

Elam and its Neighbors. Recent Research and New Perspectives
Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

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Abstracts

Abdali, Negar (University of Heidelberg)

Glazed artefacts in NW Iran and Elam: A common technology?

Abstract:

At the end of the Late Bronze Age a number of workshops were active in the Levant, but also in Mesopotamia and south-western Iran which succeeded to apply glaze on fired clay and sintered siliceous artefacts (Caubet 2012: 157; Moorey 1994: 178).

Middle Elamite craftsmen in south-western Iran conceived large wall panels consisting of glazed brick on the sintered quartz surfaces (in contrast to Mesopotamia with the tradition of applying glaze on the clay surface) which display figural and ornamental designs (Amiet 1967: 27; Caubet 2003: 326). In the later first millennium still in Khuzistan, Neo-Elamite builders continued glazed decoration applied to siliceous bricks. The technique served also for tiles, knobs and other objects in Elamite public buildings (Heim 1992: 203).

Some 30 years ago glazed artefacts came to the light on a massive scale first in Qalaichi and later in Rabat from the illegal clandestine excavation and reached the art market. From 1999 to 2006 Yaghmaee and Kargar carried out official excavations in Qalaichi. In 2005 at Rabat, Kargar and Heidari excavated two architectural stages, Iron II & III (8th & 7th centuries). Both Qalaichi and Rabat are located in the ancient polity of Mannea. The glazed artefacts from Qalaichi and Rabat manifest yellow, white, green, blue, black and ochre glazes bonded onto the terracotta surface.

There can be little doubt that the imagery of ‘Mannean’ art stands under Neo-Assyrian influence, but there have been no focussed studies regarding the comparative glazing technologies. The analysis of the petrographic studies of samples from NW, and SW Iran is the topic of the paper.

Álvarez-Mon, Javier (Macquarie University Sydney)

Puzur-Inšušinak, the last king of Akkad? Text and Image Reconsidered

Abstract:

Susian, Awanite, Elamite, Anšanite? Father Vincent Scheil once described Puzur-Inshushinak as “a kind of Susian Gudea” because of the role he played in Elam and the numerous objects and texts found carrying his name. Contrary to his contemporary Gudea, however, the origins and cultural background of Puzur/Kutik-Inšušinak remain matters of scholarly debate. He can be considered the first Elamite king on record to have ruled over Susa, Anšan and much of the Iranian plateau. His conquest and occupation of northern Babylonia, Akkad included, may have lasted for at least eight years, suggesting that in many ways this monarch inherited the imperial aspirations of the House of Sargon. While there is much yet to learn about this enigmatic individual, his artistic accomplishments indicate that he co-opted the court-based artistic traditions established by the imperial workshops of the Akkadian

monarchs. This paper examines these traditions seeking to query the multiple identities of this ruler and his harmonization of Akkadian, Post-Akkadian and Elamite traditions.

Ameri, Marta (Colby College)

Who Holds the Keys? Using the Archaeological Indicators of Administrative Activity from Shahr-i Sokhta to Reconstruct Administrative Practice in Third Millennium BC Iran

Abstract:

The administration of goods and services has been a part of human history since before the origins of writing. In preliterate societies, evidence for administrative processes is often furnished by seals and sealings found in archaeological excavations. Excavations conducted by the Italian Archaeological Mission at the site of Shahr-i Sokhta in Iran revealed a well-preserved town and an extensive graveyard that were in use for most of the third millennium BC. For the study of ancient administration, the material from this site is unique in both its chronological and functional breadth. The seals from the settlement demonstrate significant changes in shape, material and iconography over time, while those found in the necropolis add a human element, demonstrating who owned the seals and how they were worn or carried. In addition to the seals, which provide important insight into the stylistic and technological development of Iranian glyptic, the hundreds of sealings found at Shahr-i Sokhta provide information about the administration and economy of the site. A final element for understanding the administration of Shahr-i Sokhta is added by the large number of tokens, tags and other items that may have played a role in the site's complex administrative system. This paper presents a preliminary overview of the ongoing study of the material excavated by the Italian mission at Shahr-i Sokhta. This re-examination of published and unpublished materials aims to bring together these various sources of information to develop a more holistic view of administrative systems in third millennium Iran.

Badamchi, Hossein (University of Tehran)

Law in a Multicultural Society: Akkadian Legal Texts from Susa in Comparative Perspective

Abstract:

Some 600 legal texts from Susa during the first half of the second millennium BCE constitute a unique source for the study of Elamite law and society: there is no legal text in Elamite language from this period, nor is there any Akkadian legal text found in other Elamite sites (outside Susiana) from this period. This collection of legal texts is furthermore important for studying the development of law in Old Babylonian Period.

The present paper will examine two fundamental problems that scholars face in studying these documents: the first is whether this collection of tablets can be used to reconstruct Elamite law. Different opinions about the authorship of these tablets need to be examined. The second is how contemporary legal documents from Ancient Near East can contribute to the study of this collection and if the Susa collection has something to offer back.

Basello, Gian Pietro (University of Naples)

Use, abuse and recovery of the past in Elam (and Babylonia)

Abstract:

The paper will deal with some case studies: (a) the Middle-Elamite royal inscriptions of Shilhak-Inshushinak (12th century BCE) mentioning or reproducing (also in the paleographic details) the inscription of an earlier king (F. Malbran-Labat, *Inscriptions royales de Suse*, nos. 38 and 49); (b) the so-called Kedor-Laomer texts (e.g. B. Foster, *Before the Muses*, §III.11, p. 284) which can be considered as the product of the Babylonian pro-Marduk party using the past Elamite king Kutir-Nahunte as a symbol of the impious king, probably in reference to events pertaining to the Neo-Babylonian kingdom. In the Kedor-Laomer texts, the royal claims of Kutir-Nahunte on the Babylonian throne are followed by the negative reply of the Babylonians and the redeeming role of the god Marduk. It will be also suggested that the so-called “Berlin letter” (J. van Dijk, *Orientalia* 55 [1986]) is a pseudo-letter authored in Babylon using the past Cassite-Elamite marriages as a device in the framework of a similar political propaganda.

Dabbagh, Mina (University of Lyon)

Corporeal iconography of female images and constitutive representation of gender in Elamite art

Abstract:

From the earliest periods of Elamite history impressive representations of women in the Elamite art can be observed. The representations have been developed in Bronze Age period throughout the figurines, statues, seals, rock reliefs, stelas and vessels. The image of women is a frequent motive on several cylinder seals, dating back to the proto Elamite period until the first millennium B.C.

This paper will discuss the representation of women focusing specifically on rock reliefs, statues and the stelas. The main sources of this study were discovered at Susa, Izeh or Mâlamir and Fars. From the highland regions of Elam’s kingdom traces of religious monuments have still not been found. However, *husa* as a places of sacred open shrine had been found, like the sanctuaries with reliefs showing scenes of worship and religious ceremony. In these images, women are sometimes presented as a goddess accompanying the god and sometimes as a queen with her king. Some fragments of stelas also present the female images during a religious ceremony and mythical scene. In most of these stelas which belong to the Sukkalmahhu period, the female characters appeared as goddesses, women of the royal family and priestess, etc. This study is *aimed* also to investigate the style of displaying these characters.

How do these representations from old Elamite to new Elamite period reveal the gender constructs and gender roles in this society? I will argue that these images were the forceful elements in the construction of ideas about identities (individual/ social), power and ideology in the Elamite community.

Dahl, Jacob (University of Oxford)

“Man”, “plough”, “cow”: progress and pitfalls in the decipherment of proto-Elamite

Abstract:

Over the past 150 years tremendous advances have been made in the decipherment of Akkadian, Sumerian, and the other languages written with cuneiform. However, as was noted by Damerow (2006), the same progress has not been matched in the decipherment of the very earliest texts from the ancient Near East, and it has become clear that the traditional philological methods of decipherment are progressively less suited for increasingly older texts. However, important improvements in the understanding of the earliest texts from Mesopotamia and Iran, proto-cuneiform and proto-Elamite, have been made through very different methodologies. On the one hand, historians of mathematics have developed a system of decipherment relying on the reconstruction of the context specific numerical systems and notations found in the largely administrative texts from these periods, and on the other hand, philologists working with archaeologists, and using textual and archaeological data, have made advances in decipherment through an understanding of the administrative reality behind the texts. In this brief talk I will first go over two examples of past advances in the decipherment of proto-Elamite using the methods outlined here, whereafter I will propose a range of new topics for future exploration.

De Graef, Katrien (Ghent University)

Bilingualism and Biculturalism in Sukkalmah Susa

Abstract:

At the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, when the Elamites expelled the Mesopotamians definitively, expanded their territory substantially, even conquering briefly parts of Mesopotamia, and developed an independent Elamite state, they were in need of an administrative system to organize their vast empire. Instead of reviving former indigenous writing systems (Proto-Elamite or Linear-Elamite), which would have been the logical thing to do, they choose to adopt the contemporaneous Old Babylonian language and writing system from Mesopotamia. In fact, they fell back on the administrative and judicial system they learned as part of the scribal education they received during the Old Akkadian occupation two centuries earlier, which was the only legal and administrative phraseology they were acquainted with as there existed no such Elamite text models, and updated it according to the contemporaneous Old Babylonian standards.

It goes without saying that by adopting the Akkadian language and writing system and especially the Akkadian legal and administrative phraseology and manner of formulating legal, economic and administrative documents, the Akkadian influence was pervasive in western Iranian bureaucracy and administration. However, although written in Akkadian, the legal and administrative formulas used in the contracts from Susa, differ considerably from those used in Mesopotamia and seem to be for the most part typically local. This is apparent on three levels: (1) the Susa contracts contain several legal and administrative formulas and clauses that, although written in correct Akkadian, are not known or at least not mainstream in Mesopotamia proper, (2) the legal and administrative formulas and clauses used in the Susa contracts contain several Elamite words, titles and expressions, and (3) the usage of the cuneiform signs in the contracts from Susa differs from that in Mesopotamia proper.

This paper investigates how and to what extent a basic duality of cultures as a result of the continuous interaction between the traditions, values and influences of the two major empires, Mesopotamia and Elam, is present in the day-to-day economic, legal and administrative documents

and letters from the Sukkalmah period found in Susa.

Dinarvand, Yousof/Ba Ahmadi, Hossein (University of Zahedan)

A Neo-Elamite Site in South of Susa

Abstract:

Despite the existence of Assyrian sources, the Neo-Elamite period, due to the destructions caused by the Assyrians and also interlinking of its final part with the Persians' advent is considered as one of the most obscure periods in archaeology of Elam. Contrary to the Middle Elamite period, the identified sites of this period around Susa are very few which can have its own implication and reasons.

In 6 km south of the ancient site of Susa and in a distance of 700 m from east of Shavoor River, there is a small and low height mound that the observable relics on its surface show a Date it belongs in to the Neo-Elamite period. It is a long time that Khuzestan sites have been identified and differentiated from other neighboring Areas, with a KS mark and a number, but according to the investigations, this site has not been scientifically studied and investigated. This site is among the several ancient places located in the southern borders of Haj Isa village. The low area of this site is certainly because of the fact that it has been trespassed by agricultural land over the recent years and there is a fear of being destroyed.

The authors of the present paper, while introducing the site and mentioning the geographic and environmental features located in it and also pottery evidence existing on its surface, intend to determine the attribution of these relics to one of the three Neo-Elamite parts, and if possible, consider a historical name for it through a study on the historical geography of the Neo-Elam, particularly based on the Assyrian sources.

To meet this purpose, initially, by comparing the old and new aerial imageries and being informed about the exact area of the site, the authors will attend the location and while recording the existing conditions and sampling the pottery, a topographic map of the site will be provided.

Eslami, Moein (University of Frankfurt)

Mud brick production in Haft Tappeh: A technical study on earthen architecture materials of Haft Tappeh

Abstract:

The Archaeometric studies are carried out increasingly on different archaeological materials. However, the technical characteristics of historic mud bricks are still not appropriately analyzed. The mud bricks are just like other archaeological materials and have considerable potential of archaeological information. Mud brick is in Haft Tappeh like many other archaeological sites of Iran the main construction material, which have been analyzed in this study with Archaeometric approaches. The samples have been taken from the old and new archaeological material findings on the site. The chemical composition of samples has been characterized with ED-pXRF. Furthermore, some samples have been selected for microscopic studies. The thin section of mud bricks is studied under the microscope to reveal the physical and mineralogical features of mud bricks. This study does not just explain the general characteristics of mud bricks and the construction materials in Haft Tappeh. It also helps to improve the conservation plan for preventive conservation and restoration projects. The preliminary results show a relatively homogenous composition of materials in all samples which could be a sign of systematic manipulation of raw materials in the construction process.

The high content of carbonate Oxide in XRF results and the abundance of Calcite Matrix in thin section suggest the intentional addition of lime and Gypsum aggregation to improve the physical properties of local silty sand soil. But from another side, this manipulation leads to the high decomposition rate of masonry on site.

Henkelman, Wouter (University of Paris)

Liyan as a lens: Elamite history at Bušehr

Abstract:

Some Neo-Elamite kings took not only the names of their august Middle Elamite predecessors, but also copied their inscriptions. In doing so, they attached themselves to an indigenous 'historiographical' tradition that can be traced back to at least the days of Puzur-Inšušinak and that entails the construction of genealogies, mention of previous builders of a temple, and invocation of Šilhaha. Libyan, on the Bušehr peninsula, offers a succinct version of this tradition: a continuation of royal patronage of an important shrine, reference to previous builder kings, and, hitherto hardly observed, the copying of older inscriptions in Neo-Elamite times. It therefore provides ample material for a case study into Elamite historical attitudes. At the same time, it will be possible to highlight the important role played by Liyan throughout Elamite history, notably also in the first millennium BCE.

Karami, Mohammad (University of Tübingen)

Recent Iranian Center for Archaeological Research and Tübingen University Archaeological Explorations in Kerman, South of Iran

Abstract:

The main objective of the joint project refers to investigations on possible relationships between south-Eastern Iran and Mesopotamia through the Persian Gulf during the 3rd millennium BC. The highly decorated chlorite vessels, which were produced immensely in inland Kerman during the mentioned period, were discovered in southern and northern Mesopotamia, contemporaneously. It can be inferred an existence of a cultural contact between these regions. In addition, the Persian Gulf must have played an important role as the major traffic route between ancient Marahashi and Aratta in Kerman, Meluhha in India and Magan in Oman during the Bronze Age and later periods.

In search of potential trade routes from inland Kerman to the Persian Gulf littorals and possible chlorite and diorite stone mines alongside of these routes, we started our archaeological and geological investigations in the region. Although we focus mainly on settlement pattern of the 3rd millennium occupations and related distribution pattern and analyses of stone vessels in our research, all of the archaeological sites in selected regions are surveyed systematically and are inspected carefully.

However, I would like to give you a short report on our field explorations in the Halilrud basin and the plains in the south of Jiroft. Even though the materials from the 3rd millennium BC will have priority to argue, it is planned to show the distribution pattern of the sites from the earliest occupations to the later in our survey regions.

Krebernik, Manfred (University of Jena)

A new Elamite incantation from the Hilprecht-collection Jena (Eine neue elamische Beschwörung aus der Hilprecht-Sammlung Jena)

Abstract:

Preparing the edition of the Old Babylonian administrative texts in the Hilprecht Collection Jena, I noticed that several texts belonging to other genres had erroneously been grouped with them. Among these was a fragmentary tablet from the Old Babylonian period which seemed to contain an Elamite incantation. In my presentation, I would like to give a brief overview of the corpus of Elamite incantations, and to discuss some questions concerning their language, contents, and transmission. Against this background, the new Jena will text will be presented.

Abstrakt:

Bei der Vorbereitung der Edition der altbabylonischen Wirtschaftstexte in der Hilprecht-Sammlung Jena stellte sich heraus, dass in diese Abteilung auch einige Texte eingordnet worden waren, die anderen Gattungen zuzurechnen sind. Dazu gehört auch ein fragmentarisches Tontäfelchen aus altbabylonischer Zeit, das offenbar eine elamische Beschwörung enthält. In meinem Vortrag soll das Corpus elamischer Beschwörungen aus Mesopotamien vorgestellt, und einige damit zusammenhängende sprachliche, inhaltliche und literaturgeschichtliche Fragen diskutiert werden. Vor diesem Hintergrund soll der neue Jenaer Text präsentiert werden.

Mäder, Michael (University of Bern)

Some new Linear Elamite Inscriptions

Abstract:

In January 2016 the Iranian University of Hamedān provided detailed photographs of twelve inscribed silver artefacts, partially pre-published by Mahboubian (2004). These inscriptions in Linear Elamite, which is an undeciphered writing system used in the late 3rd millennium, are now clearly viewable thanks to the pictures taken. Another two unpublished inscriptions from a private collection will be presented additionally. The new texts are extensive, more than doubling the corpus of Elamite Linear Writing in total. Thus, the deciphering attempts by Frank (1912), Bork (1924), Hinz (1969) and Meriggi (1971) can be revived and refined by drawing, counting, and cataloguing the signs and sign sequences. By creating a Unicode font and providing an open access web page, we hope to involve interested people into the project.

One preliminary result concerns the tablets of Konār Sandal (Madjidzadeh 2011). While sometimes being tagged as forgeries, we now think they perfectly fit the Linear Elamite syllabary. Some other 6 inscriptions, in contrast, only partially depict the signs of our corpus and seem to represent an intermediate state somewhere between Proto-Elamite and Linear Elamite.

Malbran-Labat, Florence/Roche-Hawley, Carole (French National Center for Scientific Research)

On the unpublished contracts from Susa (TS A IX-XV)

Abstract:

The authors present in this paper the initial stages of their project, recently inaugurated, devoted to the study of the unpublished cuneiform texts found by Ghirshman in his excavations of Susa between 1946 and 1967. The two zones concerned are “Area B” (excavations on the northeastern side of the

tell of the Royal City of Susa), and “Area A”, of which the purpose was to provide the stratigraphic context of the sector.

Stève, Gasche and de Meyer published a summary of the epigraphic data in *Iranica Antiqua* XV p. 110sq, where they established the chronology of levels A XV-IX et B VII-I.

Many of the texts from these levels have been already published. For Area B, see De Graef, K. (2005), *Les archives d'Igibuni. Les documents Ur III du Chantier B à Suse*, Ghent : MDP 54 ; *eadem* (2006) *Ville Royale de Suse IX : de la dynastie simaški au sukkalmaḥat. Les documents fin PE IIB - début PE III du chantier B à Suse*, Ghent : MDP 55 ; *eadem* (2007) : « Les textes de V récent du chantier B à Suse (fin sukkalmaḥat –ca 1575-1530 av. notre ère) », *Ir.Ant.* 42: 41-60 ; Tanret, M. et De Graef K. (2010), « The exercise tablets from chantier B in Susa revisited », *Ir.Ant.* 45, p. 225-257. For Area A : see MDP LVII (1974) : *Textes littéraires, trouvés campagne 1962-1963 (A XII)* et L. De Meyer, « Un meurtre à Suse », in *Fs Veenhof*, p. 31-38 (= TS A XIII 14).

Our project is to undertake the study of the texts found in the Area A, a project which started more than 20 years ago (see Malbran, F. et Lackenbacher S., 1994, « Les bénédictions dans les lettres de Suse », *NABU* 1994/54).

The texts published by K. De Graef, essentially economic in nature (except TS B.5/4, a letter), derive from an older period (with the exception of the six texts published in *IrAnt* 42). Those excavated in Area A are more recent: from ca. 1650 (A XV) to ca. 1050 (A IX). Only A XIV and A XIII, dating from the end of the SUKKALMAḤ period to the beginning of Kidinuides (ca. 1600-1500) are more or less contemporary to late B VI and B V.

We based our study of the texts from Area A of the Royal City of Susa on the summaries published by Stève, Gasche et de Meyer (*IrAnt*) and by F. Vallat (*SdB*, 2002) as well as on the reports, notes and (for some texts) on preliminary transliterations and copies given to us by J. Bottéro and E. Cassin.

We have also begun the systematic photography of those documents conserved in the Musée du Louvre, a project greatly facilitated by Philippe Marquis, whose assistance was greatly appreciated. In a planned second phase, we hope to establish a correlation between the excavation numbers given in *IrAnt*, the tablet numbers used by the epigraphers who have worked on the texts, and the inventory numbers of the Musée du Louvre.

This important group of texts from Area A are essentially administrative texts, contracts and letters. We decided to begin our study with the juridical texts, since these could allow for the establishment of more solid criteria for dating, based on the names of the rulers, the formulas, the paleography and the shape of the tablets.

We will then compare these elements with the contracts already published by Scheil (MDP XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXVIII), and among those, the « texts of Malamir », of which we have just completed a new study, dated to the Kidinuides and thus offering a *terminus ad quem* for the juridical corpus.

Several kinds of contracts are represented in this corpus: various property related transactions (simple adoptions or adoptions with donation, sharing, donations, exchanges or purchases), including the exploitation of said properties (different types of field rentals, loans, business firms). Finally, some court cases are also present.

Based on several documents deemed to be particularly significant, we also present a preliminary comparison between the published Susa texts and the unpublished corpus from Area A.

Résumé:

Cette communication présentera seulement le premier stade d'une recherche que nous venons d'entreprendre.

Elle concerne les tablettes inédites provenant des fouilles menées à Suse par Ghirshman entre 1946 et 1967. Dans le secteur Nord-Est du tell de la Ville Royale, un premier chantier B a été dégagé, puis un second, A, qui avait pour but l'établissement d'une stratigraphie.

Stève, Gasche et de Meyer ont publié le bilan épigraphique de ces fouilles dans *IrAnt* XV p. 110sq, avec établissement de la chronologie et de la datation des couches A XV-IX et B VII-I.

De nombreux textes ont déjà fait l'objet d'une édition : pour le chantier B : K. De Graef, *Les archives d'Igibuni. Les documents Ur III du Chantier B à Suse*, Ghent: MDP 54 (2005) ; “*De la dynastie simaški au sukkalmahat-DP 55* (2006) et “Les textes de V récent du chantier B à Suse (fin sukkalmahat –ca 1575-1530 av. notre ère)”, *IrAnt* 42 (2007): 41-60. Pour le chantier A : * MDP LVII (1974) : *Textes littéraires, trouvés campagne 1962-1963 (A XII)* et L. De Meyer, “Un meurtre à Suse”, in: *Fs Veenhof*, p. 31-38 (= TS A XIII 14).

Nous avons pour projet de reprendre l'étude des textes du chantier A, entreprise il y a plus de 20 ans (cf. Malbran, F. et Lackenbacher S., 1994, “*Les bénédictions dans les lettres de Suse*”, *NABU* 1994/54.)

Alors que les textes publiés par K. De Graef, essentiellement des textes économiques (mis à part TS B.5/4, une lettre) appartiennent à une période ancienne (sauf les six textes publiés dans *IrAnt* 42), ceux du chantier A sont plus tardifs : de ca. 1650 (pour A XV) à ca. 1050 (pour A IX) : seuls A XIV et A XIII, de la fin de la période des SUKKALMAḤ et début de Kidinuides (ca. 1600-1500) sont à peu près contemporains de B VI récent et B V récent.

Pour l'étude des documents épigraphiques de cette Ville Royale A, nous nous appuyons sur les bilans publiés par Stève-Gasche-de Meyer (*IrAnt*) et par F. Vallat (*SdB*, 2002) ainsi que sur les rapports, notes, et, pour certains textes, les premières transcriptions et copies que J. Bottéro et E. Cassin nous ont transmis.

Une campagne systématique de photos a été entreprise dans les réserves du Musée du Louvre, facilitée par l'aide de Philippe Marquis que nous tenons à remercier ici.

Il s'agit ensuite de rétablir les identifications entre numéros de fouilles donnés dans *IrAnt*, numéros du dossier des épigraphistes et ceux du Musée du Louvre.

Cet important lot de la ville A comprend essentiellement des documents administratifs, des contrats et des lettres. Nous avons choisi de commencer cette étude par les actes juridiques qui peuvent permettre de déterminer plus facilement des critères de datation, tant par les noms de souverains que par les formulaires, la paléographie ou le module des tablettes.

Nous recouperons ces éléments avec les contrats publiés par Scheil (MDP XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXVIII), dont ceux « de Malamir » sur lesquels nous venons d'achever un travail de réédition et d'analyse ; datés des Kidinuides, ils offrent un *terminus ad quem* pour ces textes juridiques susiens.

Plusieurs types de contrats sont représentés qui concernent la constitution du patrimoine (adoption simple ou adoption avec donation, partage, donation, échange, achat) ou son exploitation (différents types de location de la terre, prêt, formation d'une société), plus des litiges.

À partir de quelques documents significatifs nous présenterons un essai de comparaison entre les textes publiés et ce corpus de la Ville Royale A.

Mofidi-Nasrabadi, Behzad (University of Mainz)

Who was “^dMÚŠ.EREN.EŠŠANA.DINGIR.MEŠ”?

Abstract:

Among the so-called *Kidiniuds* in the first phase of the Middle Elamite period appears the name ^dMÚŠ.EREN.EŠŠANA.DINGIR.MEŠ in several textual sources from Susa and Haft Tappeh, who is

known in the publications as Inšušinak-šar-ilani. Since his name was written with logograms some scholars preferred to use the Elamite variation of this term “Inšušinak-sunkir-nappir”. His title in all texts was “the king of Susa” and not as it was the case for other kings of this period “the king of Susa and Anšan”. This fact raised doubt about his sovereignty over the whole territories of Elam expressed by me in 2010. Last year new discoveries at Toll-e Bormi close to Ram-hormoz, where with great probability the ancient city Huhnur was situated, shed more light in the matter. Some cuneiform tablets were found during illicit excavations which have been seized by the authorities of the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organisation. They are legal documents, exactly similar in their structure and form to the tablet group known as Malamir-texts. Since the provenance of the so-called Malamir-texts is still unknown, their similarity to the tablets from Toll-e Bormi gives rise to the assumption that they were unearthed also there. While in the formulaic oath of the Malamir-texts Tepti-ahar and Šalla are invoked, in several tablets from Toll-e Bormi the parties to a sale took an oath by “Inšušinak-šar-ilani”. Thus it can be preliminarily concluded that “Inšušinak-šar-ilani” was not only the ruler of Susa as his title indicates, but reigned over a large part of the country including Haft Tappeh and Ram-hormoz plain. Furthermore, the prosopographic grounds provide some indications for chronological order of “Inšušinak-šar-ilani”, Šalla and Tepti-ahar.

Morando, Giacomo Luigi (Ghent University)

“The importance of being Akkadian” vs “The importance of being Elamite”. Looking for the true plot among professional people in Susa in the age of the Sukkalmah. An onomastic inquiry

Abstract:

The cultural landscape of Susa and Elam in the first half of the second millennium BC is still far from being clearly understood. The usually applied label of ‘akkadianisation’ could be called into question by quite a number of detailed remarks, which range from the idiosyncrasy of the Akkadian used there to the peculiarities of the local craftsmanship. Even striking contradictions seems to arise if one considers names and titles of rulers and people, preserved by the written sources: on one side rulers bore exclusively non-Akkadian names and on the other side a majority of people with Akkadian names lived side by side with people with Elamite names, while for all of them the correspondence between language of the name and language of the title was all but unidirectional. Within the framework of the ongoing ‘East Side Story’ project of the University of Ghent, which aims to untangle the characteristics of the culture and society of Susa in the age of Sukkalmahs displaying a ‘bottom-up’ perspective and a prosopographical approach, the paper focuses on the above mentioned relation between names and titles as witnessed by the corpus of Akkadian administrative texts from Susa. It will provide a complete overview of the professional people in those texts, the relations among them and with other people. In particular, it will outline how and to what extent their names were valuable means to affirm identity and affinity, under a familiar, social, cultural or ethnical point of view. What was ‘important’ for a professional at that time, to ‘be’ or ‘pretend to be’ Akkadian or Elamite, is the core question to which try to give an answer. A first step of a wider project with an ‘internal’ perspective, which could help to understand better also what and who was really ‘outside’, the actual ‘neighbour’.

Peyronel, Luca (University IULM of Milan)

Looking for merchants abroad. Commercial interactions between Elam, Dilmun and Ur during the Middle Bronze Age (c. 2000-1600 BC)

Abstract:

The history of the commercial interactions between Iran and the Southwestern Asia has deep roots in the prehistoric and protohistoric periods: Ubaid pottery is present in Susiana and in the Persian Gulf, testifying for different kinds of relations and contacts with Lower Mesopotamia during the 5th millennium BC; the Uruk urbanization and the following Protoelamite phenomenon in the Iranian plateau are much debated among Near Eastern archaeologists, such as the presence of Jemdet Nasr pots in Oman at the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC; the circulation and distribution of carved chlorite items surely represent the best evidence for contacts between Eastern Iran and Mesopotamia through the plateau and the Persian Gulf during the second half of the 3rd millennium BC, reflecting a wide pattern of exchanges involving also precious materials, such as lapis lazuli and carnelian. After the Akkadian and Ur III Periods (c. 2350-2000 BC), when political and diplomatic relations as well as warfare affected also the exchange dynamics, we can recognize a phase of strong commercial links between the above mentioned regions. The topic of this paper is to discuss some archaeological items and materials which allow shedding light on the complex pattern of exchanges established between Elam, Ur and Dilmun during the first centuries of the 2nd millennium BC.

One of the main question is trying to understand how the Anshanites were involved in the maritime commerce which linked the Indus Valley (Melukhkha), the Oman Peninsula (Magan), Bahrain and Failaka (Dilmun) with Ur, Larsa and other important Mesopotamian towns. On the other hand the analysis of archaeological indicators of commerce/exchange along the main land trade routes (i.e via Hamrin and Diyala) is crucial because it can points out at the dynamics of cultural interactions between the highlands (Iran) and the lowlands (Mesopotamia), which are surely involved in the policy of the Elamite and Babylonian dynasties.

The discussion will follow three interconnected levels of archaeological evidence: raw materials, seals and sealings and scale weights.

Raw materials: distribution of materials such as semiprecious stones, chlorite, lapis lazuli, hematite, etc. in Iran and their presence in Mesopotamia and the Gulf during the Middle Bronze Age will be compared with the situation at the end of the 3rd millennium BC, trying to underlines change or continuity in the exchange models at the turn of the two Millennia.

Seals and sealings: in this section will be taken into consideration the presence of ‘true’ Old Babylonian seals in Elam and Dilmun, the Iranian styles (Anshanite), the presence of Dilmunite stamp-seals at Susa and the ‘copies’ of these glyptic in bituminous stone.

Stone weights: The coexistence of different metrological standards at Susa, Ur and Dilmun represents a meaningful evidence for trade interactions spheres and will be analyzed to a more deep comprehension of the ‘international’ economic transactions during the 2nd millennium BC.

Prechel, Doris (University of Mainz)

Administration in Haft Tappeh

Abstract:

The paper aims to outline the administration in Haft Tappeh during the Middle Elamite Period. Almost 400 tablets came into daylight during the recent excavations. Most texts show features of inventories but they are possibly some simply enumerations. Since there exist no typology of administrative texts until today it has to be discussed which types of formulae reflect special processes and who were the persons in charge.

Pruß, Alexander (University of Mainz)

The Gaps in Elamite Chronology

Abstract:

Like the political history of Elam, its material culture is well known for some periods but virtually unknown for others. The contribution will not only identify these gaps, but also try to outline strategies which might help closing or at least reducing these gaps. The lecture will concentrate on Elamian pottery, but will also deal with glyptics and works of visual arts.

Rafiei-Alavi, Babak (University of Frankfurt)

Acquisition, Utilization, and End of Usage: The Dynamic of the Metal Industry in Haft Tappeh

The life cycle of things goes through three stages, from raw materials to desired products and finally to waste materials at the end of object's use. This article is an attempt at surveying Haft Tappeh metal artifacts in these stages. The first part tries to locate possible mineral zones that supplied metal ores for Haft Tappeh by examining the results of the lead isotope analysis of 60 samples from the site. Moreover, the evidence of metallurgical activities will be investigated to understand which type of metal objects could be manufactured in Haft Tappeh. The second part, addresses questions such as what type of metal artifact experienced a long phase of utilization and what type a short phase, and which type of artifact has been found with more frequency and which one with less and why. In the last part, we will see how the usage of metal objects in Haft Tappeh comes to end. Metal can be recycled endlessly; a characteristic that is the reason they have seldom been found as wastes in archaeological sites. They went to graves as graves goods or were stored up for future use or were lost by users and buried under debris to be found by us. By looking at the Haft Tappeh metal findings in their context, we will see what fate befall them and how they came to their end.

Following the metal artifact through their life cycle can give us insight about the dynamic and mechanism of the metal industry, and the role metal artifacts performed in the scene of life in Haft Tappeh, as one of the large Middle Elamite urban center with a considerable amount of metal objects.

Rashidian, Elnaz (University of Frankfurt)

Dehno and its environs: A geoarchaeological approach to the Elamite urban places

Abstract:

Even after decades of archaeological investigation, our knowledge of the Dehno site in northern Susiana (SW Iran) is disappointing and vague at best. In this paper, I shall summarize the evidence of the Elamite Dehno based on the current state of the art. Then, the site and its environs will be described geomorphologically in their present-day situation, as well as their successive landscape evolution during the last century. Methods of remote sensing and a collection of available geo-data are used for this purpose. Next follows a brief theoretical framework regarding the definition of urban places during the 3rd to 1st millennia BCE. Afterwards, I will suggest that Dehno was indeed an urban place during the Elamite period, stretching towards the northwest of the present high mound. To support my suggestion, I shall present new evidence from my recently conducted geoarchaeological investigation in this region. This includes results of micromorphological analysis on soil samples from the region along with a limited number of datable pottery in situ.

The question of soil salinity of Dehno and its possible effect on the settlement will be also addressed, based on new laboratory results. The geoarchaeological approach and methodology of this investigation and their potential use for further research is also briefly explained. Finally, I will summarize the presented points for the open discussion.

Shirvani, Qader/Mehrafarin, Reza/Kordestani, Maryam (University of Bu-Ali Sina, Hamedan)
The Kon-e Binu Site in Elamite Period

Abstract:

The site of Kon-e Binu is one of the most extensive ancient sites which has been identified in south of Behbahan, in a distance less than 15 km of the Persian Gulf coasts. This site with more than 250 hectares in area is extended along Zohre River. In 2011, this site was undergone a systematic archaeological survey supervised by Qader Shirvani. During this survey, occupation periods in the site and the settlement area in each period were identified. One of the periods identified in this site is the Elamite period. Since the most information we have about Elamite period is related to south of Khuzestan plains, and the area in which this site was identified has been rarely considered by researchers, therefore, the data obtained from this survey are important in the archaeology of the Elamite period.

In the present paper, initially, it has been attempted to provide an introduction and chronology of the findings related to the Elamite period (from the Old to the Neo-Elamite) relying on the results gained of typology and comparative studies; and then, the settlement area during the Elamite period has been investigated and studied.

In the systematic survey of Kon-e Binu, a large amount of cultural materials related to the Elamite period (including a huge amount of pottery pieces, arrow heads, figures, seals, stone and metal ornaments, architectural remains, etc.) were discovered. Study of these findings indicates that during a time from the Old Elamite period to the Neo-Elamite period, this site has been occupied in three parts. In the Elamite era, from the 15th to the 11th centuries B.C (the Middle Elamite period), this site has reached to the largest settlement area in its middle part and its area extended to 90 hectares.

Tavernier, Jan (University of Leuven)
Morphological Spellings in Elamite

Abstract:

Broken spellings, i.e. spellings of the type CV₁-V₂C, are commonly known in Elamite. Especially frequent in the later stages of Elamite, they have no morphological impact whatsoever. This paper will have a look on another type of spellings, the so-called morphological spellings, regularly attested in all periods of Elamite linguistic history. It will be demonstrated that these spellings are deliberately used to mark the separation between root and morphological suffix.

Wicks, Yasmina (University of Sydney)
Elam and its Neighbours: A View from Neo-Elamite Funerary Remains

Abstract:

After a period of silence in the earlier years of the first millennium BCE, textual sources begin to document increasing socio-political interaction between Elam and its Babylonian and Assyrian neighbours from around the middle of the 8th century. Focussing on material excavated from Neo-Elamite burials at a handful of sites in southwest Iran, the present paper seeks to explore the ways in which this interaction may have played out in funerary practices. Various aspects of the mortuary record, particularly burial typology and grave good assemblages, are queried in order to assess whether any discernible chronological changes might be attributable to new forms of “international” contact or, conversely, whether distinctly local practices prevail.

Zalaghi, Ali (University of Mainz)

Digging up the past: Rediscovery of the Elamite underground vaulted tombs at Tappeh Jangal (KS 53) in the Susiana plain

Abstract:

The underground vaulted tomb is one of the typical burial forms in Elam, which is known from Susa, Haft Tappeh, Choga Zanbil, Dehno and now from Tappeh Jangal in the Susiana plain. The last one is located 2.5 km northeast of Haft Tappeh. In the emergency excavation in 1974 by Saied Ganjavi in this site, which was known that time as KS 53 or Tappeh 497, two vaulted Elamite tombs were partly excavated. Beside the tombs, three jar burials and a simple grave were also found. The result of this excavation has never been thoroughly published. In March 2016, during my research in the periphery of Haft Tappeh, this site was visited and another Elamite vaulted tomb was discovered.

This paper presents these three underground tombs at Tappeh Jangal (KS 53) and discusses the chronology of the tombs and their relation to each other. The data of Tappeh Jangal is explained in a broader context and is compared with other Elamite excavated sites.