

## Early Village Sites in Northern Mesopotamia

By Toshio MATSUTANI

This essay is divided into two parts. In Part I, the author reports the 1964 season's excavations at No. 2 mound of Telul eth-Thalathat, in which he himself took part, and reconstructs the culture of the basal two levels. In Part II, he defined "Thalathat phase" in stead of the so-called "neolithic Hassuna phase." The assemblage of Thalathat phase is shown in plates. It is important that the assemblage exclude "husking tray." Sites and levels belonging to Thalathat phase are Hassuna Ia, Matarrah lower levels, Ali Agha, Thalathat XV, XVI and possibly upper Jarmo.

Thalathat phase is the oldest one in northern Mesopotamia and it flourished in the sixth millenium B. C. At that time, there were several distinguished culture-areas in West Asia. One of them was the northern Mesopotamia Culture. Jarmo site was a member of another culture-area *i. e.* Mortensen's "Zagros group."

The now established chronological table is wrong because it does not classify the two culture-areas. The author doubts and denies every reason that was thought to prove Jarmo phase was older than neolithic Hassuna phase. And he reached a conclusion that Jarmo phase and Thalathat (neolithic Hassuna) phase were flourished about the same time in each culture-area.

It is better, the author believes, to recognize culture-areas in any time of prehistory and to set up phases as possible. This idea is proposed according to his hunch concerning the process from the origin of agriculture to the formation of civilization in West Asia. The hunch itself will be discussed in another essay.