

الشرق

Ash-sharq

Bulletin of the Ancient Near East
Archaeological, Historical and Societal Studies

Vol 1 No 1 April 2017



ISSN 2513-8529

ARCHAEOPRESS JOURNALS

Ash-sharq
Bulletin of the Ancient Near East
Archaeological, Historical and Societal Studies

Vol 1 No 1 April 2017

ISSN 2513-8529
eISSN 2514-1732

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Ash-sharq is a Bulletin devoted to short articles on the archaeology and history of the Ancient Near East. It is published twice a year. Submissions are welcome from academics and researchers at all levels. Submissions should be sent to Laura Battini (laura.battini@college-de-france.fr)

PUBLISHED BY ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD

Subscriptions to the **Bulletin of the Ancient Near East** should be sent to
Archaeopress Publishing Ltd, Gordon House, 276 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7ED, UK
Tel +44-(0)1865-311914 Fax +44(0)1865-512231
e-mail info@archaeopress.com
<http://www.archaeopress.com>

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Ash-sharq

Bulletin of the Ancient Near East
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Vol 1 No 2 December 2017



ISSN 2513-8529

ARCHAEOPRESS JOURNALS

Ash-sharq
Bulletin of the Ancient Near East
Archaeological, Historical and Societal Studies

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A Short Introduction

Laura Battini

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For a long time, there has been no journal of short articles on the archaeology of the Ancient Near East. In the way that NABU (Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires) provides up-to-the-minute information for epigraphers, so archaeologists need a forum for the quick exchange of ideas and presentation of results from excavations. Ash-sharq is intended to meet this need. The journal will appear twice a year, this year in Aril and July.

Time Changed

Ash-sharq offers quick publication of the latest archaeological and historical discoveries, as well as of studies of material culture. It is devoted both to the archaeology and to the history of the Ancient Near East because they are inseparable: as epigraphic material serves for the reconstruction of historical societies, so does archaeological material. Material culture is studied from the standpoint of society rather than aesthetics.

Time Changes

Ash-sharq has a new approach to the use of languages: English is to be the main language and languages currently spoken in the Near East will also be featured (Arabic, Hebrew, Kurdish, Persian, Turkish ...), ie the current world international language and the languages of the countries where we work. Each number of the journal will include some articles in Near Eastern languages with English summaries. We are aiming to diminish colonialistic attitudes and to encourage contributions from local archaeologists.

The journal is new in encompassing all periods attested in the region (Islamic, medieval, Sassanid as well as protohistoric, prehistoric, Hellenistic and pre-classical archaeology). As archaeologists, we have a professional duty to excavate all archaeological levels with the same precision and resources, even if we specialise in one particular period. Later periods are fascinating and still conserve iconographical material from earlier periods.

Will Time Change ?

The journal has a particular brief for women. The scientific committee has a strong representation of experienced women colleagues from both the East and the West. Women are especially encouraged to submit articles as an indication of the ways they are contributing to advances in our field, in archaeology, in Assyriology and in history, in spite of difficulties in carrying on their careers and lives.