

square meters. The bodies were interred as fractional burials one above the other to a depth of up to five bodies. De Morgan notes that about four thousand vessels were found and guesses that at least two thousand graves were involved. Elsewhere, however, he mentions the fact that the vases were found in clusters of from three to five. A more realistic estimate, using his own statements, would have been eight hundred to a thousand graves. Such a reduced number would have been more reasonable for the space available in the butts. The dead had no orientation but were accompanied by gifts. De Morgan says these were at the head and that the body was often extended, but de Mecquenem later corrects this statement by pointing out that the bones were buried secondarily and that there was much confusion in the mound. The burials were classified as male or female on the basis of associated objects: male burials include copper axes, celts, awls, knives, or needles, and stone maceheads; females, vases, pottery ointment or cosmetic paint jars, stone or clay beads (also with males), and copper mirrors. One polished miniature black stone celt was found but shaped flints were totally absent. The small alabaster box-vases and two crude cylindrical vases of bitumen are reported. Beads included two spacers for three strands each, an imitation tooth amulet of shell, and white and grey-black beads strung alternately. The latter are imitated on long clay cylinder beads painted with black stripes. Often broken spouts from painted pots were used as beads. Cylindrical vases, sling pellets, and perforated sherd discs are also mentioned. A stud in grey limestone and a stone hoe (called a spatula) also occur. The copper tools bear the imprint of a fine and a less fine woven textile, probably of flax. Of special interest are two hemispherical seals, perforated, with animals and drill holes on the base, and a fragment of what appears to be a button seal with a pattern of incised lines.

Thus came into existence, after sixty years of exploration, the first real body of important prehistoric pottery from a known context in the lowlands of Iraq and Iran. For the next quarter of a century this material, known as Susa I, and the plain "Intermediate" wares, which overlay it and the succeeding Susa II painted ware, formed the basic sequence into which all prehistoric finds had to fit. Susa in its beginning days thus was father to the gradual unravelling of the mysteries of prehistory in this part of the Near East. **Z**

EXPEDITION NEWS



Maurits van Loon



Henrik Thrane

THE KEVORKIAN LECTURES

The Hagop Kevorkian Visiting Lectureship in Iranian Art and Archaeology was established by the Trustees of the Kevorkian Foundation to enable the University Museum twice a year to bring an outstanding scholar to Philadelphia to give a public lecture and to participate for ten days in discussions with curators and students in that phase of Iranian Art and Archaeology in which he has a special competence. The Kevorkian lecturers this year were Dr. Maurits van Loon who spoke on November 10 on *Iran and Anatolia at the Dawn of History*, and Mr. Henrik Thrane whose lecture on May 1 was entitled *Protohistoric Luristan, Problems and Facts in the Light of Recent Fieldwork in Western Luristan*.

Dr. van Loon is Assistant Professor of the University of Chicago and Research Associate of the Oriental Institute there. He obtained his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1964 where he did his dissertation on *Uartian Art*. Prior to undertaking studies at Columbia he served in the Netherlands Foreign Service from 1951 to 1958. He excavated with R. H. Dyson, Jr. at Hasanlu in Iran in 1960 and 1962 and with Seton Lloyd at Kayalidere in eastern Turkey (ancient Urartu) in 1964. In 1964 he also conducted a survey in the Euphrates dam basin in Syria, followed in 1965 by excavations in the pre-pottery neolithic site of Mureybit and in 1967 at the Bronze Age site of Selenkahiye. Dr. van Loon discussed various points of contact between the art and archaeology of Urartu and Iran.

Mr. Thrane was born in Copenhagen in 1934 and studied prehistory at the Universities of Copenhagen and Cambridge, where he received his Magister Artium in 1960. In addition to participation in excavations in Scandinavia, he joined in the excavation of neolithic Knossos in 1957-58 conducted by the British School at Athens. He was prehistorian on the Danish Phoenicia Expedition 1958-60. In the latter year he also took part in the British Academy excavations at Yarim Tepe in eastern Iran under the direction of Mr. David Stronach. In 1963, Mr. Thrane worked with the Danish Expedition to Luristan on the site of Tepe Guran, and in 1964 was Field Director of the same expedition. After holding a research lectureship at the University of Copenhagen, he joined the National Museum of Denmark as an Assistant Keeper in 1965. His lecture provided an outline of stratigraphic details of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages in western Luristan and demonstrated how little fact and how many problems still surround the subject.