

TRIAL TRENCHES AT KOJ TEPA, SAMARKAND AREA (SOGDIANA)
(*Fourth Interim Report 2012*)

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Introduction

The Joint Uzbek-Italian archaeological activity of the Institute of Archaeology of Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan (IAASU) and the Università degli Studi di Napoli, "l'Orientale" (UNO), in Samarkand region, started in 2008 on the sly, with partial financial budget, time and advices at disposal. The project was originally aimed at detecting and investigating possible Achaemenid and post-Achaemenid cultural horizons; after three already effected campaigns, it has become more organic and comprehensive and is, basically, aimed at analyzing differing aspects of the urban evolution in the Pastargom district, from the Achaemenid to the Hellenistic and later period. The field work activities at Koj Tepa after the very short first campaign in May-June of 2008¹, the second in June-July 2009², the study

¹ The choice to analyze the site was suggested by the Italian Archaeological Mission (IAM) of the Università degli Studi di Bologna, *Alma Mater* (UNIBO), which had identified different other sites of the period (Genito, Gricina *et alii* 2009, 126-128).

activities in September 2010³, continued with a more ample third season in 2011 (June-July)⁴ and a fourth in 2012 (August-September)⁵, through more extensive trial-trenches.

² The second season of activity was aimed at recognizing any stratigraphic coordinates and as much as possible evidences of the fortification earthen wall encircling the high citadel/tepe utilizing an irregular trench due to the modern agricultural activities (Genito, Gricina *et alii* 2010).

³ In 2010 a study of the materials (mostly pottery) was made by Drs. Maria D'Angelo and Fabiana Raiano, who was preparing her MA dissertation, then, held at UNO the 4th April 2011 with the co-supervisor-ship of Dr. Bertylle Lyonnet (CNRS, Paris) and Dr. Serena Massa of the Università degli Studi di Milano, "La Cattolica". We want very much and deeply thank both for their precious help and support.

⁴ The realization of the work this year was possible, from the Italian side, thanks to the particular availability of the Rector of UNO Prof. Lida Viganoni and the staff of its International Relationships Office, in particular Mrs. Marina Guidetti and Nicoletta De Dominicis. The financial support has been also granted by the *Centro Interdipartimentale di Servizi per l'Archeologia* (CISA), UNO and for that, heartfelt thanks are devoted to the President Prof. Rodolfo Fattovich, the colleague Prof. Irene Bragantini, Dr. Andrea D'Andrea and Dr. Rosario Valentini. Thanks are also due to the Italian Archaeological Mission in Uzbekistan of the Università degli Studi di Bologna, *Alma Mater* and in particular, to the Director Prof. M. Tosi, and Dr. Simone Mantellini, who made everything in their hand, very easy and possible.

⁵ I take the occasion here to express my deepest thanks to the Director of IAASU Dr. A. Berdymuradov for his kind participation to all the stages of the activities also this year, from the organizational to the scientific. The realization of the work has been possible from the Italian side, for the particular availability of the Rector of UNO Prof. Lida Viganoni and the staff of the International Relationships Office of UNO. The financial support has been also granted, as usually, by the *Centro Interdipartimentale di Servizi per l'Archeologia* (CISA), UNO and for that, many thanks are devoted to the President Prof. Rodolfo Fattovich, the colleague Prof. Irene Bragantini, Dr. Andrea D'Andrea and Dr. Rosario Valentini. Thanks are also due to the Italian Archaeological Mission in Uzbekistan of UNIBO and in particular, to the Director Prof. M. Tosi, and his staff. A particular thank is also due to Dr. Dmitry Khosthuskhin for his help as translator and for any other organizational type of support. For the scientific aspect special thanks are due to Prof. Kazim Abdullaev, the co-author of this report both for his scientific role and the qualitative and friendly operational participation to the work activities, Sherzod Pardaev PHD student of IAASU, the workmen, the driver Mr. Takyr Oçylov and Mrs. Shukurova Saodat for having rent to us a comfortable house in the compound of the Institute. Last but not least special gratitude are also due to Fabiana Raiano (PHD student), Francesco Franzese (MA student) of UNO and Li Yusheng (PHD student) of Peking University, who devoted most

The site represents a rather important settlement, constituted by a almost central 9 m high, truncated-cone shaped tepa, and an encircling earthen wall and an external moat as well (Fig. 1).

According to the topographic results achieved by the IAM of UNIBO, the city walls, though not still clearly identified, because partially cut through by modern agricultural activities⁶, are very similar to a well known settlement pattern of an urban system for towns in the ancient Samarkand and Ustrushana areas, in the historical and Hellenistic period.

The joint Uzbek/Italian team spent more than 3 weeks in the area (from 16th August to 8th September 2012), acting with the following new field operations⁷.

Field Activity (Summer 2012)

Koj Tepa⁸, as is known is located at less than 50 km to south-west from Samarkand and very close to the outskirts of the Chandyr village⁹. The fourth season of excavation amongst the others, had the following main objectives, all aiming at investigating:

- the area between the main tepe and the NE corner of the encircling wall, named Trench no 9, with different successive extensions;

part of the time to the excavation and to the material analyses. Very special thanks are also due to Dr. Davide Lunelli, archaeologist, topographer and draftsman, who with his precious experience gave a further important contribution to the work.

⁶ Koj Tepa is an area 175 m long × 150 m wide (26.250 mq = 2.62 ha) and the difference in the level from the top to the bottom is 9.94 m. The absolute quote is 697.30 a.s.l. The geographic coordinates of the site are 42 S 300099.77 m E, 4386573.90 m N (UTM).

⁷ The work has been possible thanks to the renewal of the official agreement between IAASU and UNO, signed first time in 2008 and 2009 and for the second time in September in Samarkand and in Autumn in Napoli in 2012.

⁸ For the previous activity in the area and specially for the relationships between the Dargom and the Eski Ankhor canals, see Kabanov (1959, 154-174).

⁹ On the basis of the materials and data collected from the surface, from section nos. 1 and 2 in 2008, from the trenches effected in 2009 and from the study activity in 2010, the site has presented, for the moment, traces related to post Achaemenid period (Genito, Gricina *et alii* 2009; Genito, Gricina *et alii* 2010; Abdullaev, Genito *et alii* 2011; Abdullaev, Genito, 2010-2011; Genito, Raiano, 2011).

- the extended area in Trench no 5, according to the new general grid of the site put down this year, in order to find possible earlier architectural and material culture;
- the un-excavated Eastern Half, and the partially excavated Western Half of Trench no 6;
- as much as dating material culture possible, in order to achieve a more detailed typological and possibly chronological stratigraphic differentiation.

Trench no 5 and its Enlargement

The first operation has been the regularization of the topographical location of the Trench (see below *Topographical activity*), which, for differing reasons, was, previously, not exactly north-south oriented¹⁰, and emptying the old trench, removing the wet and dry grasses arisen during this year after their filling up (Fig. 2). The general condition of the Trench seemed, since the beginning, in a good shape, a part from three or four big holes, excavated by animals (probably rabbits or crotovinas) along the south-eastern limit of the trench and four or five little plants grown up. During the cleaning operation the main wall structural remains as SU (35) and SU (41) at that time detected and identified, have been preserved in order to have the exact representation of the situation of the excavation as it was at the closing day of last year (Fig. 3). The huge quantity of terrain used to cover the Trench and in particular the main archaeological layers constituted by SU (35), (41), (58), (60), (67) and (72) etc., finally was completely removed.

According to the new situation provided by a more regular planned project, it has been decided to realize over the whole area of the site, a general grid of squares, whose average measures 5×5 m, including Trench no 5 (see below *Topographical activity*)¹¹ (Figs. 4, 5).

¹⁰ Many factors contributed to have an improper and irregular way of organizing the work: the different topographical approach in different seasons, different teams of archaeologists and topographers in the field, and mainly the official and institutional level of the collaboration used, which, seemingly, could not guarantee very well the future of the activity.

¹¹ The grid, thus realized, has a difference of 16° degree toward North respect to the old orientation of the trench. Two were the possible operative options: to correct the angular difference by four triangular shaped by little cuttings in the four sides of the trench, in this

The *humus* from the northern extended side of the trench and later in the other cloves, has been removed, leading one to define again SU (S) (Surface), where a low percentage of potsherds, stones and one pottery disk (Fig. 6), come to the light. Since this moment all the four cloves of the extended trench are, contemporaneously, worked out (Fig. 7). Later, making other different cuttings in SU (S), it is possible to note that the hard consistence of the soil is the same of last year in all the new extended parts of the trench. Taking in consideration the presence and the level of the main structural remains unearthed during the last year, SU (1) has been assigned to the soil removed, where different potsherds, stones and bones have been collected. After three more cuttings, the soil on the top of the main wall SU (35) has been removed; SU (1), and the same level of SU (5) has been reached, balancing the soil in all the cloves of the trench, using, horizontally, spades. After this operation more or less 3 or 4 cm of soil, were removed, and only few potsherds of pottery come from.

The activities continue removing more 3 cm of soil in SU (5), grayish colored with a very hard and absolutely compact consistence in the south and in north cloves of the Trench. After the first cutting the level of the soil reached is at the same height (- 29 cm ca) of the location of the most part of SU (8) and SU (37), typical stratigraphic units widespread over and around any structural remains. Few potsherds and a big stone, probably a millstone, came to the light in the eastern clove of the trench; it has not been removed because it may properly define the level of SU (8) (Fig. 8)¹². It has been decided, thus, to cut off again 2 cm of soil in all the trench and, later, it has immediately been noted that the percentage of potsherds is increasing in the northern and eastern cloves of the trench, while in the southern no potsherd for the moment has been found. Many potsherds came to the light, instead, in SU (8), and only one in SU (37) (Fig. 9). The operation of cutting

way, planning to modify Trench no 5's dimensions from 4 × 3 m to 4,7 × 4 m (in sq m, one is going to add 6,8 m² to the 12 m² excavated surface of Trench no 5), reaching a total of 18,8 m²; to extend the excavation till covering all the surface of the grid. The second option has been selected and, thus, Trench no 5 is, since now, going to measure 5 × 5 m, having a surplus of 13 m² of excavated surface, reaching the total surface of 25 m².

¹² The encrustation on the surface of this stone has been brushed in order to identify the shape, smoothness and color. The millstone has a very regular shape (square), very smooth surface and its color resembling that of a marble pink.

(3 cm ca) is continuously repeated without a substantial change; similarly to the soil of SU (5), that of SU (8) is more hard in the north-eastern cloves than in the south-eastern; it has been decided, thus, to cut again 2 cm only in SU (8) also at NE (the large area around the mud-brick structure of the last season) (Fig. 10); one potsherd lying in the soil, has been found (Fig. 11).

It has been yet decided to remove more 3 cm ca of soil in the north-eastern part of SU (8), where some potsherds are clearly lying. During the removal of soil, a particular potsherd together to many others is coming out. Considering its dimension and shape, it consists of a possible round plate or table with a foot, possibly of nomadic tradition (Fig. 12). Likely in SU (8), one is proceeding in SU (37) to remove soil (3 cm ca), in which no any potsherd comes out. After the first cut, one is starting to remove the soil fallen down in the trench and during the cleaning operation in SU (2), some potsherds come out in SU (58). Later all the cloves of the trench have been cleaned up, and it has been decided to remove 3 cm ca of soil from the north-eastern corner, where the consistence of the soil is very hard. Many potsherds come out in SU (8), comparing with those from SU (37), where only one potsherd comes out. In order to have a very clear aspect of the trench and following, possibly, the alignment of the structures found last year, it has been started to brush the soil (3 cm ca), where the consistence is very compact and hard. A part from some potsherds collected only in SU (8), no trace of any mud-brick or structural remains were identified in SU (8) and SU (37); thus, the operation of brushing the soil (2 cm ca) has been repeated again only in SU (8), where after a detailed cleaning and washing the soil, some traces of mud-bricks or mud-blocks became more and more evident (Fig. 13).

It has been decided, furthermore, to remove 2 cm ca of soil in all the cloves of the trench, paying attention and taking care of the possible appearing of new mud-bricks and mud-blocks or alignments in SU (8). During the removal of soil, in the north-eastern location of SU (8) where the consistence of soil is still very hard, a fragment of a base of a goblet has been found, and in SU (37) practically nothing. In order to regularize the level of SU (1), at least 2 cm ca of soil have been removed again. One mud-block or structural remain has been found, cleaning, at the best, in all its parts. The aspect of the trench and the order and orientation of the structure has not been completely clarified; thus, one is proceeding to remove again 3 cm ca of soil in the same way of the first cut. During the removal of this,

many potsherds (one of these very big and well preserved), and few stones come out in SU (8) and only one potsherd in SU (37). At the end, the depth of the soil around the mud-block has been measured, - 6 cm).

Three cm ca of soil in all the cloves of the trench have been removed, paying attention to the mud-block come out, at the depth of - 43 cm in SU (8). During the removal of the soil, a very big and flat millstone, located in the eastern part of SU (8), has been found and some potsherds, instead, in SU (37), and a very big, heavy and irregular stone and a mud-block, at the depth of 50 cm also. Being not yet clear the presence of new mud-brick structure, one is proceeding to cut again 3 cm ca of soil. During the removal of the soil of the second cut, burnt potsherds located in the eastern part of SU (8) have been found, where, probably, another mud-block came out just (Fig. 14).

More 3 cm ca of soil in the all parts of the trench have been removed, paying attention to the mud-blocks found in SU (8) and SU (37). Near the blocks the consistence of the soil is very hard, while in the corner is quite sandy. During the removal of the first cut of soil, many potsherds came out in SU (8) and few in SU (37); thus, later it has been washed the soil, proceeding to remove soil only in SU (37), because of a possible alignment of mud-blocks, located in the eastern limit of SU. It has been noted that in the western part of the trench the depth of SU (41) and in the eastern part that of SU (53) has been almost reached.

It has been decided to remove 3 cm ca of soil from SU (8) to SU (37). During this removal a basis with a fine fabric in SU (8) (Fig. 15), some potsherds and stones more or less elliptical have been found; in SU (37), however, nothing comes to the light. The possible alignment of mud-blocks found have been cleaned up. Until now, no topographical SU has been yet assigned to the mud-blocks, come out because the alignment of these mud-brick structures is not clear. After the first cut the absolute quotes of the top of the mud-blocks have been taken; thus, one is proceeding to cut 3 cm ca of soil only in SU (8), paying attention to the wall structural remain SU (41). No one potsherds comes out during the removal of soil.

Two more cm of soil ca are removed in all the cloves of the trench, paying attention to wall remains SU (41), located beneath SU (8), and to the probable mud-blocks found. The surface and the border and the top of SU (41) has been reached and cleaned up; thus it has been decided to assign SU (42) to the soil located exactly just beneath the border of wall SU (41) (Fig.

16). In the same way of SU (41), the eastern profile of the mud-blocks alignment between SU (37) and SU (8) has been cleaned up; thus, it has been assigned a new topographical SU (80), constituted by small and middle size mud-blocks (Fig. 17). During the removal of the soil of the first cut, the mud-block found in the eastern side has been removed because the consistence of the soil beneath was very soft and sandy. Some potsherds have been found in SU (8) and nothing in SU (37). Later, one is proceeding to cut again 3 cm ca of soil in SU (42) and (37). A very soft consistence of the soil beneath this last SU is due to two holes excavated by rodents or other animals. It has been decided to remove a big part of SU (80). During the removal of the soil in SU (42), it has been found one semi-circular millstone and a possible pottery disk (Fig. 18), instead, in SU (37) many potsherds come to the light and a fragment of a probably lid with handle (Fig. 19). After the second cut, it has been decided to remove part of wall SU (35), because the consistence of the structure is not compact and hard, but very soft and sandy. Probably, during the operations of removal, at the beginning of excavation, it has been left standing. Probably the clear appearing of wall SU (41) defines a western wall of a room, belonging to SU (42).

Three cm ca of soil are removed again in all the cloves of trench in SU (42) and (37). Later, one is taking care of the cleaning of the eastern profile and the top of wall SU (41), a possible structure SU (50), beneath wall SU (35), and the removing part of the sandy soil fallen down in the cave (now opened at the top), beneath the eastern profile of SU (80) and in all the parts of the trench dug last year. During the removal of the soil some potsherds came out. After the first cut, one is proceeding to remove 3 cm ca only in SU (42); nothing comes out. The consistence of the soil remain the same: very soft and sandy in the northern and southern parts; very hard and compact in the corner.

One is starting to remove 3 cm ca of soil in all the cloves of the trench. During the removal, in the eastern part, the top of SU (53) has been reached and one big fragment of a jar is found, just near the corner of trench of the last year excavation (Fig. 20); besides, it has been come out, in the eastern profile of the trench, brown and hard clay with an undefined shape just between SU (42) and (53) (Fig. 21). During the first cut it is proceeding to clean out the wash-out of wall SU (35) in the southern part and removing, in the northern part, the block and soil left standing because of their hard

consistence; successively, it is proceeding to clean out the eastern profile of wall SU (41). Later, it is proceeding to remove again 3 cm ca of soil in all the parts of the trench. During the removal of the soil, the top of SU (45) of last year excavation in SU (42) has been reached, and, in the northern part of the wall SU (35), thus, to this part of the trench has been assigned SU (45). During the removal of soil a big fragment of pottery in SU (53) has been found, close to the big fragment previously found; three big fragment in SU (37), while in SU (45) still nothing. Considering the widespread over the level of SU (53) of other large pottery fragments of jars, it seems clear to assign to the whole area the same SU (53) of last year. One is starting to remove 5 cm ca of soil in all the parts of the trench, paying attention to the big fragments of pottery came to the light in SU (53), one in the SE corner of last year trench and the others in the southern limit of the new trench (Fig. 22). During the removal, the big fragment in the corner has been removed, many potsherds have been found and few of these probably belonging to the big jar besides; in SU (45) nothing came out. The consistence of soil along the southern limit of the extended trench is sandy and beneath the fragments there is a little sandy depression with the bottom very hard.

One is starting to remove 6 cm ca of soil in all the parts of the trench, paying attention to the fragments of pottery in the southern limit of the extended trench. During the removal many potsherds came out in SU (53) and, probably, one of these is a basis of a vessel; besides in SU (45), few ones. Later, one is starting to clean out the wash-out (SU 58) of wall SU (35), removing part of the compact soil put down in the eastern side of SU (41) and the soil fallen down because of the daily cuttings in SU of last year excavation. The consistence of the soil remain the same of the last day.

One is starting to remove 5 cm ca of soil in all the parts of the trench, except for the southern part of SU (53) where the big fragments of pottery are located. During the removal of the soil in SU (45), the top of SU (48) has been reached; the big blocks left standing until now in SU (45) has been removed because the soil beneath was not compact but quite sandy. The big fragments of pottery in SU (53), at the depth of 1 m ca, have been finally removed taking care of the limit of the extended trench. Many potsherds came out in SU (45), one of these is a pottery disk (Fig. 23); just one in SU (48) and nothing in SU (53) except for the big fragments.

Trench 9

A new rectangular trench close to the eastern part of the encircling wall, has been opened and named as no 9, between the inner space and the tepe. This area had given evidence of the only slightly elevated mound (ca 2.00 from the top to the campaign plain) inside the wall' curtain (Fig. 24) and the encircling wall (at 11 m ca far to East); it is located in the northeast corner of the site, and it could be in advance interpreted either as structural evidence, and late deposit of the wall's collapse, or as a barrier (made by the lapsing of the encircling wall) against the moat. The hillock presents gently slopes to North and South with an almost circular perimeter c., of about 20 m.

The trench, originally 8 m long (NS) \times 2 m wide (EW) (Fig. 25), a large part of the grass and vegetal remains covering the whole area has been taken out, is opened in order to understand the relationship between the encircling wall and the tepe, which most probably in both its sloping edges (N and S) was occupied by the campaign plain, and to East by the encircling wall of the tepe as well.

During the first cutting in SU (S), the soil, dusty colored, is full of roots with a dry, hard texture and also sand widespread. Few fragments of reddish potsherds and pebbles are found (Fig. 26). During the second cutting there is some change in the soil texture, especially in the southern part, where some baked greenish soil has been continually discovered (Fig. 27). After a further careful cleaning, the outline of this soil became much clearer, and fragments of two walls in mud bricks seem to meet in right angles, one northwest-southeast oriented and 70 cm wide, the other west-east (?) oriented, about 90 cm (Fig. 28). Inside the wall' texture, it is also very easy to identify some size of the bricks, 40 \times 40 and 20 \times 20 cm (Fig. 29). This kind of greenish soil apparently looks like the same wall fragment discovered in Trench no 6, and named SU (44) (Fig. 30) last year.

Trench 9 South-West Extension

According to the distribution of the wall' texture discovered in Trench no 9, an extension at SW is lined out; the plan is 6 m (NS) \times 7 \times 3 m (EW) (Figs. 31, 32). During the excavating the surface is brownish, full of roots, and with a dry, tough texture. Potsherds and pebbles are continually

unearthed, more than before. After a cut of 10 cm, 3 lines of mud bricks were found also in the northern part, each line was made up with 4 bricks (east-west oriented), most of all being 40 × 40 cm in size. To the south and north part of the three lines, there are also some mud bricks, but in a much more narrow size (28-30 cm in width), the distribution of which is still unclear. To the South of the mud brick wall, several fragments of pottery, belonging to SU (8), were found (Fig. 33).

Based on the new grid system adopted¹³, new corrections in the location were made. Trench no 9 and Trench no 9 SW Extension, are considered since now as an entire New Trench no 9 and extending 11 m (NS) × 6 m (Fig. 34). Then the main work was focused on the protuberance part of SU (8) in the southern part; after a cut of 7 cm, which is also hardened to be some kind of firm layer with silver sand widely spread, a grayish and more simplex soil appeared. Also after a careful sweeping and identification, the same position of the “two walls meet in right angles”, shows more details, which leads the function of it for some other interpretations; for example, not only a simple wall. More complicated, all in all, this area needs more attention and observation. In the mean time, excavation was carried out in the area of enlargement mainly to North and North-West, and the surface presents almost the same situation as before, fully filled roots, brownish and with a tough texture, fragments of reddish potteries and pebbles were found, too, in a sloping edge going down to North and South as well.

It has been decided to finish to remove the rest of the soil of the surface; later, according to the relationship between SU (8) (one of the usual stratigraphic units around structural remains) and the wall in mud-brick named as SU (75), there are new cuttings to the North of the wall, which are 3-5 cm in deep; the soil is a little bit brownish, still compact, with fewer roots and to south. Potsherds and pebbles are unearthed, too. The situation is more or less similar, and the soil is in a grayish color. Then more attention was paid to the sloping eastern and western parts of the wall, using the spade and bill, whose trend and whose relationship with SU (8) is still unclear (Fig. 35). The most important achievement has been to identify another six (at least) mud bricks lines to the west of the same bricks

¹³ See the *Topographical Activity* below.

discovered before, the western edge (?) of which are, maybe, some mud bricks vertical to the horizon. The size of the mud bricks newly discovered is different, some big and clear one is 40×40 cm, someone is smaller, and still there are some sides of the bricks not clear (Fig. 36).

It is necessary to make the distribution of mud bricks clear, namely, the boundary. The fact is, neither the east nor the west side of the mud bricks, its relationship with the rest of the Trench are still clear, the only sure fact is that its edge is full of collapsed deposit, whitish with a very hard, compact texture, none potsherds were found in it; on the contrary, the soil among the hard deposit is very soft and loose, in reddish color, full of roots, and fragments of pottery unearthed, too. In the mean time, there is one cut for the north and south part of Trench, too, reaching a depth of 25 cm in most (Fig. 37). During the excavation, reddish potsherds and pebble stone tools were unearthed, and as the most important discovery, there is a female statuette (dressed, but head lost) unearthed in the position which is 1.25 m to the south side, 3.03 m to the west side of Trench, and 15 cm in deep (Fig. 38). After cleaning the surface of the southern part of Trench at last, a group of parallel lines (or gaps), which are south-north oriented, just like the same ones discovered to the north have been found (Fig. 39). The number is still not very clear, maybe at least seven, and the distance between them is all 10 cm, also like the same situation to the north, all these things suggest a possibility that the bricks discovered in the Trench should belong to a much bigger architecture¹⁴.

According to the situation of the Trench, new cuttings were continuously made to the northern and southern part of the mud-brick wall. Most part of the northern area is full of soft loose soil, but still, in the area which is 3 m away from the northern side, 2 m away from the west side, and 1.2 m away from the east side, there is some compact whitish soil, also some greenish baked soil, too. In the area of the northwest corner, about 1.5 m away from the western side, the compact whitish soil exists, too. The new

¹⁴ The original observation pointed out to the consideration that these remains could be structural mud-bricks lines. The ample extension, at the moment recognized, of these lines suggests also different interpretation perspectives, leading to a platform or to a large paved area etc.

cut in the southern area, which is about 9 cm in deep, has not been finished yet, some potsherds and over burned soil were found, too.

Two new cuts were carried out to the north of the mud-brick wall, along the sloping northern edge of the square; some potsherds with whitish cover (salt deposit within the soil), were found, in the mean time. One same cut was executed to the southern part of the mud-brick wall, where it is easy to see a similar collapse deposit, such as mud-brick, was found in the southwest corner, too. There was also some greenish baked soil, which had already been ruined by the worms. To the eastern part, the two groups of parallel interstices (south-north oriented) were proved to be between the vertical bricks (?) with loosening soil inside. About the number of the bricks, in north, it should be 12 at least, to the south, it should be 6-7 ones (Fig. 40). Like the same work, new cuts were continually carried out both to the north and south part of the mud-brick area; as a result, the northeast and southwest corners, which were the deepest part of the trench, reach a depth of 30 cm; potsherds with whitish cover were still found, and also there was a piece of hard over-burned 'thing' (not pottery, with clear stripes/layers) unearthed, too. To the east part of the mud-brick area, close to the east side of the trench, several cuts were executed to clarify the distribution of bricks, but it produces very little effect. Along the sloping, several mud bricks were recognized, which were in different directions. In the southwest corner of the trench, more bricks were found, all broken, and in different orientation (Fig. 41). At last, in order to know more details about the distribution of the mud brick area, a new enlargement, named Trench 9 West Extension 2, which was in a size of 2×3 m, was set up to the west side of the trench (Fig. 42).

The operation of removing the surface of Trench 9 West Extension 2, was still continuing, after finished, several mud-bricks, which were in 2 parallel groups, were recognized, stretching along the sloping from the top mud-brick area (Fig. 43). For the clear one, the size is about 32×30 cm, with a depth of 18 cm. But the space between them was still unclear; also, the continuous distribution of the mud brick area drives a new enlargement named Trench 9 West Extension 3, which is close to the west side of West Extension 2 and in a size of 3×2 m (Fig. 44). Along the slope, the surface is in a very hard texture, full of roots but with very rare materials found.

Trench no 9 West Extension 3, the size of which was finally adjusted to be 2×4 m, was continuative to remove the surface. After that, several

very thin cuts were carried out to search for the tracks of the mud-bricks in the area between the two parallel groups found; fortunately, they came out along the slope, and what it is more, the new-found mud brick area broke the original one which is spreading from the top of Trench no 9. This phenomenon clearly shows the chronological order of different areas. About the end of the newly discovered one, it is still not clear, and there are fewer potsherds unearthed, too.

Although a line of mud bricks has already been discovered yesterday, the situation is still not clear to the north of Trench no 9, West Extension 2. Because of that, several new cuts were carried out to recognize more details; as a result, it is clear that some outlines of bricks do exist, but the bricks were badly destroyed by animal activities of later period (Fig. 45). Then several cuts were executed along the sloping edge to west, which leads to a new line of mud-bricks. The newly found line was approximately parallel with the one discovered yesterday, but about 3-4 cm lower, and the revealed part is about 30 cm in width. Whether its western side was covered by the line unearthed yesterday is still not clear, neither its distribution, but it seems that there is clear distinction between the west end of New Trench no 9 and the Trench no 9, West Extension 3 and the mud brick part. For the brick, it is hard and whitish, and for the west end, it is brownish, soft, and sandy.

Several new cuts were continuous to be carried out in the western and northern area of Trench 9 West Extension 2-3, which was still not clear. Along the two lines of mud bricks discovered, new tracks of their prolongation were persistently found until disappeared in the southern side of the trench, fragment of stone unearthed from this area, too. To the northern part, which was about 40 cm deep in most till the end of the day, two new lines of mud bricks were found with a size of approximately 40 × 40 cm, but situation in the eastern part is still not clear. The soil between different lines of mud bricks was brownish and very soft; and some reddish potsherds were also unearthed from it.

Along the lines of mud bricks, new cuts were carried out on, to identify the track of the lines up, and fortunately it exists, except the eastern (upper) end which is closed to the mud-brick area in Trench no 9. For the moment, it was very difficult to find the evidence which could show that the bricks were linked to Trench no 9, because the area where bricks cannot be found was different, it was brownish and soft. In other parts of the northern

area, more bricks were found, some were narrow, only 16 cm in wide, all in all; it seems Trench no 9 West Extension 2-3 is full of different size of bricks, and also in different level. About the texture of the brick, some fragments showed that it was sandy and including tracks of culms. In the mean time, in order to know more details about the structures of lower part of the slope, a new enlargement of Trench no 9 West Extension, namely Trench 9 West Extension 4 with a size of 2 × 2 m, was set up (Fig. 46). The work of removing the surface soil has been finished, but no more structures were found.

New excavation was still focused to the north of lines of bricks recognized, namely the northwest corner of Trench no 9, West Extension 4. After several cuts, two new mud bricks were recognized, which were about 35 cm in wide, and with the same direction of the lines found before. In the mean time, around the west end the Trench 9, West Extension 4, new cuts were carried on and on to find more details about the lower part of the slope (Fig. 47). As a result, plenty of reddish potsherds (with a white cover, salt deposit from the soil?) and bones were found in 2 positions, and they formed in two pile/heap. The southwest corner of Trench no 9, West Extension 4 was about 25 cm in deep.

Trench no 6 Eastern Half (hereinafter EH)

The first step of the new excavation in Trench no 6 was to remove the drift covered in 2011; at the end of the work last year, when the excavation was over, the depth of the western part, almost completely excavated, was at -140-150 cm from the campaign plain. In the mean time, the eastern part, after some cuttings of 10-15 cm, was left un-excavated (Fig. 48). Before the removing, there are sparse xerophiles on the surface, and also because of the sunken situation, several residues formed by rainwater; the four sides of the trench, nonetheless, are preserved well. After several cuttings in the area of 240 cm away from the west side of the trench, one finally made empty the square to a depth of 80-120 cm. Potsherds, stones and bones unearthed during last year has been collected again (Fig. 49).

After cleaning operations, one start to excavate the EH of the trench, left unexcavated, removing the superficial soil constituted by the filling of

the Trench for conservation purpose in the last day of last Campaign and by the natural expositional layer of the last year. Under it, a more compact layer appears, with greyish colour, some amount of potsherds, some burnt clay and plasters (Fig. 50). It corresponds to SU (49) [(in time unifying SU (31) and (34) and SU (65)]. Before cutting SU (49) one digs the last remains on layer SU (2) near the north/east corner of the trench. In the interface between SU (49) and SU (2) an interesting fragment of a black painted and engraved rim of a jar, possible under Kushan influence (Fig. 51). In a first moment one is keeping it in its location; the removal of the inclined level SU (54), in the north/east corner of the trench, was more urgent. Thus it was reached the same level of SU (49). Under SU (2) and SU (54), another SU appears, supposedly SU (65). Starting from this levelled ground, one is removing SU (49) and (65). Both layers have been quoted.

The excavation of the EH of the trench follows removing around 10 cm. of SU (65) and SU (49) in the northern and southern part of the trench. In these thin layers, a big amount of potsherds, plaster, stones and bones appear and are collected. Initially one recognises that the eastern border of the half is rather hard and compact, and most probably should constitute the SU (38) or its destroyed part (Fig. 52). A little diaphragm EW oriented seems to be constituted by an hard and compact clay too, dividing, thus, the northern part from the southern (Fig. 53), which is, conventionally and according to the last year SU definition, named SU (49) and resembling the shape of a pit, part of the break-in which was never clearly identified last year. Then one proceeds excavating SU (49): here too, in a ochre-brownish earth, a big amount of pottery fragments have been found, with potsherds, plaster, stones and bones. By the colour of the earth and by the typology of fragmented items collected the impression is that these two areas the northern and southern were in fact realized utilizing and cutting the fortification wall SU (38) in a secondary phase when it was not anymore in use (Fig. 54). In the second case there is a rather clear confirmation of this evidence, because a north-south oriented part of hard and compact clay (possibly SU (38)(Fig.55), rightly cut in early times, and in a way connected to the southernmost part of SU (38) / SU (44) has been found, probably representing the bottom of the pit SU (49) nearby being located a fragment of SU (73); in the first case the situation results quite different. The area and the layers, now defined SU (76), does not consist for the moment, and unlikely from what looked like, of a pit, but rather of a widespread sections

of soils, blackish and reddish coloured with pottery, bones (also one horn) reminding SU (69) and SU (65) largely identified last year (Fig. 56). The negative layer is constituted by grey coloured sand due to a combustion process; inside it one is having the same typologies of items as in SU (65) and SU (49): potsherds, plaster, stones and bones. SU (76) stretches towards South under SU (69), in direction of SU (49). One is removing what is remaining of SU (69) in order to determine the extension of the area. The main controversial point is that the blackish soil as last year at West seems to go much ahead in eastern and southern direction, suggesting a different point of view: SU (49) could be later than SU (69) and (76).

One is digging out the last remains of greyish sand, mixed with ash of SU (76) (Fig. 57). Removing the sand some mud clay conglomerates and stones start to appear. Proceeding slowly in depth, the colour and texture of the soil change: there are no anymore ashes and the sand has a lighter colour, more ochre/brownish. It is possible to define a new layer, called SU (77) (Fig. 58). SU (76) mostly topographically is constituted by a pit-shaped area resembling a work activities with blackish soil, pottery fragments and reddish concretions; SU (77), a cultural layer located beneath SU (76) is constituted, instead, by two superimposed rows of mud-clay conglomerates, in the northern side; there are also potsherds, blackish ashy soil and differently sized stones. Both lay one above the other and are located beneath SU (69) (Fig. 59).

It is possible, like occurred last year, that those two SU, were originally, in fact, an unitary stratum in which the superior was mostly used as an activity area with fire or where ashes were thrown away. One starts cleaning the space among the emerging stones and mud clay conglomerates and, as soon as the excavation is further going down, they appear bigger than they looked like in a first moment. Some of the clay conglomerates conform themselves as fragmented blocks. Many of them have a rounded shape (around 20 cm), but there is, at least, a couple with squared sides (the bigger among them measures about 30 × 13 cm) (Fig. 60). Clay, stones and potsherds lay horizontally and conform what could look like an horizontal level (collapsed structure? work activity level?). One is proceeding removing the conglomerates and the stones in order to determine the level of the ground where they stand.

The work started with the removal of SU (77) in order to determine a more detailed evidence of the two mud-bricks (Fig. 61) (southern side of EH

of the trench). The greyish soil (ash) seems to go under these bricks and the apparently wall SU (38) extending in the northern side. In the middle, two granite stones appeared: one (A) (no 2) (at - 6.85) in dark, cm 10 × 10, and one (B) (no 1, at - 6.84) in pink (cm 12 × 12). Just to the south of stone A, a wall of a big jar SU (79), appeared in the soil (diameter cm 30-35) (Fig. 62). In the eastern side of the soil started to be orange-yellow. Scarce presence of potsherds: most notably a disc-shaped base of goblet (fabric 6.1), with a short stem and reddish slipped (Fig. 63), and one fragment (wall) of cooking pot. After the removal of SU (77), it has been defined a new SU (78) with the appearing of the jar defined as SU (79) (at - 6,82). The soil in the southern side is still greyish, with presence of gypsum remains inside and around the jar. The general situation of the trench is still not completely understood. SU (38) was most probably destroyed and cut in the south, where the definite pit SU (49) is for the most part clear (Fig. 64), because of SU (38) being the bottom of the pit in itself. To North the situation is a little bit different, because the presence of those mud-clay conglomerates, the spread of the ash and gray terrain under the supposed SU (38) and also the presence of two mud-bricks (along the northern border of the trench), let one to consider the possibility that the destruction of the wall was much more ample than in SU (49) pit, and that its fragments are covering still the ash and gray levels SU (76) and SU (77). There is also another aspect which give some confirmation and doubts in the same time, the absolute quotes of the line of the cut in the western border of SU (49) (-6.63) (Fig. 65), that of the appearing of the jar last year SU (74) (-6.93) (the bottom is at - 7.36), and that of the appearing of jar of this year SU (78), which appear to be extremely interesting for any interpretation.

The work continues with the removal of the remain of SU (78), going down more with 2 cuttings with trowel (each one of ca 6 cm), cleaning the eastern border of the spreading of SU. There are present carbon remains and gypsum fragments, especially in the area close to the stone A (black granite) and the jar (the distance between the border of the stone A and of the jar is about 12 cm). There were also found some potsherds and animal bones. The soil is still grayish colored (because of the ash), especially in the proximity of the southern side close to the sort of the very compact mud-clay diaphragm (EW oriented) between the area of SU (49) and of SU (78). This type of soil, as in the eastern side seems to go deep

under the diaphragm. There were also removed two mud-clay conglomerates, approximately spheroid shaped and of ca 8 cm sized.

One is going down a little bit in this part cleaning more accurately all the area around jar SU (78) (floor) (79) (jar in itself) and the northern, eastern and southern borders in order to make a drawing of these three sections, which could give very important information of the succession of the different structural elements. Along the N-S oriented cut wall SU (38), already evidenced, there is a clear kind of pit to the south which could be the real SU (49) (Fig. 66), under the bottom of the superior pit SU (82). The new situation leads one to make some considerations on the order of the chronology.

The removal of jar SU (79) is made by cutting a regular square just around of few centimeters in order to take out it in a most safe way. Around and inside there are some potsherds which are defined as SU (78) outside and SU (79) inside. The jar is fragmented with the bottom already in situ (Fig. 67) and it is constituted by large fragments of fabrics 4 with painted decoration. The bottom is going deeper with regard to the surface of about 8 cm, and the whole height of the jar is thus about 20 cm.

One is working in this part starting to remove the diaphragm between SU (82) (empty of material) and SU (77) and (78); the diaphragm belongs still to a mixed SU (65) / SU (69).

It has been decided to start to remove the pit in the southern part, i.e. SU (49); it is proceeding with different VII cuts. At every two cuts (I-II; II-III; IV-V; VI-VII) the material collected is located in different bags in order to better analyze the eventual difference in chronology and phases (Fig. 68). What it seems strange is that the shape of the pit which looked like semi-concave from the section, is revealing very different in the reality, almost square, delimited to North by the large mud-block where two falling bricks of 40 cm size have been already evidenced (Fig. 69); to East by a more compact brownish in the section and grayish soil; to South by the very hard block of soil left unexcavated, originally identified as SU (38) and SU (34). First of all the apparent oblong quadrangular shaped mud-bricks which still are recognized as present, nevertheless, do not make part of any structural remains, and seem to be absolutely isolated; the pit is still going down, changing completely the consistence and the color of the soil, which after the second cut, is more brownish, hard and full of very small particles of carbon and burnt concretions. A large amount of pottery fragments are,

however, coming among which many bases, rims, cups, one handled bowl, and jars. Are also present some blackish very hard concretions or potsherds. From the Vth cut the quantity of material is decreasing very much until the 7th, where also some processing waste have been collected. A fragmented mud spindle-whorl (Fig. 70) is coming up from the VIth cut, and still the bottom of the pit is not reached. It has been decided to enlarge the area to South to try to understand exactly the situation of the borders and consequently of the bottom. After this cutting the result is a kind of an un-understandable square shaped pit. It has been decided, thus, to excavate the eastern border of the square left untouched since some days in SU (77), and among the material is coming to the light a quadrangular shaped whitish stone (possible sharpener) (Fig. 71). To North and South is coming to the light a very hard soil. In the meantime is also excavated SU (78), where the jar SU (79) was located for some centimeters, reaching a more hard soil, and also the hole A on the floor SU (73) come to the light is cleaned off.

The last activity in this part of the trench is devoted to finish to cut the eastern border of the EH of the trench, removing SU (77), already started. The situation is very simple in relation to find the floor SU (78), which at North is very ashy and gray colored, and to South more brownish and slightly hard. One is proceeding to cut all the remaining soil of SU (69) (65) along the eastern border of the trench, and to clean in details the situation above the two mud bricks falling down, in the middle of this half of the square. One reaches very soon level SU (76) which was already visible from the eastern section of the activity area in SU (77) and SU (78). One is cutting also the very hard, but thin part of SU (82), collecting materials. The two apparently oblong lined mud-bricks along the western border of the eastern half are very thin too, and immediately beneath is located a pit, SU (49), probably still intact, unlikely from the filling of last year. Many potsherds are coming from these two cuttings in SU (69)-(65) and SU (76). To north is coming up a basis of a middle size jar upside down (Fig. 72) and immediately to East the border of a new jar with the diameter of 35 cm. The jar is called SU (84) and one is reserving to cut and clean it later (Fig. 73).

Immediately later one is trying to clean the border to south of SU (38) and SU (44), including the area around pit SU (62) and Pit SU (81) (see below). The situation is still the same with an unclear mud structural

remains mainly grayish-green colored, with beneath a brownish less hard soil and beneath again sand (Fig. 74).

Going back to the jar SU (84), when one starts to clean up it is clear that it is a real un-necked pythos which goes very deep down and basically under the broken rim is extending very much. One is obliged to cut partly the eastern border of the trench, and to enlarge in curvilinear profile to west SU (85) (Fig. 75), in order to reach the bottom. During the drawing and photo operation, the jar is falling down founding dangerously to west. Inside, SU (86) there is a large amount of material, stem of goblet, wall, basis, and some mud loom weight (Fig. 76), as some of last year. Two fragmented pottery walls blackish painted (Fig. 77), considered possibly as Hellenistic of 4th century or late Hellenistic too of the 2nd century as well, are coming from SU (85) and SU (86), and matching each other.

Trench no 6 Western Half (hereinafter WH)

In order to clarify all the location of structural remains it was decided to work on the remained soil used to fill up the trench last campaign (2011). The aims are: to find a possible relationship between the bottom of jar of last year SU (74) and the one of this year (SU 79), found in the EH (the difference in depth between the levels of appearing of them is approximately 40 cm); to reach again the floor SU (73); and to better define the line of the wall SU (38), which appeared bordering SU (49) and looking like also bordering the area of SU (78) at North.

After 3 different cuts (two of 10 cm ca with spade and the third one of 5 cm with trowel), in all the remaining WH of the trench, at South very clear appears a section of the wall (at the present time about 50 cm deep) (Fig. 78). The wall SU (38) is partially destroyed in the western side and replaced in the eastern by the activity “area” SU (78) and in the southern by the pit SU (81) (Fig. 79). To the North in the WH, one part of the floor SU (73), constituted by a yellowish and compact soil, already recognized last year, is now clearly visible again.

With big surprise, the section W of the square in the Western Half was completely destroyed last night and SU (81) with reddish and ashy soil and pottery fragments were completely removed (Fig. 80). The potsherds widespread over the whole area of the western half, are of course collected.

The part of the sandy floor SU (73) already appeared yesterday is definitely recognized and reached giving evidence of the square cut made last year for removing the jar SU (74) (Fig. 81). Reaching the floor is still an operation connecting with the making empty of the excavated area of last year. To the west, instead, one start to regularly excavate removing one cut with spade of 10 cm ca, and immediately to the western border of the square is evidencing a new floor SU (81) made with clay, reddish remains and ash, over which are located numerous fragments of fragmented pottery. Around at south and north there are three small holes in one of the which (no 1), the smallest (10 cm wide) is located an ellipsoidal fragmented (two parts) mud clay projectile. The others are located to the north of SU (81) and are 15 and 20 cm sized (Fig. 82). The eastern limit of this activity are SU (81) is more or less very close to the border left un-excavated last year, ma more western ward. The floor SU (73) is continuously been evidencing to the west and appears to looks like very sandy. One doubt is still remaining on the exact location of this border, because of the presence of a sand full of very small particles of pebbles.

The part of the sandy floor SU (73) already appeared, is continuously searched around the location of SU (81); this floor and the pottery remains on it, are unfortunately lying over a thick layer of sand full of very small particles of reddish pebbles. The presence of this layer definitely excludes the hypothesis that this area represents the border of SU (38), i.e. the encircling fortification wall. The removal of SU (81) gives, nevertheless confirmation that the pottery spread goes much lower down to the floor SU (73). In the meantime other three small holes appear, nos 4 (13 cm wide), 5 (15 cm wide), and 6 (8 cm wide) very close to no 1; these holes as the ones already appeared are located in this very thin or lens of clay, covering the same layer of sandy pebbles (Fig. 83). This layer is denominated SU (83), and it is completely empty of potsherds, except for some fragments blackish coarse ware; the whole layer and the holes are completely removed and in the all square the very fine wrought soil constituting SU (73) comes to the light. At north on the floor another hole is coming up (Fig. 84), whilst at south one is excavating following the hard clay profile of SU (44), and SU (62).

Topographical Activity

During the last Campaign (2011) it was necessary to prepare a new topographical survey in order to extend all the data collected during the 2008 and 2009 Campaigns. The topographical activity carried out had as its main goal the outlining of the entire site aimed at collecting all kind of new data in order to propose a new and more detailed cartography. Aside, these aspects acted as a support for the archaeological activity, outlining the planned trenches and checking out, daily, the quoted points of the excavated levels. Starting from these premises and pursuing these objectives, the 2011 Campaign was highly successful. The project achieved an extensive and highly detailed outlining process, with about 1.500 quoted points taken. Thanks to this, it was possible, in the followed study activity, to elaborate a new cartography constituted principally by:

- a general map of the whole site, with level curves and highlighting the altimetry differences;
- a good amount of detailed maps (scale 1:20) of the trenches excavated during the archaeological activity.

The 2012 Campaign

During the study activity carried out in elaborating the 2011 data and preparation of 2012 Campaign, new questions came up. One is faced with the necessity of finding a better and more rational system to check out and mapping the whole site. As it is known, the area is about 26.250 sq m (= 2.62 ha), about 175 m long \times 150 m wide. The absolute quote on the top of the Tepa is 701.5 m, with a difference with the bottom of about 9.90 m. As one can see, the extension of the site should require a conventional ordering which had a twofold purpose:

- turning easier the study of the data collected during the previous Campaigns and bound to grow during the next years;
- making more rational the planning of the future Campaigns.

A geometrical grid fitted to the entire site and ordering it in a reticulated system has been adopted. In order to obtain it, a squared grid covering the site has been outlined. Every side of the grid, both horizontally

(East/West) and vertically (North/South), presents 26 squares indicated by an alphabetical order (from A to Z). Every square measures 10×10 m; consequentially the grid covers a surface of 260×260 m.

In the image below, a reduced version of the grid adapted to the site of Koj Tapa can be appreciated (Fig. 85).

Every square of 10×10 m. has been divided in four more squares of 5×5 m each in order to obtain a more detailed view when circumstances require it. Each 5×5 square m is indicated by a number (from 1 to 4). In this way, if it is taken the first 10×10 m square of the grid, one has an identification system as it follows: AA1, AA2, AA3, AA4, where every coordinate points out a 5×5 m square, like in the example below:

	A	
A	AA1	AA2
	AA3	AA4

Thus, the first system of coordinates, indicated by an alphabetical order (AA), identifies a macro area of 100 m^2 ; the second, indicated by alpha-numeric orders (AA1, AA2, AA3, AA4), helps to detail an area of 25 m^2 .

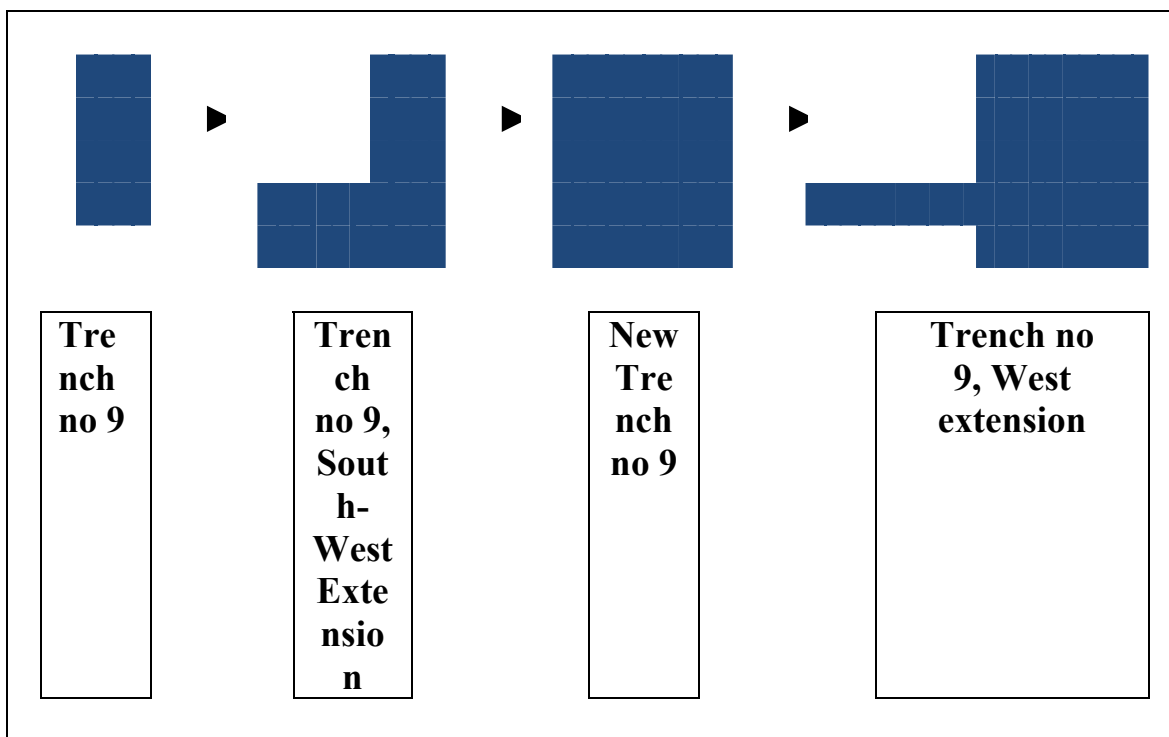
According to what explained above, the fourth Uzbek-Italian Archaeological season at Koj Tapa (2012) started from a solid and carefully detailed preparatory background developed in the last months.

Thanks to the grid system it was possible to carry out the planning of the activity's goal during the preliminary briefing moment. In the first days of Koj Tapa Campaign 2012 one has decided to correct Trench no 5, located on the top of the Tapa in order to provide it with a better North/South orientation.

The grid has a difference of 16° degree toward North respect to the original orientation of Trench no 5. In a first moment it was supposed to correct the angular difference by four triangular shaped little cuts in the four sides of the Trench. Also, one was planning to modify Trench no 5's

dimensions from 4×3 m to 4.7×4 m. In squared meters, one was going to add $6,8 \text{ m}^2$ to the 12 m^2 excavated surface of the Trench, reaching a total of $18,8 \text{ m}^2$. At the end the proposal to extend the excavation of Trench no 5 till covering all the surface of the grid was considered the best. So Trench no 5 now measures 5×5 m and has a plus of 13 m^2 of excavated surface, with a total of excavated surface of 25 m^2 . Currently Trench no 5 is now indicated by the general coordinates LO (Fig. 86).

In the same way, with the grid support, and in task of supporting the archaeological activity, it was topographically planned to cut the Trench no 9, located between the ancient encircling earthen wall North and East, on a little mound near the wall at East (at relative quote of about -5.7 m respect the top of the Tapa). During the Campaign Trench no 9 has changed its size 4 times, since we have been obliged to modify its extensions for reasons derived by the options of the archaeological activity. In a first moment it measured 2×8 m (Trench no 9); later, it was enlarged towards West and South (Trench no 9, South-West extension); yet later the gap towards North and Trench no 9 was filled, changing the size to 6×11 m (New Trench no 9). Finally it was added a West Extension towards 2×9 m (Trench no 9, West Extension, with different additions, 1, 2, 3, 4).



In squared meters, Trench no 9 measures 84 m². Trench no 9's general coordinates, according to the grid, are: MK - NJ/NK (Fig. 87).

On the basis of these observations, one can say that our work was planned and developed in a threefold way:

- checking out some points in the entire site in order to verify the old data and, if necessary, correct them;
- outlining very carefully the mound in the North/East area to provide a new interpretation on differing aspects relating to the relationship between the citadel and the encircling wall;
- supporting the archaeological activity by fixing the cardinal points of the excavated trenches, by daily outlining the quoted points and drawing and sketching the excavated levels.

In order to achieve an extensive and highly detailed outlining of the entire site, the dominant point has been fixed on the top of the Tapa. This point, named TS1, was chosen to allow a total and complete topometric process at 360° in the whole site. A secondary outlining point, called TS2, has been fixed in the depressed plain terrain sited between the Tapa and wall North (the lowest zone of the site) in order to outline the mound where Trench no 9 was located.

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FIGURES



Fig. 1 - Koj Tapa as seen as from North, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 2 - The emptying of Trench no 5, MAI, after B. Genito

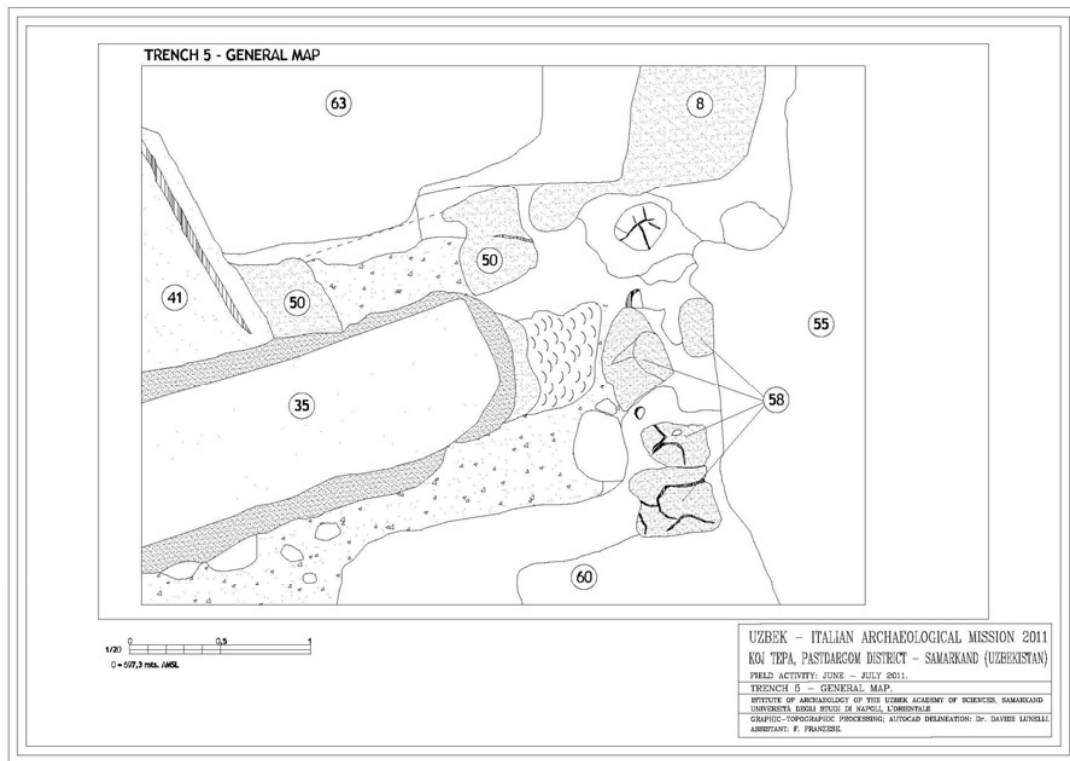


Fig. 3 - Trench no 5, the structural remains at the end of the 2011 excavations, General Map, MAI, after D. Lunelli

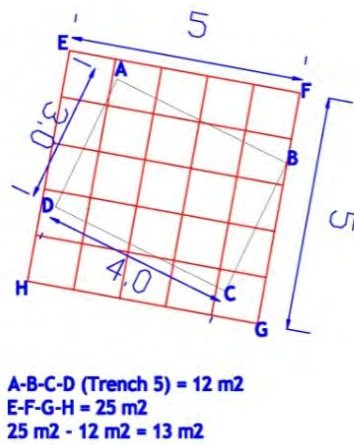


Fig. 4 - New Trench no 5 with the regularization of the limits, MAI, after D. Lunelli

Fig. 5 - Trench no 5 rectified on the field according to the new general grid, MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 6 - Trench no 5, pottery disk, Inv. Objects, no 30, US (S), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 7 - Trench no 5, the four cloves of the extended trench worked out contemporaneously, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 8 - Trench no 5, pink colored granite stone, SU (8), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 9 - Trench no 5, SU (5) and SU (8), typical stratigraphic units widespread around the structural remains, MAI, after F. Franzese

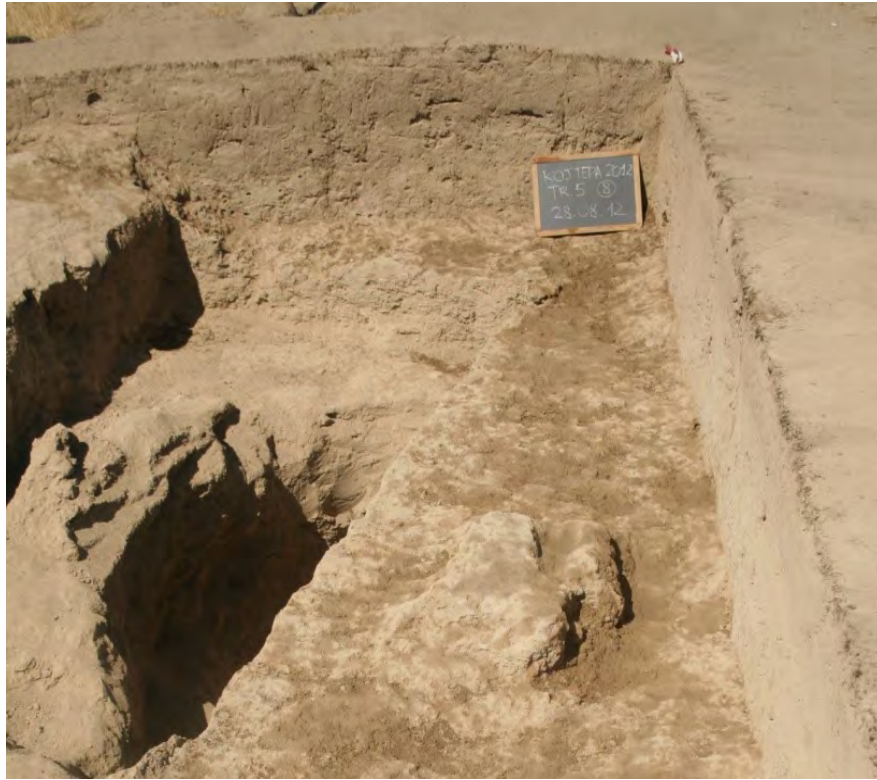


Fig. 10 - Trench no 5, structural remains at North in SU (8), MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 11 - Trench no 5, pottery fragment lying on SU (5), MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 12 - Trench no 5, SU (8), pottery fragmented footed table, Inv. Objects, no 0045, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 13 - Trench no 5, traces of mud-bricks or mud-blocks more and more evident, MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 14 - Trench no 5, eastern clove, mud-block, i.e. structural remains, SU (8), MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 15 - Trench no 5, SU (8), a pottery fragment collected, MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 16 - Trench no 5, wall SU (41), MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 17 - Trench no 5, a new topographical SU (80), MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 18 - Trench no 5, pottery disk SU (42), Inv. Objects, no 0029, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 19 - Trench no 5, SU (37), lid with handle, fabric 4, Inv. pottery, no 0227, MAI, after F. Raiano



Fig. 20 - Trench no 5, large pottery fragments to the southern limit of the trench SU (53), MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 21 - Trench no 5, eastern border, brown and hard clay with an undefined shape just between SU (42) and (53), MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 22 - Trench no 5, SU (53), MAI, after F. Franzese



Fig. 23 - Trench no 5, SU (45), pottery disk, Inv. Objects, no 0043, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 24 - The area of Trench no 9 before the excavation, the gentle slopes to North and South with an almost circular perimeter, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 25 - Trench no 9 as seen as from the top of the Tepe, and from SE corner, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 26 - Trench no 9 after the 1st cutting as seen as from North-East, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 27 - Trench no 9 after the 2nd cutting, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 28 - Trench no 9 at South, first appearing of mud bricks, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 29 - Trench no 9, the size of the bricks, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 30 - Trench no 6, South Extension, SU (44), in 2011, MAI, after B. Genito

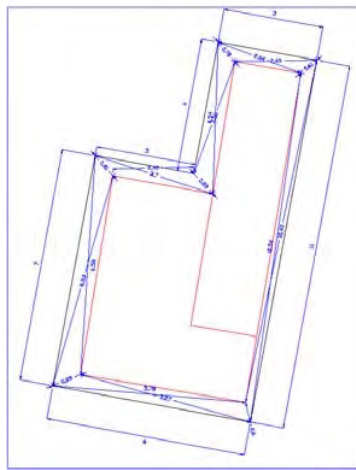


Fig. 31 - Trench no 9, South-West Extension, MAI, after D. Lunelli



Fig. 32 - Trench no 9 South-West Extension, field operation, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 33 - Trench no 9, pottery fragments lying at South of the mud-bricks, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 34 - New Trench no 9, 1st and 2nd cuttings with SU (8), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 35 - New Trench no 9 northern and southern side SU (8), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 36 - New Trench no 9, new mud-bricks to North SU (75), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 37 - New Trench no 9, cuttings over the mud-bricks at South SU (75), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 38 - Trench no 9, female terracotta figurine in situ and in laboratory, Inv. Objects, no 0046, SU (8), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 39 - New Trench no 9, mud-bricks of SU (75) at the southern limit, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 40 - New Trench no 9, number of bricks (12 at least), to north, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 41 - New Trench no 9, in the southwest corner more broken bricks, in different orientation, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 42 - Trench no 9, West Extension 2, 2 × 3 m, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 43 - Trench no 9, West Extension 2, several mud bricks, 2 parallel groups, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 44 - Trench no 9, West Extension 3, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 45 - Trench no 9, West Extension, outlines of bricks badly destroyed, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 46 - Trench no 9, West Extension 4, SU (75) to West, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 47 - Trench no 9, West Extension, mud-bricks recognized, about 35 cm wide, with the same direction of the lines found before as seen as from West, after B. Genito



Fig. 48 - Trench no 6, the situation of last excavation as seen as from West, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 49 - The emptying of trench no 6, with the Eastern Half (hereinafter EH) untouched, and the Western Half (hereinafter WH) partially excavated, as seen as from North, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 50 - Trench no 6, the first cuttings in EH, SU (49)(65), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 51 - Trench no 6, black painted pottery of Kushan influence, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 52 - Trench no 6, the eastern border of the trench with a more hard and compact soil, SU (38), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 53 - Trench no 6, the diaphragm between northern and southern side of the EH of the trench, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 54 - Trench no 6, EH, the northern and southern areas, possibly made utilizing and cutting the fortification wall SU (38), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 55 - Trench no 6, EH, a north-south oriented hard and compact clay (possibly SU (38), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 56 - Trench no 6, EH, widespread sections of blackish and reddish colored soil at North, MAI, after B. Genito

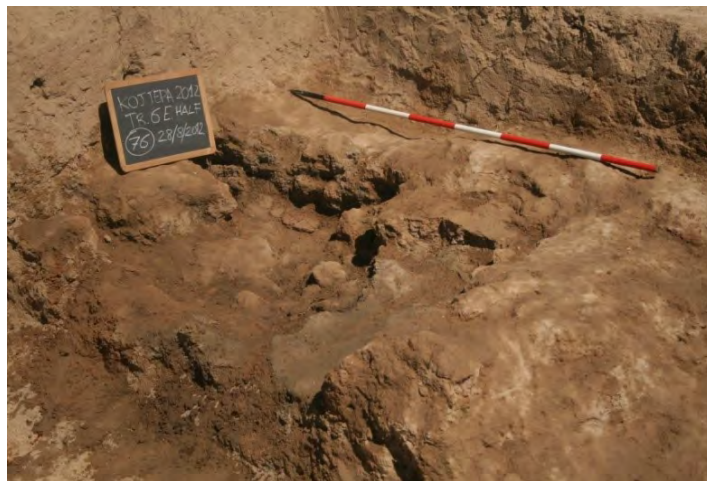


Fig. 57 - Trench no 6, EH, remains of grayish sand, mixed with ash of SU (76), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 58 - Trench no 6, EH, a cultural layer SU (77), located beneath SU (76) constituted by two superimposed rows of mud-clay conglomerates, at North, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 59 - Trench no 6, SU (76) and SU (77) beneath SU (69), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 60 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (76) and SU (77), the mud conglomerates, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 61 - Trench no 6, EH, the mud-bricks fall down constituting the diaphragm in the middle, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 62 - Trench no 6, EH, to the South of stone A, a big jar SU (79) (diameter cm 30-35), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 63 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (77), Inv. Pottery, no 0234, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 64 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (49), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 65 - Trench no 6, EH, the line of the cut related to the mud clay-wall, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 66 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (49), under SU (82), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 67 - Trench no 6, EH, floor SU (78) where jar SU (79) is located, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 68 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (49) after the cuttings, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 69 - Trench no 6, EH, mud-bricks completely evidenced, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 70 - Trench no 6, EH, mud spindle-whorl, Inv. Objects, no 0044, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 71 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (77), Inv. Objects, no, 0031, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 72 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (77), the coming up of an upside down jar SU (78), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 73 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (77); the appearing of a jar-Pythos SU (84), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 74 - Trench no 6, EH, the situation at the side of SU (39) and SU (44), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 75 - Trench no 6, EH, the enlargement to take out the jar-Pythos SU (84) in the SU (85), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 76 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (86), mud loom weight, Inv. Objects, no 0032, MAI, after B. Genito

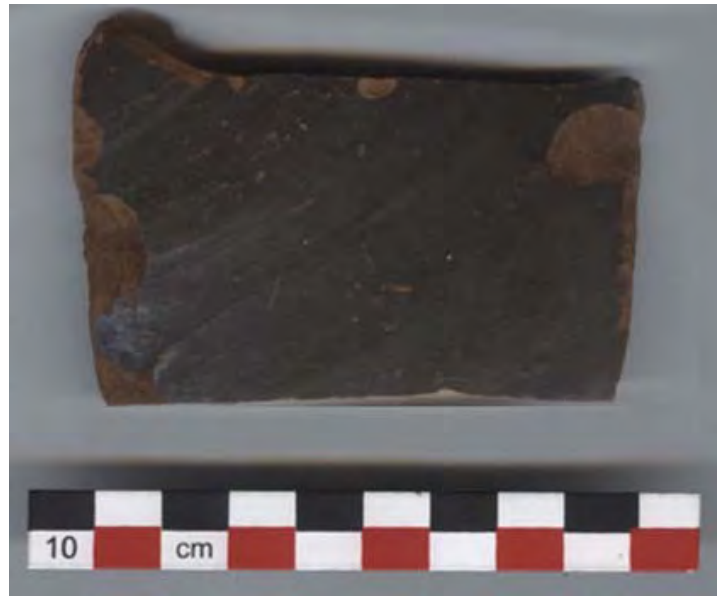


Fig. 77 - Trench no 6, EH, SU (86), Inv. Objects, no 0028, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 78 - Trench no 6, EH, at South a section of the wall (about 50 cm deep), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 79 - Trench no 6, WH, SU (81) with floor with holes SU (83) Pit, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 80 - Trench no 6, WH, the disruption of SU (81), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 81 - Trench no 6, WH, the floor US (73), MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 82 - Trench no 6, WH, floor SU (83) with holes, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 83 - Trench no 6 WH, holes over a grayish-reddish soil SU (83) of sandy pebbles, MAI, after B. Genito



Fig. 84 - Trench no 6 WH, the floor SU (73) and the hole A at North after removing floor SU (83), MAI, after B. Genito

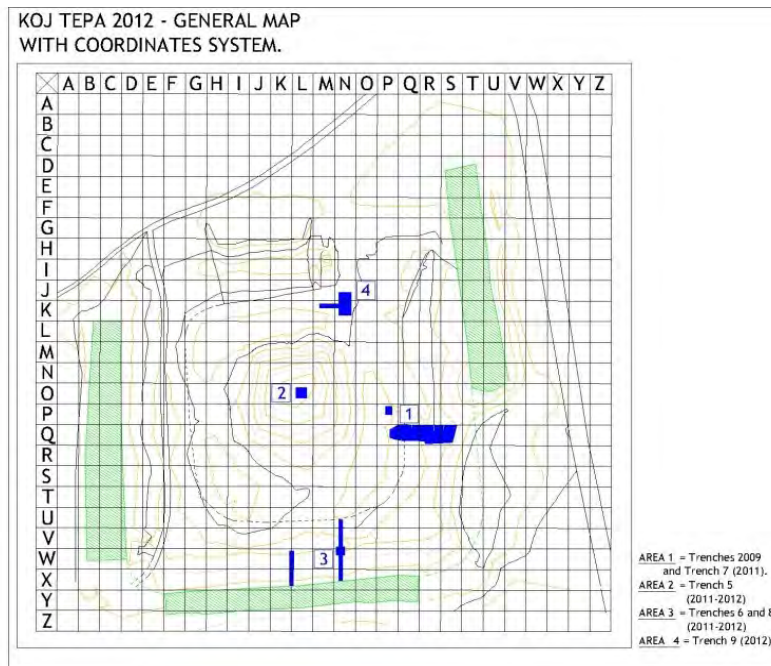


Fig. 85 - General map with the new grid system, MAI, after B. Genito

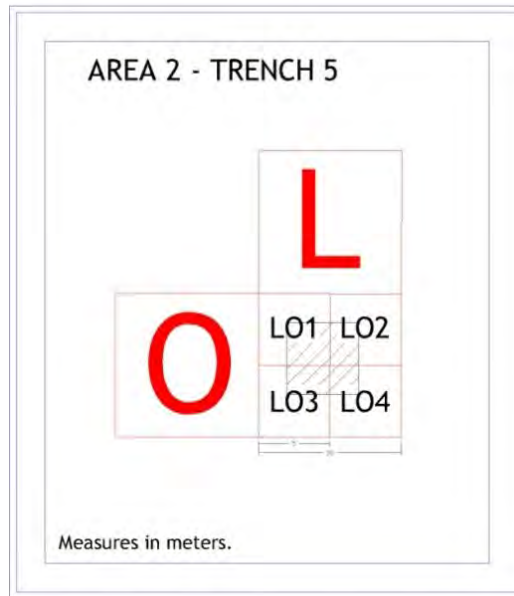


Fig. 86 - Area 2, with Trench no 5, MAI, after B. Genito

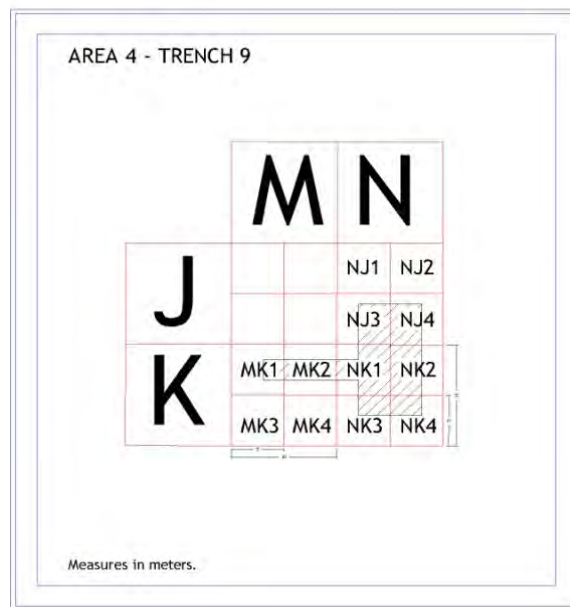


Fig. 87 - Area 4, with Trench no 9 and its extensions, MAI, after B. Genito