AGRAM TEPE IS ONE OF THREE MOUNDS LYING CLOSE TO THE MODERN VILLAGE OF DALMA IN NORTHWESTERN IRAN (FIGURE 1), SOUTHWEST OF HASANLU IN THE SOLDUZ VALLEY NEAR THE LOW RIDGE THAT SEPARATES THE HASANLU PLAIN FROM THE MODERN TOWN OF NAGADEH. OF THE THREE MOUNDS, ONE CALLED DALMA TEPE WAS EXCAVATED IN 1961 AND YIELDED NEOLITHIC REMAINS.\(^1\) THE THIRD MOUND IS STILL UNEXCAVATED.

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN HASANLU AND AGRAB IS APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES, ABOUT A FORTY-FIVE-MINUTE WALK FROM ONE SITE TO THE OTHER; THE SITES ARE ALSO VISIBLE TO EACH OTHER, BUT THE LOW RIDGE TO THE SOUTH CUTS OFF THE VIEW OF THE NAGADEH PLAIN FROM AGRAB. A MODERN ROAD THAT CONNECTS NAGADEH TO POINTS NORTH PASSES BY AGRAB ABOUT A HALF-MILE TO ITS WEST; IT CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED IF THIS ROAD FOLLOWS AN ANCIENT TRACK. BEFORE EXCAVATION THE MOUND WAS ABOUT 52 METERS IN DIAMETER AND ABOUT 6 METERS IN HEIGHT. A SPRING THAT CAUSED THE SURROUNDING LAND TO BE SWAMPY AND IMPASSIBLE IN 1964 EXISTS ABOUT 100 METERS TO THE SOUTHWEST. THE SITE WAS BUILT DIRECTLY OVER A ROCK OUTCROP, THE ONLY ONE VISIBLE IN THE AREA (FIGURE 2).

IN 1964 THE HASANLU PROJECT, A JOINT PROJECT OF THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, DECIDED TO EXCAVATE A SECOND MOUND AT DALMA AS PART OF ITS ONGOING PLAN TO COLLECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DATA OF THE SOLDUZ VALLEY, SOUTH OF LAKE URMIA (REZAIYEH). WORK AT HASANLU HAD TO BE SUSPENDED WHILE WE WORKED AT AGRAB, AND WE WERE ABLE TO DEVOTE A TOTAL TIME OF THREE FULL WEEKS TO THE COMPLETION OF OUR TASK. THE MOUND HAD NO LOCAL NAME. SINCE IT WAS THOUGHT

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Figure 1. View north from south ridge, past Dalma village. At center, Agrab Tepe. To the right, in the plain, Dalma Tepe. The village of Shetanabad, just west of Hasanlu, is at the upper right.

Figure 2. Agrab Tepe from the south, after completion of the excavations.

that the use of the name “Dalma No. 2” would cause confusion with respect to the Neolithic mound, it was decided to refer to the site as Agrab Tepe.²

Agrab Tepe consists of a single large building built over a rock outcrop (Figures 3, 4). The building is a fortified structure with thick outer defensive

² Scores of scorpions were killed, hence the name “Scorpion Mound.” The staff consisted of T. Cuyler Young, Jr., and the author as co-directors, Louis D. Levine and Ted Rathbun as archaeologists, and Ed Keall, architect. The director of the Hasanlu Project, whose advice in the production of this report I here acknowledge with thanks, was R.H. Dyson, Jr. I also take pleasure in expressing my thanks to T. Cuyler Young, Jr., and Louis D. Levine for commenting critically on many items discussed in this report. For a good map of northwestern Iran, Kleiss, “Bericht tiber Zwei Erkundungsfahrten,” fig. 1.