

- 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

ABSTRACT: Studies on historical geography indicate that the ancient course of the Tigris may have passed through the center of the northern and central parts of Sumer during the Ur III period. This article investigates whether ancient fluvial levees consistent with this are discernible on Digital Elevation Model (DEM) 3D contour maps of this region using geographical information system. Furthermore, maps of the region's distribution of ancient sites are georeferenced on the DEM 3D contour maps and the relationship between the discerned ancient fluvial levees of the supposed ancient course of the Tigris and the settlement patterns of the ancient sites dated to the Ur III Period is analyzed. With this information, whether these ancient fluvial levees were active during the Ur III Period can be established. Based on this comparative validation analysis, the location of the ancient course of the Tigris in the northern and central parts of Sumer during this period is ascertained.

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

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

ABSTRACT: This paper summarises the results of an ongoing research focused on the water-driven grain mills of the hinterland north of Mosul (present Northern Iraqi Kurdistan). This line of research developed in the context of the 'Land behind Mosul' programme, within the 'Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project' (LoNAP). More specifically, this study concerns a group of watermills located in the wadi Bandawai area. A constructional and occupational sequence is formulated on the basis of the stratigraphy, typological elements and radiocarbon dating of the mortar; this stretches from the 7th-8th centuries until the early 20th century. Data from the archaeological analysis are combined with those derived from the written sources, with an in-depth study of those pertaining the long Ottoman period.

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.

GERSANDE ESCHENBRENNER-DIEMER - BENJAMIN DROMARD, *Wooden Furniture in Babylonia and Egypt: Sources, Wood Varieties and Woodworkers* » 139

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 1st 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.

OLGA V. POPOVA - LOUISE QUILLIEN, *Fabrication and Ritual Use of the Pišannu-Jewellery Box in Babylonian Temples During the First Millenium BC*..... » 151

ABSTRACT: This study focuses on the object of worship *pišannu*, evidenced in the Neo-Babylonian temple archive. Several translations have been proposed for the term: garment, bag, basket, box, or chest. The occurrences and spellings of this term in the Neo-Babylonian temple archive will be studied and compared with the ^{GIS/GI}PISAN from the Old Babylonian period. We will observe which craftsmen were responsible for its fabrication and what material they used in order to determine the shape and appearance of the object. We will also examine the function and use of the box in temples and during rituals, in particular its connection with the goddesses and the female temple personel.

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

MICHAEL JURSA - ROSAURA CAUCHI, *Salt in Iron Age Babylonia* » 163

ABSTRACT: This paper surveys the archival documentation for salt from first millennium Babylonia until the late Achaemenid period. While it was obviously a crucial component of everyday nutrition, salt is attested but rarely. Still, the institutional archives reveal a pattern of salt use in which the ‘cultic’ and the ‘profane’ sphere of the temple economy intersect, and they shed some light on the economics of the salt trade. The presentation will give particular attention to the use of salt for human and animal consumption, as a preservative, from the pickling of meat to the conservation of (parts of) deceased political enemies, and to the use of salt in the cult. Anthropological (and generally modern) comparanda have to be drawn on to help with quantification.

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

ABSTRACT: Models of food are a small group among the terracottas from Seleucia on the Tigris: the recorded items are around 75 out of over 11.000 figurines, either representing fruit or offering plates filled with different foodstuffs. Virtually absent in the coroplastic repertories of the other centres of Seleucid and Parthian Babylonia, they find timely parallels in the contemporary production from the Eastern Mediterranean area. Aim of this paper is to take a closer look at these ostensibly marginal materials, exploring their possible function as tools of domestic cult practices based on old traditions but renewed in the light of the changing social and cultural milieu of the city.

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

ENRICO FOIETTA, *Cooking, Drinking and Banqueting at Hatra. New Data from Building A* » 191

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KEYWORDS: Hatra, Parthian period, domestic complex

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