

IRAQ

76 LXXVII (2015)

Abstracts

Daniele Morandi Bonacossi and Marco Iamoni: Landscape and Settlement in the Eastern Upper Iraqi Tigris and Navkur Plains: The Land of Niveveh Archaeological Project, Seasons 2012-2013

This paper presents a preliminary report on the first two seasons of work by The Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project (LoNAP) of Udine University that aims to understand the formation and transformation of the cultural and natural landscape of northern Mesopotamia, (embracing large parts of the governorates of Ninawa and Dohuk) from the Palaeolithic to the Islamic period. Its purpose is to comprehend patterns of settlement, land use and management, based on a regional archaeological surface survey and excavation. These objectives are closely tied to the geoarchaeological and bioarchaeological reconstruction of the ancient natural environment and its evolution as a result of global climatic fluctuations and human impact.

Tim Clayden: Two New Prints of Layard's Excavations at Nimrud: An Artist at Nimrud and Nineveh

This paper presents prints of two previously unpublished water colours depicting the excavation of slabs and sculptures found during Layard's excavations at Nimrud in June 1850. Though neither image is signed, an identification of the artist as S.C. Malan is probable. Gadd's (1938) study of Malan's drawings concentrated on his work at Nineveh. This paper focuses on the sketches made at Nimrud and completes the catalogue of pictures Malan drew at both sites (Appendix A) and publishes the previously unpublished Nimrud and Nineveh drawings.

John Curtis and Nigel Tallis: More Thoughts on the Balawat Gates of Shalmaneser III: The Arrangement of the Bands

This article seeks to demonstrate that the correct arrangement of the bronze bands on the Shalmaneser III gates from Balawat can be established by comparing the position of the nail holes on the ends of the bands with those on the edging strips that were fixed to the edges of the doors and partly overlap the ends of the bands. This new approach confirms the order previously proposed by Curtis and Tallis for the bands on the left-hand gate, but a new arrangement is suggested for the four lower bands on the right-hand gate.

A.R. George: On Babylonian Lavatories and Sewers

This study begins by examining the archaeological and documentary evidence for lavatories (toilets) and foul-water drains in ancient Mesopotamian dwelling houses. It goes on to investigate the use, etymology and history of the Akkadian word *asurrû*: in the Old Babylonian period it served mainly as a term for a kind of foul-water drain or "sewer" but later shed that meaning.

Ruth Horry: Assyriology at the Margins; the Case of William St. Chad Boscawen (1855–1913)

This study presents the career of late-nineteenth-century Assyriologist William St. Chad Boscawen (1855 - 1913) as a case study in recovering contributions to knowledge-making by low-status, marginal actors. Boscawen took Assyriological knowledge and expertise, gained at the British Museum, into a new disciplinary setting: a private museum of history of medicine, owned by pharmaceuticals entrepreneur Henry Wellcome (1853-1936). Yet his relocation was only partially successful, and his contributions to knowledge were transient. I employ a sociological framework to explore how social factors, as much as academic ones, influenced Boscawen's career trajectory. In doing so, I argue that studying marginal figures offers a richer understanding of past Assyriological practices and the wider research community in which the most prominent figures operated.

Josué J. Justel: An Unpublished Nuzi-Type Antichretic Loan Contract in The British Museum; with Some Comments on Children in the Kingdom of Arraphē, by Daniel Justel

The paper presents the edition of cuneiform tablet BM 102353, from Yorgān Tepe (ancient Nuzi). Though various scholars have examined the document, and information about its content has been partially distributed, it is the first time that copy, transliteration and thorough commentaries are provided. The text presumably was written during the fourth generation of Tehip-Tilla's family. It is an antichretic contract in which a young girl is lent, and therefore some comments on children in the documentary evidence from the Kingdom of Arraphē are in order.

Barbara A. Porter: Tracing the Acquisition History of Some Old Syrian Popular Style Cylinder Seals

Examples of Middle Bronze Age cylinder seals, categorized today as “Old Syrian popular style” have been documented since the mid-nineteenth century, albeit usually without any dating or provenance information. This particular subset of the vast array of ancient Near Eastern glyptic has recently been studied by the author and an acquisition history identified for many of them. Here the disparate paths that brought some of these seals into museums and private collections are explored to demonstrate, not only the vagaries of where these eminently portable objects end up, but to highlight the importance for modern scholarship of documenting such histories.

Nicholas Postgate: The Bread of Aššur

As today, bread in antiquity came in a multitude of varieties, some of which were specific to particular regions or populations. Examining the terminology and iconography of breads in Assyrian texts, it is clear that there was a continuity of certain types of bread peculiar to Assyria from the Middle Assyrian period to the final century of the Assyrian empire. This exemplifies the strength of Assyria's identity over half a millennium, and the persistence of its cultural independence in some respects from its Babylonian neighbour. The majority of the written sources refer to cultic activities, and the conservatism expected in cultic contexts no doubt contributes to the long-term persistence of certain types of bread. There may even be reason to see one variety (ḫuḫḫurtu) as the forerunner of a bread used in Jewish cultic contexts to this day (challah).

Julian Edgeworth Reade: Xenophon's Route through Babylonia and Assyria

The Anabasis of the Greek historian Xenophon describes the march of a mercenary army in 401-400 b.c. from the Aegean coast down the Euphrates to Babylonia, and back up the Tigris to the Black Sea and the Aegean. This paper presents the evidence for the army's route through Babylonia and Assyria, and attempts to resolve the main uncertainties.¹

Krisztian Simkó: The Magical Potential of Stones Used for Cylinder Seals: New Manuscripts of the Text Known from BAM 194 VIII' 9'-14'

Besides their significance in administrative procedures, cylinder seals also played an important role as amulets in ancient Mesopotamia. There are many references to them being used in medical and magical procedures, which sometimes determine their features of magical potential. Thus not only the imagery and inscription of cylinder seals but also the raw material of which they were made contributed to their medico-magical usage (cf. Collon 1987: 119; 1997: 19-20). This paper deals with the last-mentioned feature of cylinder seals, that is their raw material, which is treated in a short series known from BAM 194 viii' 9' -14' , as well as from another three tablets published here for the first time.

Chikako E. Watanabe: The Symbolic Role of Animals in Babylon: A Contextual Approach to the Lion, the Bull and the Mušḫuššu

This paper examines the meaning of three animals—the lion, the bull, and the mušḫuššu-dragon—as depicted on the walls of the Ishtar Gate and Processional Way at Babylon. These animals embody multiple layers of meaning but are associated with specific deities and all possess apotropaic qualities. The animals served traditionally as guardian figures placed at the entrances to Mesopotamian temples and palaces. This study focuses on their apotropaic roles which are evoked by the specific architectural context in which the animals are placed. It is suggested that the images of these animals underscored the importance of both the Ishtar Gate and the Processional Way as a crucial route into the symbolic heart of the city.

Federico Zaina: A Radiocarbon Date from Early Dynastic Kish and the Stratigraphy and Chronology of the YWN Sounding at Tell Ingharra

Between 1927 and 1930 a joint expedition by the University of Oxford and the Field Museum of Chicago to the site of Kish opened a series of soundings (ZY, Y, YW and YWN) on the mound of Tell Ingharra in order to investigate the earliest periods of the settlement. This paper presents a detailed analysis of the YWN sounding utilizing previously unpublished documentation and excavated objects, and offers a new interpretation of the evidence. In addition, a new radiocarbon date assigns the latest phase from the sounding to the ED IIIb to Akkadian transition and it can be compared usefully with existing dates from several central and north Mesopotamian sites.