to 1987 in the Saddam Dam Project, the expedition carried out
excavations at Tell Fisna, Tell Der Hall, Tell Musharifa and Tell Jigan, which lay on the left side of the Tigris River facing downstream, and Tell Jessary, Qasr Banat and Tell Thuwaij, which are on the right side of the river (Fujii, et al., 1987a; Fujii, Yoshikawa, et al., 1990).

A cuneiform tablet was found in a Hellenistic pit of Tell Fisna (Fujii, et al., 1987a; Numoto 1988). Thus the excavations at Fisna provided evidence for the latest use of cuneiform writing in Northern Mesopotamia. The contents of the tablet seem to have been an astronomical almanac (Black 1997). A large platform was discovered in the Ninevite 5 level of Tell Fisna. At Tell Der Hall, pre-pottery levels (Levels 6a and 6b) were confirmed (Fujii, et al., 1987a; Ohnuma & Matsumoto 1988; Ohnuma 1998). The varieties of stone artifacts from Level 6 are similar to those from Layer B of Zawi Chemi Shanidar. At Tell Musharifa, a pottery workshop, contemporary with Gawra IX to XI, was confirmed (Fujii, et al., 1987a). The largest site in this vicinity was Tell Jigan, where the expedition carried out excavations in three areas (Area A, B and C) (Fujii, et al., 1987a, 1987b; Ii & Kawamata 1986; Numoto 1992). Occupation during the Hassuna period was confirmed in Area A. The occupation of the Ninevite 5 period extended all over the tell. A moat and a city wall dating to the late third millennium B.C. were also discovered in Area A.

At Tell Thuwaij, eleven levels belonging to the Ninevite 5 period were confirmed (Fujii, Yoshikawa, et al., 1990). A well-preserved grave, dating to the Ninevite 5 period, was also discovered. It was a pit grave, characterized by a vertical rectangular shaft with a burial chamber dug-out on one side near its floor. An adult, in a bending posture, was buried with two complete pottery vessels (Numoto 1996). Further, the ruins of Qasr Banat, which lay on the top of a mesa, was investigated. It was a fortress belonging to the Islamic period (Fujii, Yoshikawa, et al., 1990).

In 1990 after the Saddam Dam Project, the expedition carried out a preliminary survey in the al-Adaim Region (Ii 1990b), an area which also was expected to be under water after the construction of a new dam. The region, located in the east-northern part of Iraq, is extremely important for studying the relations between south and north Mesopotamia. The expedition chose to excavate at Tell Shouk, but the work has not yet been started because of awkward circumstances caused by the Gulf War. Under these circumstances, the excavations at Kish, started in 1989 by this expedition, have been resumed in 2000, under the direction of K. Matsumoto (U & S, eds., 1990; Matsumoto
5. Archaeological Research in Syria

Archaeological excavations by Japanese teams in Syria were carried out slightly later than in Iraq, Iran and Israel. The first Japanese excavations in Syria began in 1974, in the area of the Tabqa Dam Salvage Project along the Euphrates River. In this project, an archaeological mission from Sophia University, later from the Ancient Orient Museum, headed by N. Egami, undertook excavations at Tell Mishrifat (Tell Mishrifat Hajj Ali Issa) and Tell Rumeilah (Tell Ali el-Hajj) (Egami, Masuda & Iwasaki, eds, 1979a, 1979b). In these sites, twenty-three graves of the stone-circle type were visible. At Tell Rumeileh, three graves were actually excavated. In these three graves, were burial chambers in which multiple human remains were buried, and the overlying stone-circles had been constructed around 600 A.D. Catacombs, ranging from the Roman to Byzantine periods, were also found south of Tell Misharifat as well as at Rumeilah. Some terracotta models of houses, dated to the second millennium B.C., were also found at Tell Rumeilah. Military fortifications, dated between the 1st and 4th century A.D., were discovered at Tell Misharifat in Level III. Two pottery vessels containing many Roman copper coins were found.

Subsequently, a mission from the Ancient Orient Museum, headed by N. Egami, started excavations at Tell Mastuma in the Idlib Prefecture, and carried out five seasons of excavation 1980-88 (Egami & Masuda, eds., 1982, 1984, 1988, Egami, Wakita & Gotoh 1985; Egami, Wakita & Ishida 1989; U & S, eds., 1990). The main purpose of these excavations was to study urbanization in ancient Syria. There were three main periods of occupation, referred to as Mastuma A, B and C. The excavations confirmed that Tell Mastuma was first occupied, at Level XIV, in the Early Bronze Age. The Mastuma A period, Levels XIV to VI, was contemporary with Hama J and Mardikh IIB. The following Mastuma B period, Levels V to II, was contemporary with Hama H and Mardikh III. The Mastuma C period, Level I, was contemporary with Hama E and Mardikh VB, i.e. Iron II. The Excavations concentrated on Level I, where a quarter part of the city plan was confirmed. Tell Mastuma appears to have been a center for olive production from the Early Bronze Age to Iron Age. In fact, some facilities for olive or grape processing were discovered at Level I. In 1993, the excavations at Tell Mastuma were resumed by the same mission under
the direction of S. Wakita., also concentrating on Level I. The excavation area in Level I was extended to 4200 m², and the main part of city plan became clear (Wakita, et al., 1994, 1995; Tsuneki 1995; Matsumoto, ed., 1995, 1996, 1997; AOM & JSWAA, eds., 1998). In addition, some Neolithic remains, dating to 5000 B.C., were also confirmed below the thick accumulation from the Early Bronze Age.

In 1981, a mission from the University of Tsukuba, headed by S. Masuda, excavated at Quminas in the Idlib District. Two occupation levels, belonging to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B and Pottery Neolithic (Amuq A-B), were confirmed at Quminas. In 1991, the mission, headed by T. Iwasaki, started a general survey in the el-Rouj Basin, located about 10 km west of Idlib (Iwasaki & Nishino, eds., 1991, 1992, 1993; Iwasaki, Nishino & Tsuneki 1995; Matsumoto, ed., 1995; Iwasaki & Tsuneki 1999). The main purpose of this survey was to examine the processes of change from early farming villages to the formation of city states. In the el-Rouj Basin, surrounded by mountains, there were many prehistoric tells. Thus the mission carried out the general survey, some soundings and natural scientific studies for the reconstruction of paleoenvironment, during 1991-1993. Moreover, through these soundings, the ceramic chronology of the el-Rouj Basin was established on the basis of data from Tell Aray 1, Tell Aray 2, Tell el-Kerkh 2 and Tell Abd el-Aziz. In 1997, the same mission, headed by A. Tsuneki, undertook excavations at Tell el-Kerkh, and confirmed that about 20 hectare of the site had been occupied in prehistoric periods (Tsuneki & Miyake 1996; AOM & JSWAA, eds., 1998; JSWAA, ed., 1999, 2001a, 2001b; Tsuneki, et al., 1999). The site had apparently been a regional center in those periods. Remains dated between Pre-Pottery Neolithic B and the Pottery Neolithic were discovered, some suggesting the existence of an advanced community. Stone stamp seals and some clay sealings were also found at Tell el-Kerkh.

In 1996, the same mission carried out excavations at Tell Umm Qseir in the Middle Khabur valley, too (Tsuneki & Miyake, eds., 1998; AOM, ed., 1998). A small Middle Halaf settlement was confirmed in the lowest Phase 1. The remains of two tholos-type buildings and of three kilns were found in Phase 1b. Phase 2 was divided into two sub-phases, dated to the Late Calcolithic period and the Middle Uruk period, respectively. Beveled rim bowls were recovered from Phase 2. Phase 3 was a Mitannian settlement of a structure characteristic of the Mitannian period.
In 1985 an expedition from the University of Tokyo under the direction of T. Matsutani, started activity in Syria. The purpose of this expedition was to discover sites dating to the Hassuna Ia period in northeast Syria. For this purpose, the expedition undertook excavations at Tell Kashkashok Tell No. II in the Khabur Dam area, and the work was done in 1987 and 1988 (Matsutani, ed., 1991; U & S, eds., 1990; Matsumoto, ed., 1995). A pit house of the Hassuna Ia period was found in Layer 4, and tauf-walled houses of the later Hassuna Ia period were found in Layer 3. Although the remains of Tell Kashkashok Tell No. II showed strong similarities to those of north Iraqi sites, some finds showed characteristics specific to northeast Syria. The excavations further confirmed that after occupation during Hassuna Ia period, Tell No. II was abandoned and used as a cemetery during the Ubaid and the Uruk periods.

In 1994 the expedition moved into the Upper Euphrates region, and excavated Tell Kosak Shamali, under the direction of T. Matsutani and later of Y. Nishiaki (Matsutani & Nishiaki 1996; Matsumoto, ed., 1996, 1997; AOM, ed., 1998 AOM & JSWAA, eds., 1998; JSWAA, ed., 1999, 2001a; Nishiaki & Matsutani, eds., 2001). These excavations continued until 1997. The main purpose of this work was to investigate the early agricultural settlement after the introduction of economic production in Syria. A burnt house was discovered in a level of the Ubaid period. The functions of the rooms of this house became clear. In two storage rooms, nearly 200 complete pottery vessels of various types, most of which were painted, were kept. Some rooms were clearly used as pottery workshops. Many tools for pottery making were discovered on the floor. Other rooms were storage rooms for grain and for clay for pottery making. More than 10 architectural levels, accumulating to 5 m thick, were confirmed at Tell Kosak Shamali. It is important to note that sites dating to the Ubaid and Post-Ubaid periods are few in number in the Euphrates region. Thus the results of the excavations threw a new light on the study of Ubaid period in this region.

In 2000, the expedition returned to the Khabur region and started work at Tell Seker al-Aheimar (JSWAA, ed., 2001b). These excavations can be expected to shed light on the early history of northern Mesopotamia, before the Proto-Hassuna period.

cuneiform texts, including some cylinders and bricks, were found in Middle Assyrian levels. From the texts, in which eight names of local kings were given, Tell Taban was identified as the ancient city of Tabetu.

In 1990 the Nara archaeological mission, headed by T. Higuchi, started work at the Southeast Necropolis of Palmyra, for the purpose of clarifying funeral customs in Palmyra (Higuchi & Izumi, eds., 1994; Matsumoto, ed., 1995, 1997; AOM, ed., 1998; Higuchi & Saito 1998; AOM & JSWAA, eds., 1999, 2001a, 2001b). The mission used a ground-probing radar for finding well-preserved underground tombs, and five tombs (A to E) were nominated for excavation. Among them, two tombs (Tombs A and C) were actually excavated. In the course of the excavations at Tomb C, another tomb was found by chance, which was designated Tomb F. Tomb F, constructed in 128 A.D. by BWPA and BWLH, was a splendid underground cemetery with a stairway, a portal, a central chamber consisting of four parts, and left and right side chambers. Family banquets were depicted on some sarcophagi in the central chamber. Moreover, the walls of the cemetery were elegantly decorated by arabesque and flowering plant patterns. Since 1999, the mission has worked the restoration of this tomb.

From 1985 to 1987, an expedition, headed by N. Egami, recovered of objects from a ship sunk near the coast of Tartus using underwater archaeology techniques (U & S, eds., 1990). The ship, dated to the early 13th century B.C., was almost completely intact, and was carrying 5000 amphoras.

As a follow-up of the general survey conducted in 1967, in 1974 the Tokyo University Scientific Expedition to Western Asia, headed by H. Suzuki then K. Hanihara and T. Akazawa, carried out a survey and excavations at Douara Cave sites and in the Palmyra Basin (Akazawa & Sakaguchi 1987)(6). Since 1987 the expedition, headed by T. Akazawa, has worked at the Dederiheh Caves, located at the northern end of the rift valley of the Dead Sea. Infant bodies identified as Neanderthal men were discovered there (Akazawa 1993; Matsumoto, ed., 1995, 1996, 1997; JSWAA, ed., 2001a, 2001b).

6. Archaeological Research in Turkey

Kaman-Kalehöyük lies in the area surrounded by Kizil Irmak in Central Anatolia. The main purpose of the expedition was to establish a chronology of this region. The latest occupation, Level I, dated to the Ottoman period, yielded Chinese ceramics and Ottoman coins. Level II was dated to between the middle of the 12th century B.C. and the 4th century B.C. In the early phase of Level II (Level IId), the region was independent of the territory of Phrygia. On the other hand, finds from the later phase of Level II (Level IIb and IIa) are somewhat influenced by Phrygia. Many clay sealings with stamp impressions, dated between the late 15th century B.C. and the 14th century B.C., were found in Level IIIb. Level IIIc corresponds in date to the Assyrian colonial period, in particular to Level Ib of Karum, and Level IV corresponds to the Early Bronze Age. The excavations have progressed towards reaching into Neolithic levels. The expedition has also been carrying out a general survey in Central Anatolia since 1986.

Between 1991 and 1994 an expedition from the Aichi University of Education, Osaka University and the Joshibi University of Art and Design, carried out a survey in Lycia, researching Early Byzantine sites. This expedition chose Gemiler Island for excavation, and has been excavating a church (Church III) there since 1995. It is aiming to clarify the history of the island (Tsuji, ed., 1995; Matsumoto, ed., 1996, 1997 & AOM & JSWAA, eds., 1998; JSWAA, ed., 2001a, 2001b)(8). From the style of architecture and reliefs, Church III seemed to have been founded in the 6th century A.D., a period during which this region was prosperous through maritime trade and the movement of Christian pilgrims. The corridor of Church III was decorated by mosaic pavements depicting plants and animals. The Church was finally destroyed by fire, and was abandoned. The island itself was used as a military base in the middle Byzantine period, and abandoned again in the 13th century, but the church was never reconstructed.

7. Archaeological Research in Jordan

A general survey in Jordan was carried out by the University of Tokyo in 1956-7 (TUIIAE, ed., 1968) and in 1965-66. No archaeological expeditions were dispatched to Jordan as a result of these surveys. However, in 1997 an expedition from Kanazawa University, headed by S. Fujii, started excavations at Qa’a Abu Tleyha, located in steppe zone of south-east Jordan (Matsumoto, ed., 1997; S. Fujii 1998; AOM & JSWAA, eds., 1998; JSWAA, ed., 1999, 2001a, 2001b). Research in this region was expected to fill in the blank of
archaeological data between Sinai and the Azraq basin. The expedition hoped to clarify hunting life and nomadic life at the beginning of cultivation. Through the excavations at Qa’a Abu Tleyha, a workshop producing of stone artifacts was confirmed; tabular scrapers of the standard type from the Calcolithic to the Early Bronze Age were found there.

8. Archaeological Research in Israel

In 1961-1964 an expedition from the University of Tokyo, headed by H. Suzuki, excavated at Amud Cave, located northwest of Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee) in northern Israel (Suzuki 1965, 1970). Two layers were confirmed. The remains of four Amud man (Neanderthaloids) were discovered in Layer B.

In 1964, an expedition from the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan, headed by K. Ohata, started the excavations at Tell Zeror, situated in the northern part of the Sharon Valley, which was one of the important centers of northern Palestine (Ohata 1966, 1967, 1970). The excavations were planned as a commemorative project of the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Society. H.I.H. Prince Mikasa and many private companies thus supported the mission, which was also able to obtain a grant for overseas research projects from the Ministry of Education of Japan. Three seasons of excavations were carried out, and the work continued until 1966, establishing the ceramic chronology of the northern part of the Sharon Valley. The excavations confirmed that Tell Zeror was occupied from the Middle Bronze II Age to the Middle Ages; a fortification and city wall were constructed in the Middle Bronze Age; and there was a small village in the early Iron Age. In 1966, the work was stopped by the Third Middle Eastern War, and has not yet been resumed.

In 1974, K. Goto of the University of Tokyo started research at En Gev located on the east side of Lake Tiberias. Since 1990, an expedition from Tenri University and Rikkyo University, headed by H. Kanazeki and then by A. Tsukimoto has continued the excavations (U & S, eds., 1990; Matsumoto, ed., 1995; JWSAA, ed., 1999, 2001a, 2001b). The acropolis of En Gev was fortified by a double solid wall, a casemate wall, in the 10th to the 9th century B.C. There were remains of colonnade architectures constructed over two layers in the same area, dated to the 10th to 9th century B.C. and the late 8th century B.C.
9. Archaeological Research in Lebanon

An expedition of the University of Tokyo carried out a general survey at Byblos, Baalbek, etc. in 1956 (TUIIAE, ed., 1958). Another expedition from the University of Tokyo, headed by H. Suzuki, carried out the excavations at Keue Cave in the south of Tripoli in 1970. At Keue Cave stone artifacts dating to the Late Paleolithic period were found, but their chronological position has not yet been established. The remains of a large bear were interesting.

In 1998, an expedition organized by the Japanese Society for West Asian Archaeology, under the direction of K. Matsumoto, carried out a survey in the Akkar Region (JSWAA, ed., 1999; Matsumoto & Wada 2001). In 1999 this expedition carried out a survey and excavations at Tyre where a new expressway will be constructed. Many Roman tombs were confirmed in this area.

In 1999, the Nara University Mission, headed by T. Izumi, joined the expedition with the intention of creating a 3D image of the site. It intends to continue its work there, making full use of a new computer system.

10. Concluding remarks and Prospect

Almost all the work by the Japanese missions and expeditions noted above has been done in cooperation with the countries concerned. No doubt these Japanese missions and expeditions would never have produced satisfactory results without their cooperation. Sometimes scholars from those countries participated in the Japanese missions. Moreover, archaeological missions have need of specialists in various fields. Thus, results of archaeological research are definitely not something one can keep for oneself.

Recently it has become desirable not only to publish the results but also to restore sites. Accordingly, archaeological expeditions carry out restoration, conservation and environmental preparation for tourist resorts, as the need arises. Actually, the Nara archaeological mission carried out the restoration of Tomb F at Palmyra after excavations. A mission for restoration of the stone reliefs of the Ain Dara Temple in Syria, headed by T. Nishiura, was dispatched in 1994 by the Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties, under a five year plan (Nishiura 1995; Matsumoto, ed., 1997; AOM, ed., 1998). Moreover, some Japanese scholars have participated in a project of the conservation and restoration at Choga Zanbil in Iran, under a project of UNESCO, since 1998. Now archaeological missions must consider what will happen after excavations in making their overall plans.
In 1997, the Japanese Society for West Asian Archaeology was founded by younger archaeologists who worked in West Asia, Southern Asia, Central Asia and Egypt, and who needed a place for discussing archaeological problems and exchanging information. The society carries out open symposiums and meetings in order to provide prompt and fresh information on Japanese excavations in West Asia to those Japanese people who are interested in West Asian archaeology.

Travel to West Asia has become easier, and useful information can now be obtainable easily by internet. The number of Japanese expeditions increased over the past 20 years. On the other hand, each Japanese expedition has reduced the scale, and overall study has become difficult. Japanese expeditions may be at the turning point. A large scale expedition involving scholars of various fields would be desirable in order to organize as well as to improve the quality of study in the new century.

Notes
(1) The progress of the study of West Asian archaeology by the Japanese, from before the Second World War until today, was summarized by Y. Nishiaki (Nishiaki 1998). The latest Japanese contribution to Mesopotamian archaeology was written by Y. Okada (Okada 2000).
(2) Kodaigaku actively presented information about West Asian archaeology from the first issue. Tsunoda wrote the commemorative article “Hassuna Culture” in this issue (Tsunoda 1952).
(4) Excavation Reports of the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq mainly appeared in the journal al-Ra‘fidān.
(6) Reports on Douara Cave mainly appeared in the Bulletin of the University Museum, the University of Tokyo.
(7) Reports on Kaman-Kalehöyük also appear every year in the Bulletin of the Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan (BMECCJ) and Kazi Sonaçları Toplantısı (KTS), Ankara.
(8) I could not find the reports concerning Keue Cave, so I used the information written by M. Anzai in the Dictionary of World Archaeology (Shimonaka, ed., 1979).
(9) K. Matsumoto and S. Tsujimura were dispatched by the Japan Foundation to aid restoration in Lebanon. The Japanese Society for West Asian Archaeology organized the expedition and cooperated with their work.

Bibliography
University of Tokyo, 29.


Atarashi, K., & K. Horiuchi (eds.) 1963 : 新規矩男, 堀内清治 (編)「ファハリアン1: タベ・スルヴァンの発掘, 1959」東京大学イラン・イラン遺跡調査団報告書4, 東京大学東洋文化研究

Chiyonobu, Y. 1993 : 西アジア考古学資料目録 第3部: イラン (テシェリアルク探集士器) 東京大学総合研究資料館標本資料報告第28号, Chiyonobu, Y., *Iran (Potsherds from Tepe Sialk), Catalogue of Archaeological Materials in the Department of Archaeology of Western Asia, Part 3*, the University Museum, the University of Tokyo, Material Reports No. 28, 1993.

Chiyonobu, Y., & T. Matsutani 1986 : 千代延恵正, 松谷敏雄「東京大学総合研究博物館考古美術 (西アジア) 部門所蔵考古学資料目録第2部: イラン (金属器, 金属製品) 東京大学総合研究資料館標本資料報告第12号, Chiyonobu, Y. & T. Matsutani, *Iran (Metal remains), Catalogue of Archaeological Materials in the Department of Archaeology of Western Asia, Part 2*, the University Museum, the University of Tokyo, Material Reports No. 12, 1986.

Egami, N. (ed.) 1958 : 江上波夫 (編)「テル・サラサート1: 第二号丘の発掘, 1956－1957」東京大学イラン・イラン遺跡調査団報告書1, 東京大学東洋文化研究所, Egami, N. (ed.), *Tell eth-Thalathat I*, the Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition Report 1, the Institute of Oriental Culture, the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, 1958.


Egami, N., & S. Masuda (eds.) 1962 : 江上波夫, 増田精一 (編)『マルヴ・ダシュトI: タル・イバックーンの発掘』東京大学イラク・イラン遺跡調査団報告書2, 東京大学東洋文化研究所. Egami, N., & S. Masuda (eds.), Marv-Dasht I: The Excavation at Tall-i-Bakun 1956, the Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition Report 2, the Institute for Oriental Culture, the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, 1962.


Culture, the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, 1962.


Fujii, H., K. Horiuchi, K. Tanabe, & M. Domyo (eds.) 1984: *Taq-i Bustan IV: Text*., the Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition Report 20, the Institute of Oriental Culture, the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, 1984.


Vol. XXXVI 2001
Fukai, S., & T. Matsutani (eds.) 1981: *Telul eth-Thalathat IV: The Excavation of Tell II, the Fifth season* (1976), the Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition Report 17, the Institute of Oriental Culture, the University of Tokyo, Tokyo.

Fukai, S., & T. Matsutani (eds.) 1982: *Halimehjan II: The Excavation at Lmeh Zamin, 1978*, the Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition Report 18, the Institute of Oriental Culture, the University of Tokyo, Tokyo.


Iwasaaki, T., & H. Nishino (eds.) 1991: 岩崎卓也, 西野元 (編)『エル・ルージュ盆地における考古学的調査』筑波大学シリア考古学調査団報告1, 筑波大学歴史・人類学系. Iwasaaki, T., & H. Nishino (eds.), *Report of University of Tsukuba Archaeological Mission to Syria I: An


Features, Stone and Bone Objects,” *al-Rāfidān* 17, 57-76.


Nishiaki, Y. 1998 : 西秋良宏「日本の西アジア考古学調査小史: (3) 海外調査の動向」[日本 Archaeology]
Nishiaki, Y. 2000: 西秋良宏『東京大学総合研究博物館考古美術(西アジア)部門所蔵考古学資料目録第5部：イラク、テル・サラート出土の先史土器』東京大学総合研究博物館標本資料報告第38号. Nishiaki, Y., Prehistoric Pottery from Telul eth-Thalathat, Iraq. Catalogue of Archaeological Materials in the Department of Archaeology of Western Asia, Part 5, the University Museum, the University of Tokyo, Material Reports No. 38, 2000.


Oguchi, K. 1997: "Circular Impressed Ware" in the Middle Euphrates Region, During the Old Babylonian Period," al-Rafidān 18, 161-173.


University of Tsukuba.


TUIIAE (ed.) 1958: 『東京大学イラク・イラン遺跡調査団 (編) [オリエント, 遺跡調査の記録]』東京大学出版会. [Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition (ed.), Sites in Orient, University of Tokyo Press, 1958.]

TUIIAE (ed.) 1965: 『東京大学イラク・イラン遺跡調査団 (編) [オリエントの遺跡] 東京大学出版会. [Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition (ed.), Sites in Orient, University of Tokyo Press, 1965.]

TUIIAE (ed.) 1969: 『東京大学イラク・イラン遺跡調査団 (編) [オリエントの遺跡] 東京大学出版会. [Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition (ed.), Sites in Orient, University of Tokyo Press, 1969.]


Yamauchi, K., T. Ohtsu, Y. Chiyonobu, & T. Okano 1998: "Gilan, Another Side of Iran, the Evergreen Land, The Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan, 1998."