A Short Introduction

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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 April and July.

Time Changed

Ash-sharq offers quick publication of the latest archaeological and historical discoveries, as well as 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 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 prehistoric, 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.
# Contents

A Short Introduction ........................................................................................................ iii
Laura Battini

عمريت خلال العصر الفينيقي المتأخر ................................................................. 1
Michel Al-Maqdissi and Eva Ishaq

A Double-Sided Board from Tell Afis ..................................................................... 9
Anne-Elizabeth Dunn-Vaturi

Some Considerations on the Funnels from Tell Afis ............................................. 18
Giuseppe Minunno

 أعمال البعثة السورية في المدينة البيزنطية (تل الكسرة الأثري) خلال خمس مواسم (2006-2010) الآثاري يعرب العبدالله (المديرية العامة للآثار والمتحف الوطني بدمشق) .......... 22
Yaarob Dahham

Men, Animals and Pots. A few Thoughts about a Narrative Motive on Syrian Bronze Age Vessels .................................................................................................................. 33
Juliette Mas

Entrusting One’s Seal in the Ancient Near East in the First Half of the 2nd millennium BC .......................................................................................................................... 40
Julie Patrier

Bronze Metallurgy in the Times of the Earliest Cities. New Data on the City I of Mari.................................................................................................................................................. 48
Juan-Luis Montero Fenollós

Localized Ištar Goddesses and the Making of Socio-Political Communities: Samsi-Addu’s Eštar Irradan at Mari ............................................................................................................. 55
Elizabeth Knott

Of Pins and Beads: Note on a Feminine Costume in Mari .................................... 62
Barbara Couturaud

Ships and Diplomacy. The Historical Connection between the Letters RS 18.031 (from Tyre) and RS 94.2483 (from Ugarit) ....................................................................................... 69
Juan-Pablo Vita
Issues in the Historical Geography of the Fertile Crescent ......................................... 72
Ran Zadok

The Kiriath-Jearim Archaeological Mission ................................................................. 93
Thomas Römer

An Entanglement between Nature and the Supernatural: the Early Second Millennium BCE Ceremonial Complex of Hirbemerdon Tepe in the Upper Tigris Region ................................................................................................................... 96
Nicola Laneri

The Architecture of Bahra 1, an Ubaid Culture-Related Settlement in Kuwait . 104
Piotr Bieliński

A Summary of the 5th Campaign of the French Archaeological Mission at Qasr Shemamok (Kurdistan, Iraq), 21 September – 19 October, 2016 ..................... 112
Maria Grazia Masetti-Rouault

The Peshdar Plain Project, 2015-2016. A Major Neo-Assyrian Settlement on the Empire’s Eastern Border .............................................................................................................. 124
Karen Radner, Janoscha Kreppner and Andrea Squitieri

Abu Tbeirah’s Craft Area NE: A Preliminary Survey .................................................... 131
Franco D’Agostino and Licia Romano

The Creation of the First (Divinatory) Dream and Enki(g) as the God of Ritual Wisdom ......................................................................................................................... 155
Annette Zgoll

The Hare has lost his Spectacles. Notes on Contest Scenes, Early Occurrences 162
Reinhard Dittmann

Daughters from Good Families and their Seals in the Old Babylonian Period .. 170
Gudrun Colbow

Re-contextualizing Clay Figurines, Models, and Plaques from Iščali ............. 177
Elisa Roßberger
Contents

How Ebla has Changed our Perception of the Ancient Near East in the Third Millennium BC ................................................................. 187
Alfonso Archi

Ṭur ‘Abdin’dede üçlü yerleşim modeli: manastir, köy, Kayaya Oyma Manastır ................................................................................................. 193
Elif Keser

Klaʼzomenai Yüzey Araştırmaları (Klap) ........................................ 201
Elif Koparal

A New Interpretation of the ‘External Portico’ of Arin-berd/Erebuni, Armenia .................................................................................... 211
Roberto Dan

The Agora, a Mark of Hellenisation? An Archaeological Note on Public Squares in Hellenised Mesopotamia and Parapotamia .................. 224
Gaëlle Coqueugniot

Khinis/Bavian: Changing Models for an Assyrian Monumental Complex ...237
Frederick Mario Fales

The Italian Archaeological Expedition to Qasr Shamamuk-Kīlizu, Iraq, 1933. Notes on the Excavation Finds at the Iraq Museum in Baghdad .. 275
Stefano Anastasio

The Architect and the Emperor of Babylonia ....................................... 286
Pierre Villard

Portable Altars ..................................................................................... 293
Laura Battini

Egyptian Scarabs in Southwest Canaan in the Late Bronze and Iron I: Observations from a Local Perspective ........................................ 294
Ido Koch

The Lost Greek Epitaph from Hārūnābād (aka Shāhābād, mod. Eslāmābād-e Gharb), Iran, and its Elusive Discoverer, ’Mr. H.’ ............ 304
Daniel T. Potts
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Ash-sharq

Bulletin of the Ancient Near East
Archaeological, Historical and Societal Studies
Vol 2 No 1 2018

ISSN 2513-8529

Archaeopress Journals
# Contents

**The Path to Urbanism. Exploring the Anatomy and Development of Early Urbanism in Northern Mesopotamia. Five Years of Investigations by the Danish Archaeological Expedition to Iraq.** .......................................................... 1  
Tim Boaz Bruun Skuldbøl and Carlo Colantoni

**The Assyrian Eastern Frontier. Girdi Gulak, a Fortified Settlement in the Zagros Foothills. Preliminary Results of the Danish Archaeological Expedition to Iraq.** .............................................................. 13
Carlo Colantoni, Martin Makinson and Tim Skuldbøl

**Archaeological Discoveries in the Ancient State of Lagash: Results from the Italian Excavations at Tell Zurghul/Nigin in Southern Iraq.** ................. 24
Davide Nadali and Andrea Polcaro

**Consented Violence in Mesopotamia: from Factuality to Representation.** 50
Laura Battini

**Phenomenology of the Replica: Exploring Sameness and Difference in Seals and Sealing Practices.** ................................................................. 77
Silvana Di Paolo

**New Proposal for the Location of Ancient Turanu (URU tu-ra-nu).** ............ 83
Adonis-Ackad Baaklini

**Art, History and Material Culture. A Study of Mesopotamic Cylinder Seals.** 85
Katia Maria Paim Pozzer

**The Hippodamian Plan: a Mesopotamian Origin?** ........................................... 94
Laura Battini

**Stamp-Seals and Sealings from Tell Dothan.** ................................................... 102
Adam E. Miglio

**Water and the Gods: Ponds and Fountains in the Hittite State Cult according to Hittite Textual Evidence.** ................................................................. 112
Alice Mouton

**The Recipient of the Bronze Bowl from Kınık.** ................................................ 121
Zsolt Simon
Contents

The Victory Stele of Dadusha of Eshnunna: A New Look at its Unusual Culminating Scene
Claudia E. Suter

Pakute – an Assyrian ‘Ghost Castle’ on the Rania Plain
Jesper Eidem

The Ottoman and 20th-Century Village of Jafrakani Kon:
A Rescue Excavation in the Soran District (Iraqi Kurdistan)
Tobias Helms and Tim Kerig

Twelve Royal Stelas for Twelve Great Gods: New Discoveries at the Khinis Monumental Complex
Daniele Morandi Bonacossi

Old Babylonian Images of Violence in Official and Popular Media
Laura Battini

An Example of Domestic Mamluk Architecture in Damascus (14th and 15th centuries)
Imane Fayyad
Contents

Unequal in Life but Equal in Death? The Mortuary Evidence for Social Stratification in the Ubaid Polities ............................................................ 1
Konstantinos Kopanias and Giota Barlagianni

Tell Shemshara 2018: Emerging and Floating Evidence ......................... 21
J. Eidem, M. Merlino, E. Mariotti and R. Kalim Salih

Investigating Late Chalcolithic Period settlement on the Marivan Plain, western Iran. First insights from the Marivan Plain Survey project .......... 33
Morteza Zamani Dadane, Sirvan Mohammad Ghasrian and Tim Boaz Bruun

Animals in War in Historical Mesopotamia............................................. 47
Laura Battini

Luxuries Lost: Wood and Other Ligneous Materials for Interior and Architectural Decoration in Ancient Mesopotamia (Chalcolithic and Bronze Age) ....................................................................................... 63
Philippe Quenet

A Preliminary Analysis of the Toponymy in and around the So-Called
Jerusalem Corridor .................................................................................... 93
Ran Zadok