



When systematic excavations of the citadel began, several rooms were quickly uncovered, in one of which several vessels of polished red clay were found. The two-storey building was surrounded by raw bricks measuring 52 x 35 x 14cm each, with the walls' thickness ranging between 2.1 and 3.5 metres.

The socle at the base of the building was made of roughly-polished basalt. The ground floor of the two storey citadel consisted of separate storage rooms, workshops, wine cellars and other rooms. Within each wine cellar there were 70-80 jars, each between 700 and 900 litres capacity. From this, estimates can be made as to how much wine, oil, beer, corn, barley and other foodstuffs were stored in the 150-room cellar.

The cuneiform inscriptions on clay tiles and basalt stones discovered during excavations generally refer to construction works and economic aspects of life. Inscribed clay tiles discovered in the citadel included records and orders of juridical origin. In addition, more than 20 bronze shields were found, on which the inscriptions of Kings Argishti I, Sarduri II and Rusa I had been preserved. The wholly preserved shield of Argishti II is particularly valuable, incorporating depictions of 28 lions and 20 bulls, with a further 8 lions in the centre of the shield, as well as a rosette with 38 petals, while Argishti I's bronze helmet is the most valuable of the several helmets discovered. Meanwhile, the bronze head of the horse, along with various other statues and statuettes incorporating pictures of people and gods, also represent exceptional samples of Urartian culture.



Of particular interest are the 97 bronze bowls excavated from the citadel's 25th cellar, found arranged in the number 4 jar. The cuneiform inscriptions of Kings Menua, Argishti, Sarduri and Rusa were hidden on the inside of the bowls. Also notable were the 1036 jugs, ranging between 2 and 6 litres in capacity, discovered in the three rooms in the basement.

Thousands of valuable objects, with inscriptions of Urartian kings, were discovered in Karmir Blur, some of which are from Erebuni. The archaeological material in the various warehouse buildings, the irrigation system in the Ararat valley, and cuneiform inscriptions discovered within the citadel and settlements, as well as the monument found at Zvartnots, confirm the contemporaneous military, cultural, economic and administrative significance of Teishebaini.

The excavations of the settlement area revealed not only Urartian finds, but also archaeological layers of pre-Urartian and early Armenian culture. The discoveries ranged from military arms to agricultural tools, and various objects of bronze, bone and iron. Textile remains demonstrate the high standard of arts and handicrafts attained in Urartu, while the remains of barley, wheat, oats and clay vessels with straw filters provide evidence for the local production of beer. Also discovered were stone kegs and pipes for cheese making, and presses for olive oil.

Presently, the permanent exhibition of the Karmir Blur branch museum is closed because of the dilapidated condition of the museum building and exhibition hall; however, the rich and valuable materials found at Karmir Blur are displayed in the History Museum of Armenia, the Erebuni Culture-Preserve, and Saint Petersburg's State Hermitage Museum.