

GIOVANNI BERGAMINI, *Awal^{ki} - Yelkhi?* » 1

ABSTRACT: Awal is known as an important city in the Trans-Tigris region from Early Dynastic to Old Babylonian period. In Ur III times it was ruled by Babati, uncle of King Šu-Sîn. The city was a key control point along the road leading from Sumer to the Upper Mesopotamia through Diyāla valley, Gasur/Nuzi, Arrapha and Aššur. Its name occurs frequently in the Old Akkadian texts from Tell Suleimah (Hamrîn Basin), so many scholars agreed on the match of that site with Awal itself. However, while other identifications for Tell Suleimah are possible, Awal may be searched for in a slightly different position. On archaeological, historical, geographical bases a new location of Awal is proposed here.

KEYWORDS: Awal; Hamrîn Basin; Tell Suleimah; Tell Yelkhi.

HAIDER ORAIBI ALMAMORI - TAHA K. ABOD - KARIM O. SWADI - TIM CLAYDEN - PETRA M. CREAMER

ELENA DEVECCHI - AGNETE W. LASSEN, Tell Basmaya – A Kassite Period Site in Trans-Tigridian

Babylonia » 17

ABSTRACT: The paper presents the key results of two short seasons of rescue excavations conducted at Tell Basmaya by the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in 2013 and 2014. The site, which currently lies under the modern city of Bismaya, is located to the south-east of Baghdad and consisted of eight mounds (only four of which were excavated, and of these only two revealed evidence of occupation). On Mound 7, the excavations revealed an expanse of domestic architecture that represents the largest coherent dwelling dating to the Kassite period discovered so far, not only in the trans-Tigridian area, but in Babylonia as a whole. A small group of cuneiform tablets, including two dated to the reign of Kadašman-Turgu (1281-1264 BCE), provide clear dating for the settlement in the 13th century BCE. In all, eight domestic units were found together with forty-four graves of different types, showing various degrees of richness. The grave goods included pottery vessels, faience ‘buckets’ and a quantity of jewellery. Also noteworthy is a collection of metal objects found in a single location, including daggers and chisels. The small finds include cylinder seals, including an inscribed Kassite period seal, and a number of faience objects, including a face mask and three chariot fittings. The corpus of pottery ranged across the forms found on other trans-Tigridian sites.

Evidence for occupation in the late Sāsānid and early Arabic period was found. This included a number of Aramaic incantation bowls, a small group of pottery vessels and a single coin. The remains were very badly damaged due to erosion and recent military activity, and no architectural elements were identified.

KEYWORDS: Kassite, domestic housing, burials, trans-Tigridian, cuneiform tablets, cylinder seals, metal work, pottery, faience objects, Aramaic incantation bowls.

HASAN PEKER, *Writing outside the Big City: Two New Funerary Stelae from the Necropolis of*

Yunus at Karkemish..... » 57

ABSTRACT: An update on all the inscribed material retrieved both in the old British and in the new Turco-Italian excavations at Yunus, the necropolis of Karkemish, is presented in the paper. Two inscribed stelae are published here for the first time, allowing us to begin reassessing the role of verbal communication in the main burial ground of the city during the 8th century BCE. In addition, an inscribed fragment from the northwestern border of the state of Karkemish is published here as well, adding an element for the evaluation of the spread of monumental writing within peripheral centers.

KEYWORDS: Yunus; Karkemish; Luwian; Anatolian hieroglyphs; inscribed funerary stelae

ROBERTO DAN - PRISCILLA VITOLO - ANDREA CESARETTI - ZEINAB HADI DASTJERDI - ARTUR PETROSYAN,

Urartian Metal Arrowheads in Context. The Leaf-Shaped Arrowheads from the Solak-1/Varsak

Excavation (Armenia) in the Frame of Urartian Archaeology..... » 65

ABSTRACT: This article presents a group of arrowheads recently discovered at the Solak-1/Varsak, a site located in the central part of the River Hrazdan valley in Armenia. These arrowheads, defined as “leaf-shaped with wide stem and long tang”, pertain to a particular type which a series of archaeological contexts suggest were used by the army of the state of Bia/Urartu. The paper analyses the arrowheads of Solak-1 with reference to their contexts of discovery and also considers other specimens found not only in Urartian archaeological sites, but also in sites related to areas adjacent to Urartu, such as for example Assyria.

KEYWORDS: arrowheads; Solak-1; Armenia; Urartian army; Assyria; typology.

MARCO ROSSI, *Seals from Tell Deinit (Syria)*..... » 89

ABSTRACT: This article deals with the seals found at Tell Deinit, a multiphase site in north-western Syria; twenty-one objects dated between the prehistoric and the late Achaemenid periods have been analyzed.

The group with oldest specimens consists of three stone seals found in the upper levels of the archaeological stratification of the site which have been attributed to the final part of the Neolithic period for their specific morphology and engraving style; a conical-shaped metal seal (engraved with zoomorphic image) and a small cylindrical seal of steatite (with traces of an anthropomorphic figurative scene) document the period between the final

phase of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age. Eleven seals were attributed to the central and final phase of the Iron Age, between the end of the 10th century and the first half of the 6th century, which were divided into three groups, the first with specimens engraved with a synthetic style, the second with button-shaped seals of international style and a third group consisting of Egyptian and Phoenician scarabs and a scaraboid. Three seals characterized by different morphologies, materials and engraving style are attributed to the Achaemenid period, between the end of the 6th century and the last third of the 4th century: a massive conoid-shaped seal made of glass and engraved in a synthetic style with linear cuts; a bronze ring with an oval bezel engraved with a hybrid creature; and a jar fragment with the seal impression of a rosette engraved in a naturalistic style.

The seals attributed to the oldest phases of the site were found out of their chronological original context, whereas the seals dated to the Iron Age and the Achaemenid period were linked to these chronological phases of the long history of the settlement excavated on the acropolis. The presence of non-local artisanal products highlighted a clear link between this internal trans-Orontic area and the coast, testifying that the local community of Tell Deinit had access to international trade passing through the Levant during the central and final phases of the Iron Age and in the Achaemenid period.

KEYWORDS: Stamp-seals; synthetic style; common style; international style; gabled seal; Egyptian and Phoenician scarabs; button-shaped seals; conoid-shaped glass seal; U-shaped bronze ring.

MICHELE MINARDI, *“Persian Riders” on a post-Achaemenid Terracotta Mould from the Bhir*

Mound, Taxila..... » 123

ABSTRACT: This article examines the iconography and the style of a fragmentary terracotta mould unearthed in the early 2000s by a Pakistani archaeological team in a post-Mauryan context at the site of the Bhir Mound, Taxila. The mould bears the impression of two mounted horsemen galloping during a hunt or a fight. Their well-defined attributes, such as their attire and the trappings of their horses, indicate that these characters were undoubtedly meant to illustrate Achaemenid Persian riders. The object, by its very nature crafted to copy or replicate a prototype through a cast, is discussed in context considering the historical implications that it conveys. It is here argued that its “anachronistic” imagery, not isolated as one may think, may be evidence of the persistence of formal elements from Achaemenid times in the northwest region of India between the 2nd and 1st centuries BC, a long time after the empire’s demise.

KEYWORDS: Achaemenid Empire; Persian riders; transmission of iconographies; artistic legacy; Central Asia; northwest India; Taxila; the Bhir Mound.

CRISTINA TONGHINI, *An early Islamic Pottery Assemblage from Gir-E Gomel, Kurdistan (Iraq)*..... » 137

ABSTRACT: This article presents and discusses an assemblage of Early Islamic pottery excavated at the site of Gir-e Gomel, in Iraqi Kurdistan. The thorough publication of a corpus of pottery from a well-defined chronological horizon aims to contribute to a better understanding of the ceramic types used in the northern regions of the Early Islamic caliphate, and to the identification of regional patterns of circulation and consumption.

KEYWORDS: Early Islamic pottery; Early Abbasid pottery; Early Islamic Iraq; Islamic archaeology.

TIM CLAYDEN - KOZAD M. AHMAD, *‘Aqar Qūf (Ancient Dūr-Kurigalzu) in Early Arab, and pre-1700*

Ottoman Sources » 153

ABSTRACT: ‘Aqar qūf is the post-ancient world name for the ancient site of Dūr-Kurigalzu (founded by the Kassite king, Kurigalzu I, ca. 1400 BCE). This paper presents a review of the written and limited archaeological evidence for ‘Aqar qūf from 539 BCE until the end of the 17th century. The records of western travelers after this period are not examined as they have been reviewed elsewhere. The core of the paper is the written work of 29 different scholars (26 Arabic and 3 Ottoman) drawing on works dated to between the late Sāsānid period and the end of the 17th century. The studies of these scholars provide evidence for a complex set of associations that existed between ‘Aqar qūf and a range of issues. Early Islamic studies, drawing on earlier source material, ascribe a pre-Islamic past to ‘Aqar qūf, including the naming of the site, the origins of garlic cultivation in Mesopotamia, and a link to Nimrūd. ‘Aqar qūf features in an early eschatological work that remains relevant in extremist Islamic circles today. Located just to the west of Bahgdād, ‘Aqar qūf appears in numerous early Islamic histories detailing events, mainly military, that took place there. There are descriptions of the ruins at the site, and in one instance a recollection of a rest taken in the shadow of the ziggurat ruin. The site features in a poem, and even in a joke at the expense of the Byzantine emperors. In the Ottoman period ‘Aqar qūf was described by Evliyâ Çelebi and features on two maps with small drawings of a building in one case and the ziggurat ruin in another. The scant archaeological evidence for activity at the site demonstrates that there was occupation at ‘Aqar qūf at various points between the 8th and 17th centuries. In summary the study demonstrates the complex metamorphosis of an ancient site as its original purpose is lost and new uses of, and associations with, it are made.

KEYWORDS: ‘Aqar qūf; Dūr-Kurigalzu; Sāsānid; Nabatean; early Islamic history; eschatology; Nimrūd; Ottoman maps.

Notiziario Bibliografico

EMMANUEL BAUDOUIN, <i>L'architecture de Mésopotamie et du Caucase de la fin du 7^e à la fin du 5^e millénaire</i> (Eleonora Quirico).....	»	183
JOHNNY SAMUELE BALDI, MARCO IAMONI, LUCA PEYRONEL, PAOLA SCONZO (eds.), <i>Late Chalcolithic Northern Mesopotamia in Context. Papers from the Workshop held at the 11th ICAANE, Munich, April 5th 2018</i> (Michael Campeggi)	»	184
CARLOS GONÇALVES, CÉCILE MICHEL (eds.), <i>Interdisciplinary Research on the Bronze Age Diyala. Proceedings of the conference held at the Paris Institute for Advanced Study, 25-26 June 2018</i> (Valentina Oselini)	»	186
STEVE RENETTE, <i>Lagash I – The Ceramic Corpus from Al-Hiba, 1968–1990. A Chrono-Typology of the Pottery Tradition in Southern Mesopotamia During the Third and Early Second Millennium BCE</i> (Jacopo Bruno)	»	188