

Sultantepe Survey

Following the three-week survey at Harran and surrounding areas conducted in 1950 by Seton Lloyd, William Brice, and Nuri Gökçe, a decision was made to continue research at three sites, specifically: Aşağı Yarımca, Sultantepe, and a Roman settlement.

The expedition was undertaken jointly by the BIAA and the Turkish Antiquities Department in 1951. Aşağı Yarımca was excavated between 24 April and 10 May. Though some Roman and Islamic sherds were found, results were largely disappointing, and on 15 May work was transferred to a second site, Sultantepe, for the remainder of the season. Here significant discoveries were made, which included an entrance to the citadel, an Assyrian building, and the tablet hoard: a large cache of cuneiform tablets found on 5 June 1951, now commonly referred to as 'The Sultantepe Tablets'. Lastly, a settlement at the base of the mound was investigated, where a Roman bath was found and examined.

Between 8 May and 20 June 1952 a second season of work at Sultantepe was carried out. Much Post-Assyrian pottery was found in this expedition, in addition to some small objects, such as a stamp seal.