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FRANCESCO VENTUROSIO, *Exploring Alternative Survey Methods in Northern Mesopotamia.*

The Case of the Navkur Plain and the Application of a Multi-Source Approach (Msa)

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ABSTRACT

Northern Mesopotamia has been the focus of numerous archaeological surveys employing a variety of techniques to more precisely identify ancient settlements and sites. A significant advancement in survey methodologies has been the integration of aerial and, later, satellite imagery among the sources of information that have facilitated and accelerated the identification of a growing number of potential archaeological sites. In recent years, a new range of digital data has attracted the interest of archaeologists due to its potential to detect traces of ancient anthropogenic soils. This article presents a first application of such imagery for the identification of archaeological sites in selected areas of the Navkur plain, where surveys have been conducted using more traditional methods. This approach allows for a preliminary assessment of the usefulness of these data sources through the verification of previously unidentified positive or negative sites. At the same time, information on the type, function, and chronology of the archaeological evidence will be provided, offering an initial insight into the potential of this technique for refining settlement models across different historical periods.

KEYWORDS

Northern Mesopotamia, archaeological survey, material culture, settlement models

LUCA PEYRONEL - VALENTINA OSELINI - ROCCO PALERMO - AGNESE VACCA, *The Aliawa Survey:*

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents the results of an extensive fieldwalking survey carried out at the site of Aliawa, located in the Erbil plain (Kurdistan Region of Iraq). The investigation, conducted by the University of Milan within the framework of the MAIPE (Italian Archaeological Expedition in the Erbil Plain), aimed to document the site's spatial organization and reconstruct its occupational history. The study outlines the methodology adopted for surface collection and recording, and discusses the analytical approach applied to the ceramic assemblages. By integrating typological and spatial data, it has been possible to identify a long-term and complex sequence of occupation, spanning from the 6th millennium BCE to the late Islamic period. The results not only contribute to a better understanding of Aliawa's developmental trajectory but also provide new insights into settlement dynamics in the Erbil plain and their relation to wider regional networks of northern Mesopotamia.

KEYWORDS

Aliawa, Erbil plain, Iraqi Kurdistan, archaeological survey, settlement history, landscape archaeology

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CAJETAN GEIGER - ALESSIO PALMISANO - JENS ROHDE, *Gird-i Rostam in Iraqi Kurdistan, 2019 and*

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ABSTRACT

The archaeological site of Gird-i Rostam, located in the easternmost part of Iraq's Sulaymaniyah Governorate, has been subject to excavations since 2018, with a joint Kurdish-German-American team conducting three seasons of fieldwork, interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2019 and 2022 seasons yielded significant findings, shedding further light on the site's architecture and material culture. Geological fieldwork undertaken in 2019 aimed to enhance understanding of the site's environs, particularly concerning mineral deposits and resource exploitation. The excavations revealed a large wall with buttresses belonging to a massive fortification with a paved entrance that led to a gate chamber whose use can be dated to the Bronze/Iron Ages. Above this structure, a brick-paved floor with a cooking installation was unearthed, dated to the Parthian/Sasanian period. The Late Chalcolithic levels first exposed in 2018 were further investigated. Finds include a possible Old Aramaic ostrakon and anthropomorphic terracotta figurines of an Early Iron Age type connected to the South Caspian site of Amlash. The analysis of palaeobotanical remains gained from flotation indicates the dominance of wheat as a cereal crop, with barley playing a minor role, suggesting a distinct plant economy when compared to other sites in northern Iraq. The evidence for water-demanding crops and the site's proximity to the Shalair River point to favourable conditions for agriculture, at Gird-i Rostam.

KEYWORDS

Gird-i Rostam (Iraq), Zagros mountains, Late Chalcolithic, Early Iron Age, Sasanian period

OĞUZ SOYSAL, *Nominalkomposita im Hattischen und ihre Widerspiegelung in den Altanatolischen*

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ABSTRACT

The scarce written sources of Hattian reveal that this language knew two basic types of nominal compounds: **noun₁ + noun₂** and **adjective + noun**. The number of examples may increase if one takes into consideration the Hattian elements as found in Ancient Anatolian divine proper names in Hittite tradition. Besides these basic types, there are compound names which can be analysed as variants of type **noun₁ + noun₂** with additional Hattian case endings and morphemes: **noun₁ (genitive *ṣn*) + noun₂**, and **noun₁ (genitive *ṣn*) + possessive (*teṣ/leṣ*) + noun₂** (so-called *genitivus possessivus*) and, as a light variant of the latter, namely **noun₁ (without genitive *ṣn*) + possessive (*teṣ/leṣ*) + noun₂**. In some instances, the Hattian conjunction *pala* “and” forms part of the compound. To this latter kind of expanded formations belong to the “fictive” compound divine names or designations, which most likely are altogether the product of the Post-Hattian periods. In addition to those above, a new interpretation of some geographical names as compounds with various Hattian imperative forms in word initial position followed by the noun *š(a)ḥap* “god” would suggest another kind of Hattian compound nouns, namely **imperative + noun**.

KEYWORDS

Hattian, Hattian tradition in Hittite, nominal compounds, compound proper names

VIRGINIA PELISSERO - ANGELA PIETRAFESA, *New Archival Insights from the Crast Nimrud Survey*

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to present new archival insights from the CRAFT Nimrud survey (1987-1989). Our approach reconsiders both topographic data and the entire pottery assemblage collected, with the aim of examining its internal consistency and chronological reliability. The study describes the subdivision of the pottery into distinct classes and examines the proposed chronology through comparison with published material. By doing so, it investigates the difficulty of working with legacy survey data, which often present challenges due to inconsistent recording, and extends the discussion to the broader interpretative potential of the corpus. This contribution therefore considers and contextualizes the material in order to provide a more solid basis for future research.

KEYWORDS

Nimrud, archaeological survey, pottery, archival records, Assyrian Empire

ROBERTO DAN, *From an Administrative Centre to a Capital? An Analysis of the Role and*

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ABSTRACT

This paper reassesses the role and long-term transformation of the Urartian fortress of Karmir-blur/Teišebai URU, proposing a new interpretation of its political and architectural evolution from administrative stronghold to late capital, and ultimately to a marginalised post-Urartian settlement. Initially founded in the 7th century BCE under King Rusa II, son of Argišti (first half of the 7th century BCE), as an administrative centre in the Ararat Depression, the site gradually acquired the prerogatives of a royal residence, following the decline of Van/Tušpa. Through a combined analysis of architectural phasing, spatial organisation, and epigraphic material, the study reconstructs a dynamic trajectory of expansion, symbolic reterritorialisation, and adaptive reuse. The relocation of royal objects, including a corpus of bronze bowls bearing the names of kings from Sarduri I to Rusa, is interpreted as evidence for a deliberate transfer of ideological legitimacy. Rather than ending in a single catastrophic event, the site’s final destruction appears to have occurred during a phase of structural degradation, informal occupation, and ritualised concealment, possibly in the early Achaemenid period. New archaeological data support a scenario of prolonged post-Urartian continuity, in which the citadel functioned as a local power centre within the emerging Orontid system. Karmir-blur thus emerges not only as the last capital of Bia, but also as a site of resistance, transition, and enduring memory at the twilight of the Urartian world.

KEYWORDS

Karmir-blur/Teišebai URU, Urartian architecture, capital relocation, storage and administration, Late Urartian state

ROMOLO LORETO, *First Occurrences of Scorpion Decorative Patterns in Oman. Implications for such*

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ABSTRACT

The 2024 campaign of the University of Naples L’Orientale project in wādī banī Ḥālīd, ash-Sharqiya North, Sultanate of Oman, started the investigation of Fort WBK49, a mighty 80 x 40m site discovered in 2023. Among the materials that emerged, two fragments of large storage jars decorated with the scorpion motifs, an iconography first attested in an Iron Age Oman context, stand out. The type and fabric of the vessels allow the site of WBK49 and its materials to be attributed to the 4th-2nd centuries BCE. Therefore, this paper introduces the artefacts found and proposes an initial interpretation of them in the context of their discovery. Indeed, the reason for the adoption of such an iconography may vary according to its meaning and function, whether of a religious nature, of power or as a symbol for seasonal forecasting, especially in light of the polyvalence of the scorpion as a symbol as well as an element with an apotropaic function in the surrounding regions (Mesopotamian, Iran, Anatolia, Egypt) and later Islamic culture.

KEYWORDS

Arabian Peninsula, Oman, Iron Age, scorpion, wādī banī Ḥālīd