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# LATE PREHISTORIC POTTERY AT NINEVEH, GAWRA AND THE NEIGHBOURING SITES

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## I

In the "Prehistoric Sondage" at Tell Quyunjuk, Nineveh, Sir Max Mallowan encountered, for the first time in the north of Mesopotamia, pottery of the Uruk Period<sup>1</sup>.

Although there is some controversy about the date of level III in the deep sounding<sup>2</sup>, there is no doubt but that its upper part yielded a considerable quantity of Uruk grey and buff wares. Red Uruk ware is represented only by a single example. The grey variety was by far the most popular type of pottery from Nineveh III<sup>3</sup>; it is usually highly carboni-

sed in section, and highly burnished. Some jet black examples also occurred. Grey ware vessels were usually hand-made but wheel-turned specimens also occurred<sup>4</sup>. Large heavy squat burial urns about 30 cm. in diameter, occurred in good number<sup>5</sup>. The majority of the grey ware, however, consisted of small vessels,<sup>6</sup> mainly open bowls with either rounded bottoms or wide flat bases and concave sides; they also vary in depth. A highly burnished bowl, ribbed on the exterior, of dark greenish-grey clay with a soapy texture came from the top of level III<sup>7</sup>. The one red ware sherd came from a hand-made vessel, red-slipped and burnished<sup>8</sup>. Plain

1. Cf. AAA XX, 1932, pp. 127-128.

2. Ibid. pp. 131, and 134; also see Lloyd: Sumer IV, No. 1, p. 42; A. Perkins: 1949, pp. 56-57; J. Lines: Dissertation (Cambridge) 1953, p. 111.

3. A fact which led Mallowan to call the stratum "the period of the grey ware", cf. AAA, p. 131.

4. Ibid. pp. 163-164.

5. Four of them were found, cf. Ibid. p. 163, Pl. LI, No. 12.

6. Ibid. p. 163, Pl. LI, Nos. 11, 13; Pl. XLIX, Nos. 14, 18, 26, 31.

7. Ibid. p. 164; Pl. XLIX, No. 24.

8. Ibid. p. 164.

buff Uruk pottery was also common in level III, and was found in a number of forms<sup>9</sup>. Pots with heavy club-headed rims were popular<sup>10</sup>. Deep-bellied bowls, thin in section with distinctly grooved rims, also occurred, usually made of light buff clay. The early examples were hand-made, while those found at the top of the level were mainly wheel-turned, often burnished. Shallow bowls with very thin, concave, sharply carinated sides, and rounded bottoms were also found<sup>11</sup>. Bevelled rim votive bowls are said to have occurred as early as the top of this level<sup>12</sup>; none was illustrated, however.

Nineveh IV yielded pottery comparable with that of late Uruk and Jamdat Nasr in the South<sup>13</sup>. The top of the stratum even produced complete examples of reserved-slip ware<sup>14</sup>. Numerous red-slip sherds and a number of whole vessels in this ware occurred. The colour of the slip varied from plum-red to bright sealing-wax. On the early examples the slip seems to have been badly fixed and is easily washed-off. On later vessels it is more firmly applied<sup>15</sup>. A number of globular jars with short flaring necks and four lugs on their upper bodies were found<sup>16</sup>.

Squatter four-lugged jars, also with rounded bottoms, occurred<sup>17</sup>. Of the same general type is a shouldered example with small ring base. It is coated with a fine dark-red slip<sup>18</sup>. A series of circular pellets running at intervals around the shoulder is a common feature applied to red ware vessels<sup>19</sup>. A combination of red slip and combed decoration is found on one neck fragment<sup>20</sup>. Herring-bone, crosshatching, is found, and other incised decoration was applied to many vessels from level IV. Fingernail impressions (crescent-shaped) appeared on others<sup>21</sup>. Nicked decoration was applied to one handle<sup>22</sup>. A fine example of the incised ware is a squat four-lugged jar with a band of crosshatched incision on the shoulder<sup>23</sup>; it has a small flat base. Another combination, a row of deeply-cut small triangles with a cable pattern in relief, appeared on two neck fragments; these occurred high-up in the level<sup>24</sup>. Handled-cups with several grooves on the shoulder<sup>25</sup> were found, cups of the same type but without handles, usually with rounded bottoms, were also incised on the shoulder<sup>26</sup>. There is a variety of spouted-vessels, many of which had

9. Ibid. p. 164; Pl. XLIX, Nos. 1-16, 19-20, 28, 38.
10. Ibid. p. 164, Pl. XLIX, Nos. 14, 38, 42 "Club headed" is a general term for heavy-ledged rims, or rims which are slightly sloped, but too rounded to be called bevelled; such rims often have a small concavity inside, forming a little ledge just below the lip, cf. *ibid.* Nos. 9, 29.
11. Ibid. p. 164, Pl. L, No. 1, Pl. XLIX, Nos. 31-32.
12. Ibid. p. 164, Pl. XLIX, Nos. 4-5.
13. Ibid. p. 168.
14. For this reason Professor Lloyd placed Nineveh IV in his "late Uruk" period; Nineveh III was considered "early Uruk"; cf. *Sumer* IV, No. 1, 1948, p. 42.
15. See the description of the ware and its date; AAAXX, p. 167, Pl. LII, No. 12.
16. Ibid. p. 165.
17. Ibid. pl. LII, No. 10.
18. Ibid. pl. LII, No. 9.
19. AAA XIX, pl. LXI, p. 88; it should be remembered, however that southern examples are usually hole-mouthed, unlike the necked specimens of Nineveh IV; some of the latter may have three lugs only.
20. AAA XX, p. 165.
21. Ibid. pl. L, No. 14.
22. Ibid. pl. L, Nos. 2, 9-14; Nos. 10 and 12 have herring-bone incisions, and are of an unusual dark-greenish fabric; they were found near the bottom of level IV; cf. *ibid.* p. 166.
23. Ibid. pl. L, No. 4.
24. AAA XIX, pl. XIX, No. 1; it has a striking parallel in Warka IV (in red slip), cf. UVB IV, pl. 19Db.
25. AAA XX, p. 167, pl. XLIX, Nos. 21, 37 respectively.
26. Ibid. pls. LI, No. 6; LII, No. 14.

curved (drooping) spouts<sup>27</sup>. Sherds of spouted bellied-pots or wide-mouthed jars occurred<sup>28</sup>. Ring-based spouted-jars have short flaring necks and bevelled rims<sup>29</sup>. One globular jar, with short narrow neck, has a short spout high on the should; a kettle-like hole-mouthed spouted-jar was also found<sup>30</sup>. From the lower part of the level came sherds of several deep bowls with straight sides and curved bases, they have rather heavy everted rims<sup>31</sup>. All were of plain buff ware, wheel-turned. Shallow bowls (or flat dishes) occurred with both round-topped or flat-topped rims<sup>32</sup>. A tall, unspouted, shouldered-jar and a neck fragment of a peg-shaped vessels were found. The latter has a folded-rim-. Both were of plain buff ware; the former was found in the upper part of the level<sup>33</sup>. Deep bowls with flaring sides occurred in good number<sup>34</sup>. The bevelled rim votive bowl is the most common type among the Nineveh IV pottery<sup>35</sup>.

## II

TT 1-4 at Arpachiyah includes both 'Ubaid and Uruk material and demonstrates the overlap that we see elsewhere between the two periods<sup>36</sup>. Both grey and red-burnished Uruk wares are represented by many sherds, as well as by whole vessels<sup>37</sup>. A large squat red ware jar, said to be a unique specimen, can be compared

with the one from Eridu (see Sumer, Vol. XXIX, 1973, Pl. I in our article). The Arpachiyah example, however, has a dark-red slip which covers the entire body except the upper shoulder, where a narrow band of solid-cable pattern has been painted in black. Like the Eridu specimens, it has sets of four little knobs placed at intervals on the carinated junction between body and shoulder. The Arpachiyah example came from grave 21 in the cemetery<sup>38</sup>. A small, crudely-made double-mouthed jar (11 × 10 × 6 cm.) of plain buff ware in the Iraq Museum (IM. 14807) may present some affinities with the double-mouthed pots of the Uruk period<sup>39</sup>.

## III

Gawra XII is best considered as a transitional stage between the 'Ubaid and Uruk periods. In architecture as well as in pottery, Gawra XII exhibits certain features related to both earlier and later levels<sup>40</sup>. In Gawra XI-A certain changes in material culture occur; painted pottery almost disappears, to be replaced by plain unpainted ceramic. A distinctive type of temple architecture was introduced; and burial customs known elsewhere in the Uruk period were adopted. These innovations continued throughout the overlying strata up to Gawra VIII-A<sup>41</sup>.

27. Ibid. p. 167, pl. LII, No. 13.  
 28. Usually occur in the top of the level; cf. *ibid.* p. 163, pl. L, No. 6.  
 29. Ibid. pl. L, Nos. 7-8.  
 30. Ibid. pl. LI, No. 7.  
 31. AAA XIX, pl. LXI, Nos. 18-19 respectively.  
 32. Considered an early type of Nineveh IV pottery; cf. AAA XX, p. 167, pl. XLIX, Nos. 34-36.  
 33. Ibid. pl. XLIX, Nos. 6, 33.  
 34. Ibid. p. 168, pl. LI, No. 9; pl. L, No. 3 respectively.  
 35. AAA XIX, pl. LXI, Nos. 27, 29.  
 36. The majority were found turned bottom upwards; cf. *ibid.* p. 83, pl. XLI, No. 26; see also the discussion by Mallowan concerning their usage,

- AAA XX, p. 168.  
 37. Iraq II, No. 1, 1935, p. 24; certain types of pottery found in these occupational strata, are equated by Mallowan with that of Nineveh III, Warka XIV and below, and post-Susa I; cf. *ibid.* pp. 24 and 25 (comparative table).  
 38. Ibid. pp. 71-72; figs. 40, No. 5; and 39, No. 3.  
 39. Ibid. pp. 24, and 63; fig. 37, No. 4.  
 40. Find-spot not mentioned; it probably came from the upper levels ('Ubaid levels).  
 41. Cf. Arthur J. Tobler: "Excavation at Tepe Gawra", Vol. II, 1950, pp. 145-146, and 147; Lloyd: Sumer, IV, No. 1, pp. 42-43; see also Lines, Joan: Dissertation, Cambridge, 1953, pp. 198, 200-201, 203 and 206-207.

**Pottery of Gawra XI-A:**

The amount of pottery unearthed from this level was limited, yet a number of shapes and fabrics occurred. Compared with the pottery from earlier levels, that of Gawra XI-A is decidedly inferior, both in shape and technique<sup>42</sup>. The colour is usually brown, red-brown, or buff; the ware is coarse, the vessels having thicker walls than before. Different types of simple open bowl were common. Various types of shallow bowl with sharply flaring sides and small flat bases occurred<sup>43</sup>. Spherical bowls were popular; of these a few have flat bases<sup>44</sup>. Others were found with slightly carinated bodies, straight sides and rounded bottoms<sup>45</sup>; comparisons with those of Warka XIV should be noted. Two shallow bowls with rounded profiles occurred; one had a small everted rim<sup>46</sup>. Although ring-bases bowls were characteristic of level XII, Gawra XI-A yielded few examples of them<sup>47</sup>. Spherical bowls were sometimes supplied with long tubular spouts<sup>48</sup>. A squat bowl with carinated body and long trough spout is a unique example at this level<sup>49</sup>. Many unspouted specimens of this type are found in later levels, however<sup>50</sup>. Deep pots occurred with various profiles. Curved bodies were popular; among the latter groups was a pot with a double rim<sup>51</sup>. Large storage jars occurred frequently<sup>52</sup>. Smaller jars of the same types were even

more popular<sup>53</sup>. Double-mouthed jars were numerous<sup>54</sup>. Among the miscellaneous pottery types from Gawra XI-A is a unique jar-shaped strainer<sup>55</sup>, with tall curved profile.

**Pottery of Gawra XI-IX:**

The four levels (XI, X-A, X, and IX) were united by their architectural features as well as by their ceramic products<sup>56</sup>. The pottery throughout these strata is generally brown or buff; although in Gawra XI and X there were many examples of red and red-brown fabrics. A few grey and black ware sherds came from XI and X-A, as did some green or greenish examples, comprising mainly cups and beakers which were of exceptionally fine quality. Surfaces were either left bare and rough in appearance, or slipped. Brown or red-brown slips were applied to several types of vessels. Wet-smoothing or wash techniques were sometimes employed<sup>57</sup>. Unlike Gawra XI-A, surface decoration was applied to a large group of vessels. Incised, impressed, punctured or applique ornament was used, mainly on cups and beakers (Gawra XI-XA)<sup>58</sup>. Painted ornament was reintroduced in level XI and continued up to IX; this consisted of simple patterns, mainly crosshatched triangles<sup>59</sup>. Simple lines, dots or smears were also applied<sup>60</sup>. Naturalistic designs appeared only on three

42. Tobler: 1950, p. 4.

43. Ibid. p. 151.

44. Ibid. p. 152; pl. CXLI, Fig. 328 and 330.

45. Ibid. pl. CXLI, figs. 329, 331-232. fig. 331 is of an uncommon coarse black ware, pebble-burnished.

46. Ibid. pl. CXLI, Figs. 333-334 and 336.

47. Ibid. pl. CXLI, figs. 335 and 337.

48. Ibid. p. 152; pl. CXLI, figs. 338-339.

49. Ibid. pl. CXLI, figs. 340-341.

50. Ibid. p. 153; pl. CXLI, fig. 342.

51. In levels XI-IX; Cf. Ibid. pl. XLV, figs. 385-388; and in level VIII-A.

52. Ibid. p. 153; pl. CXII, figs. 343-348; figs. 343-344

with holemouths.

53. Ibid. pl. CXLII, figs. 349-351.

54. Ibid. pl. CXLII, figs. 352-353; pl. CXLIII, figs. 355-359.

55. A broken example found in level XII was used as a lid for an urn burial, and a complete specimen came from a well in Gawra XIII; Cf. *ibid.* p. 163.

56. Ibid. pl. CXLIII, fig. 360.

57. Ibid. pp. 153-154.

58. Ibid. p. 154.

59. Ibid. p. 155.

60. Ibid. pl. CXLVI, fig. 408; pl. CLII, figs. 521, 523 and 525.

vessels<sup>61</sup>. The colour was usually dark brown or reddish. Burnishing was not especially popular; vessels treated in this manner were for the most part of grey or black ware (Gawra XI-XA). In shape, the pottery of Gawra XI-IX displayed a variety of types; among these were bowls, cups, beakers, chalices, pots and jars. Bowls had flat, rounded, or ring bases, but flat-and round-bottomed bowls were by far the most common type of pottery in these levels. Ring-based bowls also occurred but not so popular. The flat-based bowls had sharply flaring sides; both deep and shallow sinuous-sided ones were also found<sup>62</sup>. These bowls were all hand-made and very crude in appearance. It is possible that the bevelled rim votive bowls occur among this group; one example offers a striking similarity<sup>63</sup>. Round-bottomed bowls were the most popular in all four strata<sup>64</sup>; formed or beaded rims are more common than plain ones. Ring-based bowls in general have beaded rims and high ring bases<sup>65</sup>. Common cup types have as a rule rounded or slightly pointed bottoms, slightly carinated bodies, and constricted waists<sup>66</sup>. The necks and shoulders of such cups are normally ornamented with several horizontal incised lines or grooves. Bell-shaped beakers occurred as early as Gawra XIII and carried on without interruption throughout XI-IX<sup>67</sup>. Such beakers usually have rounded or slightly tapering bottoms, either straight or concave sides, and low carination. Their

surfaces are either left plain or decorated with incised or painted ornament. Impressed or applique decoration was also employed. Chalices, sometimes with short stems<sup>68</sup>, occurred in Gawra XI-IX but in a limited number. Hole-mouthed cooking pots with rather ovoid bodies occurred in Gawra XI (as well XIA); they are of coarse crude ware. None was found in levels XA-IX<sup>69</sup>. Deep pots with double rims, similar to examples found in level XIA, continued into Gawra XI in good number, yet few were found in XA-IX<sup>70</sup>. Some of these bowls have wide flat bases and flaring sides<sup>71</sup>. Double-rimmed pots finally disappeared after Gawra IX. Ring-based globular pots were not infrequent; usually these had small rims<sup>72</sup>. One is spouted<sup>73</sup>. They were popular in Gawra X-IX. Small jars are quite common; they have bulging or slightly carinated bodies with rounded or tapering bottoms. Necks are short and flaring<sup>74</sup>. One example in grey ware came from Gawra IX; it is burnished. Large globular jars<sup>75</sup> are either plain or painted<sup>76</sup>. A tall jar with a bottle-like body is the only example of its kind from Gawra<sup>77</sup>. Double-mouthed jars were popular; a tendency to bring the two mouths closer is a noticeable feature in Gawra XI-IX. The end result was the positioning of both mouths vertically on the top of the vessel, rather than obliquely as on those of Gawra XIA-XII. Five broken examples came from Gawra XI, and one each from Gawra XA, XI and

61. Ibid. pl. CXLIV, figs. 375, 383, pl. XLX, figs. 395, 396 pl. CLII, fig. 522.  
 62. Ibid. p. 155; pl. XLIV, fig. 398; pl. CXLVII, fig. 428; pl. CLII, fig. 522.  
 63. Ibid. p. 155; pl. CXLIV, figs. 367-371 (369-370 with sinuous sides).  
 64. Ibid. pl. CXLIV, fig. 371.  
 65. Ibid. p. 155; pl. CXLIV, figs. 372-380.  
 66. Ibid. p. 156; pl. CXLIV, figs. 381-384.  
 67. Ibid. p. 156; pl. CXLIV, figs. 385-391.  
 68. Ibid. p. 156; pl. CXLV, figs. 392-398.  
 69. Ibid. p. 157; pl. CXLVI, figs. 399-401 (Nos. 399

and 401 are very crude examples from Gawra XI, but No. 400 is a more developed type from Gawra IX).

70. Ibid. p. 158; pl. CXLVI, figs. 402-404.  
 71. Ibid. p. 158; pl. CXLVI, figs. 405-406.  
 72. Ibid. pl. CXLVI, fig. 407 (found in grave).  
 73. Ibid. pl. CXLVI, figs. 408-409.  
 74. Ibid. pl. CXLVI, fig. 410.  
 75. Ibid. pl. CXLVII, figs. 418-428.  
 76. Ibid. p. 158; pl. CXLVIII, fig. 422.  
 77. Ibid. pl. CXLVIII, figs. 429-431 and 433.

IX<sup>78</sup>. A ladle occurred among the miscellaneous objects from these strata<sup>79</sup>.

#### Pottery From Gawra VIII A-C<sup>80</sup>:

Although there is unmistakable continuity between the pottery from Gawra VIII and that of the underlying strata<sup>81</sup>, the general absence of surface decoration (particularly in Gawra VIII B-C), together with the introduction of new shapes differentiates the former<sup>82</sup> from the earlier group<sup>83</sup>. Gawra VIII-A, produced a group of painted and ribbed (incised) chalices; globular and ovoid-shaped jars; together with double- and triple-mouthed jars. In fabric the pottery of Gawra VIII (A-C) is either buff, grey or greenish in colour. The buff ware often has a reddish appearance. Crudely made vessels occurred in reddish, brown or grey clay. Buff ware, however, was predominant in this level; it is either hand-made or wheel-turned. The finer pottery consisted mainly of jars of which the surface was either wet-smoothed or covered with a cream slip. A few vessels were coated with grey or red slips. Burnishing was applied to a small number of vessels. Incised ornament was employed on some vessels in all three phases of Gawra VIII. Herring-bone and ribbed incision, however, is known only

from Gawra VIII-A<sup>84</sup>. Deep bowls with rounded bottoms and low carination were found in Gawra VIII-A<sup>85</sup>. Carinated bowls with tapering bottoms and a wide band of cross-hatched incision on the shoulder, also occurred in VIII-A; they are of dark grey burnished ware<sup>86</sup>. Cups with corrugated sides and tapering bases came from Gawra VIII-A, as did open bowls with rounded bottoms and carinated sides<sup>87</sup>. Shallow open bowls, a few with small flat bases, were common throughout Gawra VIII A-C, as well as earlier; these were both hand-made and wheel-turned. Among the bowls occurred a rather unusual type with double-curved sides<sup>88</sup>. Tall cups with either flaring or straight, corrugated sides were found. Of the former type, which is bell-like in shape, only four specimens were found, but the latter was popular throughout Gawra VIII and continued into VII<sup>89</sup>. A great variety of spouted and unspouted jars occurred. Of these the most common examples are with rounded profiles; some had either painted or corrugated shoulders<sup>90</sup>. A variation of this type of jars, but of more globular shape, both spouted and unspouted, occurred in VIII A-C. The spouted examples are especially common in Gawra VIII-A<sup>91</sup>. The two-mouthed jar, ovoid in shape with

78. Ibid. pl. CXLVIII, fig. 432.

79. Ibid. pl. CXLVIII, fig. 434.

80. Ibid. p. 159; pl. CXLVIII, fig. 439 (the only specimen found intact).

81. Gawra VIII has three occupational phases (A, B, and C), C being the oldest and A the latest. In level VIII-A, new ceramic types appeared in such abundance as to suggest the arrival of a new people with different ceramic traditions, see E.A. Speiser: ETG Vol. I, 1935, pp. 22-37. Gawra VIII-A and part of VII were grouped by Perkins under the next cultural phase, the "Ninevite period" (cf. A.L. Perkins: 1949, p. 194), which corresponds in part to the Jamdat Nasr period in the south.

82. Continuity is demonstrated by the following pottery forms: round bottomed bowls, crudely made flat-based bowls, straight-sided and bell-

shaped cups, deep carinated bowls with tapering bottoms, globular pots with flaring necks, pots with tubular side-spouts; these occurred throughout VIII A-C.

83. With the exception of some Ninevite V pottery in VIII-A.

84. Cf. Speiser: ETG vol. I, 1935, p. 41.

85. Ibid. p. 42.

86. Ibid. pl. LXIII, figs. 29-30 and 32.

87. Ibid. pl. LXIII, fig. 33.

88. Ibid. pl. LXII, figs. 27 (with irregular rim) and 28.

89. Ibid. pl. LXIII, figs. 20-26.

90. Ibid. p. 43; pl. LXIII, figs. 35-36.

91. Ibid. p. 43; pl. LXIV, figs. 40-43, 46, 48; (fig. 43 is red-slipped and vertically burnished, from VIIIA).

one mouth at the side, was found in Gawra VIII-A<sup>92</sup>. A triple-mouthed jar, globular in shape, was found in the same level<sup>93</sup>. Both jars are hand-made and buff in colour. Deep bowls, with rounded or almost tapering bottoms, were found<sup>94</sup>. Ladles were common throughout Gawra VIII: they occurred in a variety of sizes<sup>95</sup>.

#### IV

Uruk pottery was absent in the excavated area at Tell Billa; Billa 7 (which rests directly on virgin soil) and 6 yielded pottery of Ninevite V type, both painted and incised<sup>96</sup>. Chalice were the most popular forms of pottery in these levels. They occurred both in plain and painted wares. Simple cups and bowls also occurred<sup>97</sup>. Painted ware was strictly monochrome; the usual colour is deep purplish-brown, often shading into black. Red was less popular. Geometric, plant, and naturalistic designs were all present. Small bowls or saucers were used as lids for larger vessels<sup>98</sup>. The material from these levels shows many affinities with that of Jamdat Nasr phase in the South. All shapes found in Billa 7 continued in level 6, but the pottery from the latter is said to be more refined in technique<sup>99</sup>. The level 6 cups were tapered at the bottom<sup>100</sup>. Cooking-pots with lug-handles, some

burnished, occurred<sup>101</sup>. Painted designs were rare, but the use of incised decoration increased<sup>102</sup>.

#### V

The upper part of Tell Chenchi<sup>103</sup> yielded material of the third millennium B.C.<sup>104</sup>; the pottery appears to be incised Ninevite V<sup>105</sup>. Further excavation, however, would certainly reveal material of older phases however; such material occurs widely on the surface of the site<sup>106</sup>.

#### Summary:

The deep sounding at Nineveh, although not well stratified, provided the earliest stratigraphic evidence for Uruk wares in the north. Parallels with southern Mesopotamia including the type site, as well as with other northern sites are numerous. There was only one red ware sherd in level III, but such pottery was plentiful in level IV. Bevelled rim votive bowls started at the top of Nineveh III, and were very popular in level IV. In level IV surface decoration such as: circular pellets, a combination of red-slip and combed incision, combed decoration, and fingernail impression, were applied to various types of vessels. Such ornament is familiar from other northern sites as well as in the south. The fact that grey ware appears to precede red ware may well be an accident of

92. Ibid. pl. LXIII, fig. 37; pl. LXIV figs. 44-45, 47 (with high flaring neck, found in VIII-A).

93. Ibid. p. 44, pl. LXIII, fig. 38.

94. Ibid. p. 44, pl. LXIII, fig. 39.

95. Ibid. pl. LXIV, figs. 49-50.

96. Ibid. p. 44; pl. XXXb, No. 3, and Nos. 1-2; No. 1 is grey in colour, coated with a dark grey slip, cf. also pl. LXXXV, fig. 211.

97. Speiser correlates the material from these two levels with that of the Jamdat Nasr period in the south; cf. MJ XXIII, No. 3, 1933, p. 276. For a discussion of Billa 7 see *ibid.* pp. 249-250.

98. Ibid. p. 252, pls. XLVIII, Nos. 1-2; XLIX, Nos. 1-5. Painted designs appeared chiefly on chalices, cf. *ibid.* pl. LXIX.

99. Cf. BASOR No. 42 (April, 1931), p. 13.

100. MJ XXIII, No. 3, p. 253, pl. L, Nos. 1-2.

101. Ibid. pl. LII, Nos. 1-8.

102. Ibid. p. 278, and pl. LIII, No. 7.

103. Ibid. p. 253, and pls. LXX, LXXI.

104. After closing its 1932-33 season at Tell Asmar, the Oriental Institute's expedition conducted short excavations both at Chenchi (eight hundred metres south of southern wall of Khorsabad) and Jerwan. Of the former only a short account has been published so far. Cf. OIP XVII (June 1934), p. 89.

105. Such as, house with arched doorways, bronze tools and weapons, seals and pottery; cf. *ibid.* p. 89, figs. 81-82.

106. Lloyd. S. Iraq. V, 1933, p. 133.

excavation, as at all other sites they appear to be contemporary.

In Gawra XI-A a number of changes in material culture took place, especially in the pottery. Analogous changes occurred at about this time in lower Mesopotamia (c. Warka XIV). The painted pottery of the 'Ubaid period was replaced entirely by plain undecorated ware, and burial customs known elsewhere in the Uruk period were adopted. Such innovation continued throughout the overlying strata up to level VIII-A. Among the pottery types of Gawra XI-A, the most prominent was the flat-based open bowl, with straight flaring sides. Other bowls with rounded bottoms, straight sides, and carinated bodies can be compared with examples from Warka XIV<sup>107</sup>. Double-mouthed jars were numerous; parallels can be noted both at Eridu and 'Uqair. The bulging jars, found in Gawra XI-A and continued up to level VIII, can be compared with examples from Eridu (early group) and Warka VII-VI (and probably earlier). Gawra XI-IX were united by their architectural features as well as by their ceramic product. Pottery from these levels was generally brown or buff, yet there were many examples of red and red-brown ware. A few grey and black ware sherds were found in Gawra XI-X-A. There was only one grey sherd in level IX; it is burnished. Brown or red-brown slips were applied to several types of vessels; wet smoothing or wash techniques were sometimes employed. Surface decoration, which was absent in Gawra XI-A, reappeared on a large group of vessels in these levels. Burnishing was not especially popular; vessels treated in this manner were for the most part of grey or black ware (in XI-XA). The pot-

tery of Gawra XI-IX displayed a variety of shapes: bowls, cups, beakers, chalices, pots, and jars. Flat and round-bottomed bowls were by far the most common type. The sinuous-sided bowls have parallels in Warka VIII-VII. A tall jar, the only example of its kind from Gawra, can be compared with examples from Warka VI-V. Double-mouthed jars were popular, a tendency to bring the two mouths closer being a noticeable feature in Gawra XI-IX. There is a parallel in Warka VI for the Gawra ladle, a type which continues into level VIII.

There is unmistakable continuity between the pottery from Gawra VIII and that of the earlier levels, yet the absence of surface decoration, especially in VIII B-C, together with the introduction of new shapes, differentiates the two groups. The following types occur for the first time in level VIII-A and continued into VII: bowls with rounded bottoms and low carination; carinated bowls with tapering bottoms, and wide bands of crosshatched incision on the shoulder; cups with corrugated sides and tapering bases; tall cups; a group of painted and incised (ribbed) chalices; the use of horizontal ribbing on the upper bodies of vessels; and fine incised ornament on the grey ware. These features which are typical of Ninevite V pottery, led Miss Perkins, rightly, to place Gawra VIII-A (together with part of VII) within the Ninevite period<sup>108</sup>. The term "Gawra period" first suggested by Speiser was adopted by Perkins to describe the pottery found at Gawra between the end of the 'Ubaid period and the beginning of Ninevite V, that is Gawra XI-A-VIII B<sup>109</sup>. In spite of Perkins' arguments to the contrary, this pottery corresponds closely to pottery of

107. Surface material seen by the writer when visiting the site.

108. Cf. UVB IV, pl. 17Db, c, d, e.

109. Cf. A.L. Perkins: 1949, p. 193.

110. Ibid. pp. 194-197, and 199.

the Uruk period in southern Mesopotamia, and even more closely to what is generally regarded as Uruk pottery elsewhere in the north. The present writer therefore prefers to abandon the term "Gawra" and to designate as Uruk the post-Ubaid and pre-Ninevite V pottery from Tepe Gawra. The use of the latter term reflects more accurately both the continuity of

pottery types at the site and, allowing for local variations which are always present, the general uniformity of the pottery types of this period. The term Ninevite V pottery, already popular in archaeological literature, is adopted here to describe the very distinctive painted and incised pottery which follows Uruk everywhere in northern Mesopotamia.