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ABSTRACT

For many years, archaeological research within the Piedmont region of the Zagros Foothills in northern Iraq has been left aside in favour of the extensive surveys carried out in the vast Mesopotamian alluvial plains. This paper presents the preliminary results of the first season of the Piedmont Region Archaeological Project's (PiRAP) survey carried out in the summer of 2023 within a sector of the Zagros Foothills in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq at the border between the Dohuk and Ninawa provinces. With the purpose of filling a "gap" in the knowledge of the archaeological panorama of this region, one of the goals of the PiRAP project is to study the settlement dynamics of the Piedmont region and compare the data with those obtained by other projects for the surrounding plains. A specific methodology has been applied to achieve this goal. It was based on a stratified sampling strategy[1] and enabled the documentation of 145 archaeological sites, dating from the Early Palaeolithic to the Ottoman period (from the XIV century). The preliminary results of this work shows a palimpsest landscape filled with different types of sites. Systematic and diachronic study will allow a better understanding of the human-landscape settlement dynamics of the region in the long term.

KEYWORDS

Landscape archaeology, mountains, human settlement dynamics, Zagros Hilly Flanks, South-western Asia

ABSTRACT

During the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, Mesopotamia was territorially divided between Middle Assyria in the north and the Kassite dynasty of Karduniaš in the south, driven by a continuous effort to exist as Great Kingdoms on the international scene, making the territorial definition a major issue. In this context, we propose to re-study the concept of frontier and border from an emic and an ethic point of view, in order to show that it was not an unthought-of aspect of the Mesopotamian practice and mentality during the second half of the II millennium BC. Studying the rich vocabulary and its polysemy in akkadian and sumerian, but also the occurrences in the texts (political, administrative, but also omens and hymns), we wish to show the importance of such concept, which can sometimes even be sacralised. By recalling the principles of contemporary International Law concerning the border, we also wish to demonstrate the elements of continuity in the practice up to the present day (much more flexible than often imagined), so as to counter the argument of the supposed conceptual gap with Antiquity. As an exemplication applied to the archaeological and textual datas in the territories between Assyria and Karduniash (in the Middle Euphrates Valley and the Middle Diyala region), we propose to use the concepts of border-zone, border-contact and shared territories to illustrate the extent and particular forms that the wide notion of *frontière* can take in its material evidence.

KEYWORDS

Middle Assyria, Kassite, border, international law, material culture

ABSTRACT

The site of Karmir-blur constitutes one of the most spectacular archaeological contexts of the Armenian Highlands. The long excavations conducted here by B.B. Piotrovskij have revealed decisive aspects regarding the presence and dissolution of Urartian power in these regions and have yielded an incredible series of objects belonging to both the royal Urartian and local spheres. The aim of this paper is to present to the scientific community three fragmentary royal Urartian shields excavated at the site in 1956. Epigraphic analysis has established that they were objects commissioned by Argišti (I), son of Minua, and that they can be framed in the problematic issue of the complex relationships between Karmir-blur and Erebuni.

KEYWORDS

Metal shields, royal inscriptions, Urartu, Karmir-blur, Erebuni

ABSTRACT

This report makes available the preliminary results of field research conducted at Tell 'Umar/Seleucia on the Tigris by the Italian Archaeological Expedition (IAES), in the months of October-November 2022 and April 2023. The IAES started activity anew after a long gap, resuming research being conducted for decades at the site since 1963. Geomatic and magneto-geophysical surveys have been conducted with the purpose of better defining the topography of the

and heritage management issues. This has fostered an environment in which heritage sites are exceptionally vulnerable to illicit human activity, from encroachments on sites to illegal excavations and looting.
KEYWORDS
Tishreen Basin, Syrian heritage, climate change, conflict, looting

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