

## Excavation at Tell Kashkashok II, 1987

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Tell Kashkashok is situated about 20km northwest of Hasake city in the northeast of Syria. It is a group of four tells, and is one of the sites that will be flooded by the construction of the Hasake east dam. The tallest tell, tell no.III, was excavated by Dr. Antoine Suleiman of the Aleppo Museum.

The University of Tokyo carried out the excavations of tell no.II from 6 May to to August 1978. The purpose of the excavations was to throw a new light on Hassuna Ia culture which was found in Iraqi Mesopotamia at several sites. In the beginning, it was hoped that the layer [s] of Hassuna Ia culture would be easily reached. The presence of Ubaid to Uruk period layers, however, obstructed this hope. After the struggle with many tombs, only one pit house (P9) of Hassuna Ia was dug by the end of the season.

The pit house is oval in shape, with a longer axis of ca. 4m and a shorter axis of ca. 3m. A hearth of 1.3m by 0.9m was found at northern corner of the floor. The pit house yielded many kinds of objects similar to those found in Iraqi Mesopotamia. In addition to such objects, carbonized grains and animal bones were also collected in quantity.

The information obtained from this season's work is as follows: First, this small tell was inhabited by the Hassuna Ia people. Second, the tell was used as a cemetery in the Ubaid and Uruk periods. Finally this mound was used as a work place, for example for pottery making, in the Islamic age.