

life and the achievements of the ancient settlers during the successive culture stages.'

It is sincerely hoped that means will be found to publish at an early date Dr. Schmidt's full reports on the work at Tepe Hissar.

*Excavations at
Tepe Gawra*

THE Joint Expedition of the University Museum and the American Schools of Oriental Research has resumed work at Tepe Gawra and Tell Billa, Iraq, with Mr. Charles Bache as field director. The reports so far received cover only the first month of work, but the results already augur well for a successful season. At Tepe Gawra, the remaining walls of Stratum VIII, which proved so interesting last year, have been removed and Stratum IX has been entered upon; an intermediate layer seems also to have been present, at least in part of the site.

In Stratum IX has been found a building, almost the duplicate of the so-called Priests' Residence of early VIII and with the same crenelated niches, similar to the one pictured in Plate XI of the *Bulletin* for March 1932. An interesting feature of the lower building is that it faces in exactly the opposite direction.

Among the outstanding objects found recently at Tepe Gawra are an ivory comb and hair-pin; the latter is decorated in the central portion with lapis-lazuli and green stone lozenges, and is further ornamented by four bands of gold. Both comb and hair-pin were found in a mud-brick grave which had originally been covered with rushes, the mould of the oxidized rushes being found over the body and over the top of the walls.

*Excavations at
Tell Billa*

WITH only a small force at Tell Billa, progress has been slow, but two finds are of no little importance. One is a crescent earring of gold similar to those found last year and now on display at the Museum. The other is a group of four bronze

objects: two wine cups, a large and a small vase. These were heavily corroded and so fragile that they were handled with difficulty. Chemical treatment was, however, undertaken by Mrs. Immanuel Ben-Dor, who has done notable work of that nature in the Berlin Museum. The results were both unexpected and amazing: one of the wine cups was found to bear a votive inscription which has been sufficiently deciphered to reveal that the ancient name of Tell Billa was Shib-ba-ni-ba, thus corroborating the prediction of Dr. E. A. Speiser (and also one by Dr. Emil Förrer) that Tell Billa was the site of that city of Shibaniba which was mentioned by Sennacherib in his account of the rebuilding of Nineveh.

We are indebted to Dr. C. H. Gordon and Dr. A. C. Peipkorn of the Expedition staff for the decipherment of the inscription just found. It should, however, be particularly noted that the poor condition of the inscription and a hurried reading of it, so that it might be included in the first report from the field, necessitate that the transcription and translation be regarded as tentative and subject to modification. The reading of the word, Shib-ba-ni-(ba), in two places seems, however, to be quite certain.

*A Seal from
Tell Billa*

THE cylinder seal shown in Plate IV was found in the second Assyrian stratum of Tell Billa, but, as Dr. E. A. Speiser points out, it is obvious that it dates back to the third millennium B. C. (In this connection compare the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, volume 47, pages 4 and following.) Owing to long and constant use, it is slightly damaged at one end. The dimensions are forty-two by thirty-eight millimeters, and the material is apparently black diorite.

The seal, which depicts two naked 'priests,' a house and a boat, was singled out as being of unusual significance by Dr. Walter Andrae, the eminent archæologist, who is Professor at the University of Berlin and Director of the *Vorderasiatische Abteilung*