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**Shapinuwa, the Hurrians, Hurrian and Hittite Rituals**

(Torino, July 3, 2017 - University of Torino)

**CARLO CORTI, *From Mt. Hazzi to Šapinuwa. Cultural Traditions in Motion in the First Half of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century BC*** ..... p. 3

ABSTRACT: This article describes the content of one of the (late) Middle-Hittite tablets which make up the “Festival for Mount Hazzi”, a celebration previously known mostly by its name. A careful reconstruction of this composition reveals that many elements of Hurrian tradition from North-western Syria were conveyed to Anatolia primarily through the newly founded capital Šapinuwa, during the first half of the fourteenth century BC. Thanks to this manuscript, and other recently published texts, it is now possible to show that the Hittite King Tuthaliya II/III began conquering North-western Syrian territories including Kizzuwatna, Mukiš (with its capital Alalah) and, probably, Aleppo, well before what had been previously assumed. The cultural and religious traditions of these territories deeply influenced this king. Evidence includes references to two hypostasis of Tešub together with the god Šarraššiya, to the mythological compositions of “Teššub’s Cycle” as well as to the parade of the weapons of the deities, which strongly recall the scene depicted in Chamber A of Yazılıkaya.

KEYWORDS: Hittite festivals; Hurro-Hittite mythology; Šapinuwa; Tuthaliya II/III; Mt. Hazzi; Mukiš; Aleppine tradition.

**STEFANO DE MARTINO, *The Composition and Transmission of the itkalzi Ritual*** ..... » 21

ABSTRACT: This essay deals with the transmission of the *itkalzi* ritual, its original recension and the derived “fill in the blanks” editions. We assume that said ritual was performed for the first time, when Tuthaliya II married Tadu-Ḫeba, with the aim of assuring the well being of the royal couple and the fertility of the queen.

KEYWORDS: *itkalzi*-ritual; Hurrian; Ancient Anatolia; Šapinuwa.

**SEBASTIAN FISCHER, *Erste Ergebnisse einer Untersuchung der hurritischen Emar-Texte*** ..... » 31

ABSTRACT: The paper presents some initial results of an ongoing study of the Hurrian texts from Emar which might also be of interest beyond the scope of Hurritological studies. In particular, it will examine the syllabaries used and re-evaluate Salvini’s proposed division of the texts in two groups. While the Hurrian omens generally show the same structural features known from Akkadian omens, some characteristics specific to the Hurrian texts emerge. These include a sentence which seems to bridge the protasis and the apodosis, a blessing formula written at the end of four tablets, and some schematic features.

KEYWORDS: Hurrian language; oracles; Emar

**DANIEL SCHWEMER, *Rites of the AN.DAḪ.ŠUM Festival in ḫattuša*** ..... » 55

ABSTRACT: The contribution offers an edition of the Hittite festival fragment 1234/z. The tablet represents a ‘day tablet’ of the Empire period spring festival (AN.DAḪ.ŠUM festival). Due to its fragmentary state it cannot be assigned to a specific day with certainty. The rites described on the tablet took place in Ḫattuša after the return of the king from Arinna and may belong to the event called the ‘great assembly’.

KEYWORDS: Hittite spring festival; Arinna; Hittite religion.

**AYGÜL SÜEL, *Workshops Found at Tepelerarası Area of Ortaköy-Šapinuwa*** ..... » 65

ABSTRACT: The results of the most recent archaeological excavation conducted at Ortaköy/Šapinuwa in the area of Tepelerarası and Ağılönü. The existence of workshops in these regions supports the assumption that these materials were not only produced for this city but were also sent to a vast geographic area ruled by the Hittites. In this article, the focus will be on workshops that were excavated in the ‘G’ region of Tepelerarası. These excavations began in 2014 and are still in continuing.

KEYWORDS: Ortaköy/Šapinuwa; Tepelerarası; Ağılönü; Workshops.

**GERNOT WILHELM, *Synchronic Variety and Diachronic Change in Hurrian*** ..... » 75

ABSTRACT: The Hurrian language is attested in texts that cover a period of about one millennium and come from several places in the vast geographical area between the Mediterranean in the west and the Zagros Mountains in the east. From this, it follows that synchronic variety and diachronic change can be expected. The essay gives an outline of the history of research on this problem and describes some examples including hitherto overlooked evidence.

KEYWORDS: Hurrian language; historical linguistics.

ALI AL-IBADI, *The Scheme of Kassite Housing*..... » 87

ABSTRACT: The article is a general presentation of research on residential architecture of the Kassite period. I began with the approach of understanding the Kassites as foreign people in relation to Babylonia to verify whether they present new ethnographic traits, and if such could (if existent) affect the style of dwelling construction. For a wider understanding of the Kassite's residential architecture, I compared their building techniques with those of the Hurrian, middle-Assyrian and middle-Elamite periods. The summary presents a new division of Kassite houses into two types (with a central courtyard and linear houses) as per their location on the Babylonian map and a discussion that takes into account older analyses.

KEYWORDS: Kassite period; dwelling architecture; household; Kassite houses; linear house; house with central courtyard.

CLAUDIA POSANI, *Some Reflections about the Links between Rhetoric and Iconography in the inscriptions of Yariris* ..... » 103

ABSTRACT: The main purpose of this article is to produce an integrative reading of the epigraphic and iconographic sources concerning the figure of the Karkemiš regent Yariris. The focus of the text analysis consists of examining figures of speech, particularly those which are linked with the visual-imaginative component, in the attempt to identify possible relationships between rhetoric choices and iconographic aspects of the support on which inscriptions are carved. The results of this study contribute to highlight some socio-cultural aspects related to the concept of education and to the expectations that the audience must have had towards the role of the future king's master.

KEYWORDS: Karkemiš; Yariris; metaphor; childhood; protection; education; master; knowledge.

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ABSTRACT: Among the different roles in which the Assyrian king is depicted, the most unusual is the king as 'shepherd', shown holding a long staff. This image, which throughout the Assyrian royal inscriptions can be read as the metaphor of the shepherd who cares for his flock, is most frequently represented in peaceful scenes. However, very few academic studies have focused on this specific and unusual image. This paper fills part of this gap by analysing the king as shepherd depicted on the figurative programmes of the Neo-Assyrian kings, from Assurnasirpal II up to Sargon II. The paper will 1) examine the subtleties within such image, 2) scrutinise the related architectural context(s) and 3) present a 'reconstruction' of the steps by which the viewer would have approached, perceived and 'consumed' the images, the aim being to outline the identity of the expected audience.

KEYWORDS: Neo-Assyrian bas-reliefs; shepherd king; long staff; audience.

SILVIA DI CRISTINA - VALENTINA GALLERANI - GIUSEPPE LEPORE, *Europos on the Euphrates: Continuities and Discontinuities at an Oriental Classical City*..... » 129

ABSTRACT: Classical and Late Antique literary sources mention the Seleucid colony called Europos, which we are now able to identify as the descendant of Karkemish on the right bank of the Euphrates river, at the modern Turkish-Syrian border. In the light of the past British Museum excavations, the relative archival records and the new data collected within the Turco-Italian Joint Expedition, we are now able to outline some general aspects of the settlement from the 3rd century BC to the 10th century AD, while the pottery studies contributed to the more specific definition of the chronology. We obtain a picture of Europos as a long-lasting, monumental and prosperous settlement during the Classical period. The urban plan mostly retraces the one of the Iron Age and has its main features in the acropolis, the squared agora, a colonnaded street and an orthogonal grid of streets in connection with the city gates.

KEYWORDS: Europos; Karkemish; Middle Euphrates; Turkey; British Museum Excavations; Turco-Italian Expedition; urban plan; Hellenistic; Roman; Byzantine; pottery.

FILIBERTO CHIABRANDO - CARLO LIPPOLIS - VITO MESSINA - SARAH SCIACCA, *Topography and settlement of al-Mada'in. New observations* ..... » 151

ABSTRACT: This paper presents some results of a study on the topography and settlement of the area of Al-Mada'in, in central Mesopotamia, one of the largest and most important complexes of ancient settlements in the world. Research was conducted following a multi-temporal approach in which photo-interpretation of remote-sensing data is interpolated with the analysis of previous information of different nature (published and unpublished), collected during on-site surveys and excavations. Settlement models, connectivity and hypotheses on the location of ancient mega-sites are particularly addressed. Further studies on the area will considerably advance our knowledge of environmental planning, impact assessment, land use and settlement of Central Mesopotamia in the centuries preceding the Muslim conquest.

KEYWORDS: Al-Mada'in; settlement models; remote sensing; GIS.

ROBERTO PARAPETTI, *The lost Mirjaniya Madrasa of Baghdad: Reconstructions and Additional Notes* ..... » 173

ABSTRACT: The reconstruction of the Mirjaniya madrasa prayer hall inside the Iraq Museum of Baghdad is one of the most important actions among those that the Italian government has carried out in the last fifteen years for the

museographic restoration of the artistic and cultural heritage of Iraq - of the splendid architectures in particular - severely damaged and partly lost in April 2003, thanks to the contribution of scientific competence and knowledge of CRAFT and Monumenta Orientalia operating in that country for almost fifty years.

KEYWORDS: Madrasa; musalla; waqf; muqarnas; girih.

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FEDERICO ZAINA, *Delving into Archaeological Archives, a Single-researcher Approach. The Case Study of Ancient Kish (Central Iraq)* ..... p. 1

ABSTRACT: Archive archaeology emerged in the last decades as a significant approach in the study and interpretation of cultural heritage. However, while the majority of past and current projects applied a large-scale mostly team-based approach, less attention has been paid to the potential of single-researcher studies.

By using the case study of ancient Kish (Central Iraq), in this paper I will show how archive archaeology can contribute to the study and reconstruction of an old excavation. In particular, I will present the methodology and the dissemination strategy of a single-scholar research.

KEYWORDS: Archive archaeology; single-researcher; old excavations; Mesopotamia; Kish

MAURIZIO VIANO, *Some Business Documents from Emar* ..... » 15

ABSTRACT: The Late Bronze Age site of Emar on the middle Euphrates was an important commercial center at the crossroad of trade routes connecting Mesopotamia, Syria, Anatolia and the Levant. This contribution explores a small number of documents, mainly written according to the Syro-Hittite tradition, which deal with various commercial activities. By revealing the trade routes as well as the money-lending practices used by merchants, these sources strengthen the role of Emar in the international trade. Additionally, other sources show that also small-scale commercial activities were carried out at Emar during the Late Bronze Age.

KEYWORDS: Emar; Trade; Late Bronze Age; Merchants; Hittite Empire.

STEFANO DE MARTINO, *The Fall of the Hittite Kingdom* ..... » 23

ABSTRACT: The first part of the present essays deals with the time when Hatti collapsed and the events related to its fall. Besides, we have tried to investigate four possible causal factors that might have determined the fall of the Hittite kingdom, namely, a situation of shortage of foods, movements of peoples, an economic crisis and, lastly, the break of the political and social network.

KEYWORDS: Hittite kingdom; Sea Peoples; Famine; Collapse.

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ABSTRACT: This paper presents five inscribed artifacts from the time of Nebuchadnezzar II, which were found in the Iraqi excavations at Tell as-Sadoum, the ancient Babylonian city of Marad. One of them, a fragment of a terracotta cylinder, is particularly remarkable in that it allows us to identify a temple building as the shrine of Lugalmarada, the city-god of Marad.

KEYWORDS: Marad; royal inscriptions; Neo-Babylonian; Nebuchadnezzar II; Lugalmarada; E' igikalama temple.

WATHIQ AL-SALIHI, *The Architecture and Decorative Elements of Temple of Allat at Hatra* ..... » 59

ABSTRACT: The paper illustrates the architecture and the sculptural decoration of the temple of Allat, one of the main religious buildings in Hatra, located in a prominent position within the Great Temple complex. The temple was investigated by the Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq between 1974 and 1975.

KEYWORDS: Hatra; Parthian architecture; religious architecture; architectural decoration; inscriptions.

DANIELE MORANDI BONACOSI - HASAN AHMAD QASIM - COSTANZA COPPINI - KATIA GAVAGNIN - ELISA

GIROTTO - MARCO IAMONI - CRISTINA TONGHINI, *The Italian-Kurdish Excavations at Gir-e Gomel in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Preliminary Report on the 2017 and 2018 Field Seasons* ..... » 67

ABSTRACT: The article presents the preliminary results of the Italian-Kurdish excavation project carried out by the University of Udine and the Directorate of Antiquities of Duhok at the site of Gir-e Gomel (Kurdistan Region of Iraq). From at least the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC onwards, Gomel was the central site of the entire Navkur Plain, a very fertile and well-watered region on the route linking Arbail and the Greater Zab Valley with the Upper Tigris region to the north of Nineveh. The Eastern Tigris plains between the modern city of Duhok and the Greater Zab have never been the object of a target-oriented archaeological excavation aimed at establishing a stratigraphic reference sequence for this still under-explored archaeological landscape and investigating diachronically the development of the region's material culture. With this purpose – and the aim of exploring the character and function of this important site on a local and regional scale, investigating the role it played in the region's cultural and socio-economic processes – Gir-e Gomel has become the subject of extensive archaeological excavations as from 2017 and 2018. The main results of the first excavation seasons are discussed in the following article.

KEYWORDS: Gir-e Gomel; Iraqi Kurdistan; Chalcolithic; Bronze and Iron Age; Classical and Islamic periods.

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LUCA PEYRONEL - CLAUDIA MINNITI - DANIELE MOSCONE - YOUNES NAIME - VALENTINA OSELINI

RENATA PEREGO - AGNESE VACCA, *The Italian Archaeological Expedition in the Erbil Plain, Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Preliminary Report on the 2016-2018 Excavations at Helawa* ..... p. 1

ABSTRACT: The article is a preliminary report on the excavations conducted at Helawa by the Italian Archaeological Expedition in the Erbil Plain (MAIPE), Kurdistan Region of Iraq, during the 2016-2018 seasons. The site was surveyed in 2013 and 2015, revealing consistent occupation dating to the Late Chalcolithic period and briefer re-occupation in the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC. Helawa is one of the largest 5<sup>th</sup> millennium sites in the Erbil Plain, probably reaching an area of 10 ha, and was abandoned at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC (early LC 3). The excavations (Step Trench B, Operations B1 and D, sounding G) established the chronological sequence, bringing to light a 5 m thick sequence of superimposed buildings and structures dating from the Ubaid to the early LC 3 period, located on the terraced southern slope of the higher mound, Middle/Late Bronze dwellings equipped with fire installations and storage facilities in Operation D, built directly over the last LC occupation at the site and an Islamic and LC 2 occupation in Operation G.

KEYWORDS: Helawa; Erbil; Iraqi Kurdistan; Urbanization; Chalcolithic; Bronze Age; Classical and Islamic periods.

NOEMI BORRELLI, *Invisible People and Elite Customers. Fowlers and Bird Breeders in the Social*

*Network of the Ur III Province of Ĝirsu/Lagaš* ..... » 105

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this article is to offer an overview of the socio-economic dimension of the individuals involved in the exploitation of marginal resources, specifically birds, which were nonetheless perceived as prestige products by the royal elite. Drawing from Ur III sources, the policy adopted by the state to dispose of these goods is scrutinised. Despite the meagre documentation, glimpses of the strategies used by fowlers to capitalise on state allowance return a vibrant image of this sector of society. The scenario here proposed confirms the careful planning so peculiar to the Ur III economy, strengthening however a new perspective, which increasingly focuses on a hidden regionalism and on dynamics of intra-societal cooperation.

KEYWORDS: Ĝirsu/Lagaš; southern Mesopotamia; Ur III; Mesopotamian history; economy; birds; fowlers; elite.

MICHELE CAMMAROSANO - KATJA WEIRAUCH - FELINE MARUHN - GERT JENDRITZKI - PATRICK L. KOHL,

*They Wrote on Wax. Wax Boards in the Ancient Near East* ..... » 121

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ABSTRACT: By dispensing with the need for ink while simultaneously providing a writing surface that retains plasticity over time, wax boards represent the precursors of modern *tablets* and one of the most relevant media in human history. Their origin can be traced back to the Ancient Near East, where they were used along with clay tablets in a variety of contexts, from administration to literary collections. Originating from the interdisciplinary research project “Cuneiform on Wax” at the University of Würzburg, the study combines the analysis of the available archaeological, philological and iconographical evidence with experimental results. Following a discussion of the phenomenology of wax boards and of the presence of honeybees and related products in the Ancient Near East, we first assess the role and diffusion of this medium in the various areas and periods under consideration, then examine the extant material evidence, and finally focus on the composition of the wax paste and the related writing techniques. The results presented include a reassessment of the terminology for wax boards in Bronze Age Anatolia, the reconstruction of an ivory diptych from Assur, and a new interpretation of the motif of the so-called “grooved stylus”.

KEYWORDS: Writing technology; beeswax; wax boards; cuneiform; ancient Near East; apiculture.

FEDERICO ZAINA - PIETRO BARALDI - VITTORIA CARDINI - MARZIA CAVRIANI - PAOLO ZANNINI, *Archaeometric Characterization of a Blue Ingot from the Palace of Sargon II at Karkemish (Turkey) and the Distribution and Function of Egyptian Blue in the Near East during the Iron Age* ..... » 181

ABSTRACT: Several fragments of a blue ingot were found during the 2016 excavation campaign at Karkemish in the Iron III palace of Sargon II (Area C). In order to identify it as Egyptian blue, the microstructure and chemical composition of the ingot have been investigated by means of X-ray fluorescence (XRF), Raman microspectrometry and FT-IR spectroscopy. Moreover, we analyzed the archaeological context from which they have been recovered to tentatively provide its functional interpretation. Lastly, we compared the Karkemish ingot with other published specimens from stratigraphically defined contexts, with the aim of understanding the distribution and function of the Egyptian blue in the Near East between the early Iron Age and the Achaemenid period. Finally, we discussed the chronological, geographic and functional trends in light of the historical events of these periods.

KEYWORDS: Archaeometry; Egyptian blue; Iron Age; Karkemish.

ENRICO FOIETTA, *Movable Altars and Burners in Stone from Hatra* ..... » 197

ABSTRACT: This paper presents some results of an ongoing study about the movable altars and burners in stone from Hatra (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> cent. AD). The catalogue comprehends all the published objects from the Iraqi Expeditions and burners from the Building A and the North Street discovered by the Italian Expedition at Hatra. The find-spots, the possible functions and the comparisons will be analysed in order to shed light on this interesting class of objects.

KEYWORDS: Altars and burners; Hatra; Parthian period; religion.

AHMAD ADDOUS, *The Founding of the First Arab-Islamic Cities According to Ancient Arab Sources. The Model of Kūfa* ..... » 219

ABSTRACT: This study looks at the foundation and development of the Arab-Islamic city according to the main ancient Arab sources and focuses on the town planning model of the city of Kūfa which, after a short period of being a military field camp involved in an unstoppable expansionist process of conquests (or *futūḥ*, “openings”, as Arab chroniclers referred to it), was one of the first sites to be planned and transformed into a genuine city. A series of political, economic, social and strategic reasons, such as the centralizing of power, the consolidation of the emerging state, the influx of substantial economic resources and the presence of specialized skilled workers within new borders, made a profound contribution to the foundation of a primary nucleus of urban centres which, in the years to come, would become powerful cities. The study recounts and analyzes these reasons, which made Kūfa the urban centre *par excellence*, where a new concept of Arab-Islamic society was revealed and an organization of space was conceived whose general model was then repeated and renewed in different geographical and environmental contexts. Furthermore Kūfa, which in the first century of the *Hiġra* was repeatedly at the epicentre of political and religious rebellions and revolts involving the entire Muslim world, was a cosmopolitan city and a genuine melting pot, together with the neighbouring rival Baṣra, of Arab-Islamic culture for over four centuries.

KEYWORDS: Arab-city; Kūfa; *tamṣīr*; traditional sources.

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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

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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

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

### **Kassite Administration: Texts, Seals, and Sealing Practices**

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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.

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

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- PAOLA SCONZO - HASAN AHMED QASIM, with contributions by MOUSSAB AL BESSO - BENJAMIN GLISSMANN - ANDREA TITOLO, *Investigating Jubaniyah, a Late Chalcolithic Site on the Upper Tigris River, Kurdistan Region - Iraq. Preliminary Report* ..... » 1

ABSTRACT: Jubaniyah is a blufftop settlement of 4 hectares set on a terrace overlooking the River Tigris in northern Iraq (Iraqi Kurdistan) demonstrating a significant and almost exclusive occupation during the Late Chalcolithic period (ca. 4800-3000 BC). Besides an agricultural-pastoral orientation, the site presumably also functioned as a central hub in riverine communication and exchange with the hinterland during most of this long period. Set within the catchment area of the Mosul Dam reservoir, Jubaniyah is also one among more than 150 flooded sites which periodically resurface due to the reservoir's annual or cyclical water fluctuation, thus intermittently revealing the spolia of their past. This interim report presents the results of a multisc

, and aims at demonstrating the continued importance of such sites, and the necessity to develop a program for their monitoring and preservation. Intensive survey, targeted soundings, a salvage operation, and artefact analysis are herein outlined, supplemented by a study of the site's "emersion pattern" over the past 40 years, and a proposal for post-flood monitoring and future recording strategies.

KEYWORDS: Jubaniyah; Duhok; Iraqi Kurdistan; EHAS; Late Chalcolithic period; Ninevite 5 period; obsidian; KAO.

- DAVIDE NADALI, *Smells, Flavours, and Sounds: a Sensory Analysis of Feasting in Third Millennium Mesopotamian Iconography* ..... » 61

ABSTRACT: Representations of banquet in the art of third millennium BC are largely present on sculpted plaques and cylinder seals, mainly. Banquet motif is made upon a kind a iconographic canon: next to the moment of feasting, that is the consumption of food and drink, the representations also encompass other moments, such as the music due to the presence musicians playing lyres and harps and singers. The present paper focuses on the sensorial analysis of the banquet scenes: smell, taste and hearing, beyond sight, have a fundamental role in the construction of social ties that is in fact at the centre of the function and meaning of feasting in ancient Sumerian society.

KEYWORDS: Banquet, feasting, senses, music, social ties, kingship.

- NAOHIKO KAWAKAMI, *Reconstructing the Ancient Course of the Tigris in the Northern and Central Parts of Sumer in the Ur III Period Using a Gis Analysis* ..... » 71

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KEYWORDS: Sumer; Ur III; Tigris; ancient course; GIS; DEM.

- CRISTINA TONGHINI - ONUR USTA, *Mesopotamian Waterscapes: Watermills in the 'Land behind Mosul'* ..... » 91

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KEYWORDS: Watermills; Horizontal-wheel mills; Islamic Settlement and resource's management; Ottoman Settlement and resource's management; Islamic archaeology; Ottoman archaeology; Ottoman history

## Material Culture and Food in (Greater) Mesopotamia from the Iron Age to the Parthian Period

- ALESSANDRA CELLERINO, *Transparent Glass Drinking Bowls at the Assyrian Court: Visual Appeal of Wine Consumption* ..... » 125

ABSTRACT: In the Neo-Assyrian period, the glass industry revived thanks to the production of transparent vessels. Transparency, created adding to the batch antimony oxide as decolouriser, represents the new trend when glass industry resumed its production at the beginning of the first millennium BCE. Usually colourless, vessels were cast in moulds and finished by grinding and polishing. Hemispherical bowls are the most common glass form came into use,

probably at the beginning of the eight century BCE, but shallow bowls, plain or decorated with engraved, ribbed or petalled designs, were also manufactured. The majority of these glass vessels, dated to the first half of the first millennium, were found at Nimrud in palatial contexts (North- West Palace, Fort Shalmaneser, Burnt Palace). The size and shape of these bowls suggest that they were used, along with precious metal bowls, as individual drinking vessels, probably for wine, during official banquets, feasts or ritual royal libations as attested by many Neo-Assyrian stone reliefs. At the Assyrian court, the possession and consumption of wine denoted high status and authority, and the practice of drinking grape wine in luxury bowls of refined craftsmanship had a strong social value. The transparency of the glass could enhanced the sensory perception and appreciation of the material and the shine of the red or white liquid through the thin wall of the bowls could obtain particular appealing and charming optical effects. As gold, glass could embodied symbolic value, as purity, light and lustre, associated to sacred or palatial contexts.

KEYWORDS: Neo-Assyrian transparent glass; glass skeuomorphism; glass sensory perceptions; glass social function; glass symbolic value.

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ABSTRACT: Archaeological and epigraphical data from Ancient Egypt and Babylonia are of very different quality. Almost nothing remains from the archaeological side for Babylonia, while objects in well-preserved form have been discovered from Ancient Egypt. In the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE, Babylonian archives document different pieces of wooden furniture, which are almost absent in the Ancient Egyptian epigraphy. The situation is as contrasted concerning woodworking: very few elements exist on woodworkers and their techniques in Babylonia, while there are sources of different nature available from Ancient Egypt. This article aims to summarize the situation of both contexts in a first attempt in comparing them and initiate a dialogue between both disciplines.

KEYWORDS: Ancient Egypt; Babylonia; Dalbergia sissoo; Ebenaceae; Egibi; wood; wooden furniture; woodworking.

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KEYWORDS: Neo-Babylonian; religion; worship; craft; material culture; Akkadian terminology; women.

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KEYWORDS: Salt; Iron Age; Babylonia.

**VITO MESSINA, *Salt traders of Seleucid Babylonia* ..... » 171**

ABSTRACT: Salt was one of the most valued commodities in antiquity. It was used for food preparation and preservation, as an aliment itself, and for other manufacturing activities. It was widely traded both at local and global levels, especially in the Hellenistic period, for it benefited from an extensive route network that worked more and more effectively at least from the Achaemenid period onwards. Salt traders thus became one of the most important components of city societies. The present overview deals with the possibility of addressing problems related to such a complex environment as clues for reconstructing, at least in part, the administration procedures and policymaking of Babylonian élites in the centuries that led to the turn of the Christian era.

KEYWORDS: Salt trade; Network system; Taxation; Seleucid apparatus; Archival contexts.

**ROBERTA MENEGAZZI - CARLO LIPPOLIS, *A World in Miniature. Terracotta Food Models from Seleucia on the Tigris* ..... » 183**

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KEYWORDS: Seleucid and Parthian Babylonia; terracotta figurines; models of food; family religion; domestic cult practices.

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KEYWORDS: Hatra, Parthian period, domestic complex

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GIOVANNI BERGAMINI, *Awal<sup>ki</sup> - 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*

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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 13<sup>th</sup> 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*

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

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

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

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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 10<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> century and the last third of the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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

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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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

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