

HELMUT FREYDANK - DORIS PRECHEL, *Ein Regent für Karduniaš in einem Brief Tukultī-Ninurtas*

I. Aus Dūr-Katlimmu? » 1

ABSTRACT: The article offers a new interpretation of Tukultī-Ninurta's Middle Assyrian letter excavated at Tall Šēh Ḥamad/Dūr-Katlimmu (BATSH 4, 1 No. 9). The authors raise the question if a certain Adāju, mentioned in the text several times, may be identified with one of the contemporary Kassite kings bearing Adad-...-names. Furthermore, the implications of this proposal for the Assyrian eponym sequence are discussed.

KEYWORDS: Assyrian regents in Babylonia, Kassite kings, Assyrian Eponyms

ELEONORA QUIRICO, *Investigating the Mesopotamian Private Universe: Alternative Tools*

for the Reconstruction of Domestic Architecture » 9

ABSTRACT: A significant paucity of data often hinders the architectural reconstruction of Mesopotamian residential structures; indeed, the limited or insufficient preservation of architectural remains due to the perishable nature of most of the available building materials, complicates the understanding of plans and three-dimensional forms of houses. Therefore, an in-depth archaeological analysis requires further tools and bases on which to found the interpretation of the complex dimension of Mesopotamian domestic architecture. In this study, an introductory comparison between the information provided by specific categories of finds (terracotta models, Neo-Assyrian stone reliefs and clay tablets) and the main archaeological evidence from sites excavated in Mesopotamia is presented with the aim of highlighting objective architectural similarities as well as major differences and incongruences.

KEYWORDS: Residential architecture; inner plans; three-dimensional reconstruction; *maquettes architecturales*; Neo-Assyrian stone reliefs; clay tablets.

MARCO MORIGGI, *A Preliminary Catalogue of the Aramaic Ostraca from Kifrīn* » 35

ABSTRACT: At the site of Kifrīn on the Euphrates, a Roman garrison used to be stationed in order to guard the Eastern *limes* of the Empire in the years immediately preceding the tormented military anarchy of the third century AD and the rise of the Sasanian Empire. This settlement yielded many archaeological remains including inscribed ostraca, some of which testify to the local use of Hatran Aramaic script and Hatran and Palmyrene digits. This short catalogue presents the hitherto unpublished Aramaic ostraca from Kifrīn, with a focus on identifying their scripts.

KEYWORDS: Aramaic, Middle Euphrates, Hatra, Palmyra, Aramaic scripts and numbers, Mesopotamia, Sasanian Empire, Roman Near East, Roman Army in the Euphrates valley.

KEVIN BUTCHER, *Small Change at the Edge of Empire: the Coin Finds from Kifrin* » 51

ABSTRACT: This paper publishes and discusses the 65 coins found in the excavations at Kifrin on the Middle Euphrates between 1981 and 1983. It compares these finds with those from other sites in the region and considers the historical implications of the patterns observed.

KEYWORDS: Roman numismatics; coin finds; Kifrin; Hatra; Roman provincial coins; Gordian III; Ardashir I.

AMER AHMAD, *The Region of Tell Brak during the Control of Extremist Groups* » 71

ABSTRACT: In its northern expansion in the Jezirah region on Syria, ISIS came to have control of major archaeological sites, including Tell Brak, Tell Hamidiya, Tell Barri, Tell Khazna. This article describes the situation in the field as it could be documented after the retreat of the jihadists, with a first hand account and with pictures that detail the situation in these and other sites in the region.

KEYWORDS: Tell Brak, Tell Hamidiya, Tell Barri, Tell Khazna, heritage, Syria, ISIS

Kassite Administration: Texts, Seals, and Sealing Practices

ELENA DEVECCHI - SUSANNE PAULUS, *Kassite Administration: Texts, Seals, and Sealing Practices* » 83

TIM CLAYDEN, *The Temporal and Geographical Distribution of Dated Economic Texts of the*

Kassite Period » 85

ABSTRACT: Building upon Brinkman's 1976 catalogue of dated Kassite period texts, and using his framework of Kassite history (2017) this study focuses on the geographic and temporal distribution of the economic texts of the period. The data that has been excavated or published since 1976 is incorporated. The dominance of the Nippur texts remains, but the new material extends the geographic and temporal range of Kassite period economic texts beyond central Babylonia up the Diyala corridor and into the Gulf, and back to the mid 16th century BCE. The concentration of dated economic texts in the thirty year period 1254-1225 BCE, and the importance of an updated version of Brinkman's 1976 catalogue is highlighted.

KEYWORDS: Kassite texts, Diyala, Gulf, Nippur, Brinkman

NOBUAKI MURAI, *Sealing Practices in Middle Babylonian Administrative Transactions* » 97

ABSTRACT: The main purpose of this article is to demonstrate the usefulness of seals and seal impressions found on cuneiform tablets. Although seals and sealings have been a subject of interest in Assyriology, they are often treated separately from texts, but we can gain further insights by treating them together. The discussion here mainly concerns the seals and sealing practices found in connection with the *aklu* documents of the Middle Babylonian period excavated at Nippur. We can identify several groups of texts which have the same seal impression. By examining these groups, we find that some officials who sealed *aklu* documents were members of prominent families who were involved in the administration of Nippur and the settlements around it, and we see the importance of distinguishing seal captions from seal impressions. Finally, wider application of the study of seals and sealing practices to textual studies is suggested.

KEYWORDS: Kassite; Nippur; Dūr-Enlilē; *aklu*; seals; sealing practices.

AMI HUANG, *Much Cattle, much Care: Middle Babylonian Herding Contracts from Nippur* » 113

ABSTRACT: Herding contracts are attested over long stretches of Mesopotamian written history, with records from the Old Babylonian through the Neo-Babylonian periods surviving well into the present day. Drawn up between livestock owners and outside contractors, these contracts can furnish us with important information about the interests of the two parties, as well as livestock management practices in ancient times. In the following article, I discuss a group of Middle Babylonian herding contracts excavated from Nippur and dated to the Kassite period. Despite the prevalence of livestock in the Kassite economy, these contracts have received little critical treatment in the field. The following discussion will therefore provide a more in-depth and extensive introduction to these contracts, touching upon their formal aspects, the listed herd and flock compositions, possible production aims, and the contracts' legal stipulations.

KEYWORDS: Herding contracts, pastoralism, Middle Babylonian, Kassite period, Nippur, livestock management practices, livestock production aims, sheep, goats, cattle.

LYNN-SALAMMBÔ ZIMMERMANN, *The Curious Case(s) of the Sealed Kassite Letters* » 129

ABSTRACT: The amount of sealed epistolary material from the Kassite period is extremely small. Whereas it is estimated that ca. 700 Kassite period letters are preserved, G. Stiehler-Alegria Delgado and D.M. Matthews have proposed that only two sealed envelopes and two sealed letters have survived. However, in the following article I will show that the number of preserved sealed Kassite letters and envelopes of Kassite letters is even smaller, by offering a reappraisal of the sealed epistolary material from Kassite Nippur. One sealed Kassite letter can be securely identified (N 1593). One sealed envelope belongs to a letter (BE 17: 24), but may not date to the Kassite period. Neither of the sealed envelopes from Kassite Nippur can be attributed to a Kassite letter without reasonable doubts. Further, two sealed tablets cannot securely be identified as letters. I will discuss, through comparison to the archival practices for other letter corpora, the possible reasons why it is that the Kassite letters have mostly been preserved without their envelopes, and I will present new editions and understandings of the sealed texts.

KEYWORDS: Kassite letters, Kassite Nippur, Kassite seals, sealed letters, sealed envelopes, archiving

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