

in private houses, and in the temples, always in large quantity. Modelled by hand or stamped in hollow moulds, in the round, or only in plaque relief, they reflect in their multiplicity of details the religious inspiration and the daily life preoccupation of the Babylonians at every period of their culture, under the ever-changing political rule. Gods and goddesses, men and women, animals, utensils, toys and furniture, all contribute new details to folklore, history and ethnology. The figure of the nude woman, mother and love goddess, for example, is still the object of many interpretations (cf. PBS, Vol. XVI, *Terracottas from Nippur*, 1930).

## Nuzi

In the last decades, excavations in northern Mesopotamia, in the plains east of the Tigris, which were to be the homeland of the Assyrians in the second and first millennia, have been, as in southern Mesopotamia, carried down almost to virgin soil, and thus have added considerably to our knowledge of a much earlier history, back to 3200 B.C., and eventually to neolithic times. The sites selected are small—compared to Khorsabad, Nineveh, Calah and Ashur—but they were early settled as indicated by the numerous fragments of painted pottery scattered on surface ground, and early abandoned, so that their undisturbed levels have provided archaeological records in regular sequence.

The excavations at Nuzi, Tepe Gawra and Tell Billa, first undertaken by private means, were soon supported by official institutions and some joined actively by the University Museum.

Nuzi, near Kirkuk in Iraq, was first regularly excavated by Professor Edward Chiera in 1925. The site had been destroyed by fire in ancient times. In the ruins of the house of Tehiptilla and his heirs, Professor Chiera found over a thousand business tablets of the former owner. In 1927 the work was resumed by the Semitic Museum and the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University, together with the American Schools of Oriental Research of Baghdad. More tablets came to light, also the remains of a palace and of a temple, all resting on the so-called Hurrian level dated in the second millennium B.C. In 1928, Dr. R. H. Pfeiffer of the Boston University joined the staff, deeper shafts were opened and reached the Sumerian, Akkadian and Cappadocian levels. In 1930, the

University Museum was represented by Charles Bache, assistant to R. F. S. Starr. This was the last season at Nuzi. Fresco paintings, a clay censer, glazed nails and glazed terracotta lions (*Figure 44*)—one exhibited in the Babylonian Section of the University Museum—were among the best archaeological remains. The Nuzi legal texts have been published by the Joint Expedition and the Baghdad School; the Sumerian and Akkadian texts form a volume of the Harvard Semitic Series.

### Tepe Gawra and Tell Billa

The artificial mound of Tepe Gawra, fifteen miles east from Mosul, two miles from Khorsabad, covers a much older settlement. Its almost total absence of written documents is compensated by an abundance of pottery, painted and unpainted, which represents all the known periods—including some local ones—down to al-'Ubaid, Tell Khalaf, and probably the neolithic period. Twenty levels—they may now reach twenty-four—were surveyed in 1927 by Professor E. A. Speiser, with the financial help of the American Schools of Oriental Research of Baghdad, Dropsie College and the Guggenheim Foundation. In 1930 the University Museum joined the group with an endowment from the Rockefeller Foundation. A second site, Tell Billa, eight miles east of Tepe Gawra, was added to the first, and excavations were carried on at both at the same time, Charles Bache being in charge at Tell Billa. A study of the Tell Billa pottery (*Figure 45*) in the *Museum Journal*, Vol. XXIII, no. 3, 1933, and the first volume of the *Excavations at Tepe Gawra*, Levels I to VIII, 1935 (*Figure 46*) have been published by Professor E. A. Speiser. After 1933, Charles Bache remained sole director in the field. At Tepe Gawra he carried the excavation down to level twenty. His untimely death has prevented the completion of his work and its publication—which is now entrusted to his devoted friend A. J. Tobler.

Tepe Gawra was abandoned at the beginning of the second millennium B.C. Before reaching level VIII the abundance of copper and painted pottery shows that we have already reached the Jemdet-Nasr and Uruk periods. At level XIII, the architectural remains on the acropolis, three temples enclosing an open court, represent, according to Professor E. A. Speiser, the oldest civilization—social and religious—



*Figure 44.* Glazed crouching lion, Nuzi-Kirkuk



*Figure 45.* Footed painted goblet, Tell Billa



*Figure 46.* Chalice pottery, Tepe Gawra, circa 3500 B.C.