

Excavations at Tell Timai 2011  
University of Hawaii  
Season 3  
June 12 to 15 July 2011

Directors:

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An archaeological team sponsored by the University of Hawaii led by Dr. Jay Silverstein conducted excavations and mapping between 12 June 2011 and 15 July 2011. The archaeological team consisted of 37 scholars from eleven nations with a wide variety of specialists. The archaeological study focused continuing the physical survey and on excavations in two regions of Tell Timai, one in the north and one in the center. In 2007 the Tell Timai Project created a 50 meter grid system used to identify areas on the tell and excavation units are annotated by the 50 meter grid unit that they are located in (Figure 1).

During the Tell Timai 2011 season a Sokkia Set 3110 total station and several Pentax autolevels were used to control unit elevations and conduct surface and unit feature mapping. Survey team objectives consisted of:

1. Establishing additional control points in the Timai grid,
2. Mapping unit locations and features relative to the Timai grid,
3. Corelating magnetometric data collected in 2010,
4. Mapping surface features visible in several MSA salvage units excavated in 2010,
5. Organizing site-related spatial data within three project geodatabases.

Four new 5-x-5 meter units and one exploratory trench were excavated in the north with the following objectives:

1. Determine the extent, chronology, and relationship of buildings and architecture to the Temple foundation at Grid M6,
2. To refine the circumstances and chronology of the destruction and construction episodes that occurred in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE,
3. To record and define activity areas and their chronological phasing in the salvage in the north,

4. To coordinate the mapping of open units with the SCA salvage operation to maximize the ability to interpret features in this area,
5. To search for evidence of a harbor beach.

The excavations in the center portion of the tell represented the first exploration of some of architecture in the area designated as the east forum. Three 5-x-5 meter units were excavated in areas associated with large red Aswan granite monuments. The objectives for these excavations were:

1. Identify the scale, chronology, and function of the architecture
2. Evaluate the condition of the architecture for method and potential of conservation

The season was extremely successful and, with the exception of the evidence of the harbor in the north, all of the objectives were met. A total of 1320 finds and 1900 kg of pottery were recovered and analyzed. Two ceremonial areas and one production area were analyzed. Several areas associated with a destruction event in 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE were studied and sufficient data was collected to refine the chronological phasing of the site (Table 1) and the ceramic sequences and assemblages. Numerous museum quality artifacts were recovered (Table 2).

TABLE 1: Preliminary Phase Chart Derived from Ceramic Assemblages				
Phase	Period	Sub-Phase	Suggested Dates	Notes and Features
<b>I</b> (4 <sup>th</sup> c BC)	Late Period	<b>I</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> century BC (likely mid-4 <sup>th</sup> )	Lower kiln excavations in Area O performed in 2010
<b>II</b> (later 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> c BC)	Middle Hellenistic	<b>IIa</b>	Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> century BC	Leveling fill in Area N, mostly present in N6-9-1516 and varia. Includes many imported Hellenistic vessels and stamped Rhodian amphoras dating to the second half of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century.
		<b>IIb</b>	Early 2 <sup>nd</sup> century BC	Destruction event in Area N. Primary evidence from floor deposit in N6-5-1212. Coins under floor provide <i>terminus post quem</i> of the very end of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century BC.
		<b>IIc</b>	Late 2 <sup>nd</sup> / early 1 <sup>st</sup> century BC	Possibly to be associated with the construction of the mud-brick platform in Area N. No features can be associated with the construction process, but miscellaneous features in the area, such as N6-5-1207 (coin) and N6-5-1209 (stamped amphora handle) point to leveling some time after the late 2 <sup>nd</sup> century BC.