



14th International Congress on the Archaeology
of the Ancient Near East

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Defining the 3rd Millennium BCE in the Trans-Tigridian Region Through Stratigraphic and Ceramic Sequences

ZINGARELLO M.^{1*}, *VACCA A.*²

¹ CNRS CEPAM - UMR 7264 (CNRS Université Côte d'Azur), Nice, France

² Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy

*Corresponding author

Abstract

The 3rd millennium BCE was a crucial time for urbanisation and state formation in the Trans-Tigridian region: at the beginning of the Early Bronze Age (EBA), settlements were still small to medium in size, with no clear territorial hierarchies, but evidence of intensified collection and bureaucratic administration of staples. Homogenisation in material culture clearly emerged throughout the region and beyond because of the capillary increase in intra- and inter-regional connectivity. In the second half of the millennium, these developments reached a peak; large sites with monumental architecture and specialized craft areas blossomed, and the entire region was ultimately integrated into the empires of Akkad and Ur III by the late EBA.

Although the key role played by the cultural and economic dynamics of the 3rd millennium BC is increasingly evident in the Trans-Tigridian region, it is still impossible to reconstruct a reliable narrative of it because a solid chronological grid is still missing. There is the need to synchronize stratigraphies, ceramic sequences, and radiocarbon dates of the various sites despite the great efforts made in the last decade to reanalyze legacy data from past excavations.

The current involvement of several international archaeological expeditions in the investigation of sites with EBA levels in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq makes possible, if not urgent, a new definition of an overall and sound chronology. The aim of this workshop is to bring together fresh data and the expertise of international scholars affiliated with the various archaeological projects to build up, in a collaborative framework, a shared chronology primarily based on stratigraphic sequences, radiocarbon dates, ceramic typologies and seriation. The ultimate goal is to achieve new and more nuanced definitions of ceramic horizons at the intra-site and regional level, outlining chronological benchmarks and elements of continuity and change through the lens of chrono-stratigraphic studies.

Keywords

Early Bronze Age, Trans-Tigridian Region, Chronology, Pottery, Stratigraphic Sequences

Program

- 1) *Known and Less-Known Early Bronze Age Pottery Assemblages: The Contribution of Logardan (Chamchamal Plain) to the Definition of the Third Millennium BCE* - ?Melania Zingarello (Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences), Johnny Samuele Baldi (CNRS, UMR 5133 Archéorient).
- 2) *Searching for a Chrono-Stratigraphic Definition of Early Bronze Age in the Erbil Plain* - Agnese Vacca, Marco Roversi, Luca Peyronel (Università degli Studi di Milano)
- 3) *New Insights on the 3rd Millennium chronology from Tell Gomel* - Katia Gavagnin, Daniele Morandi Bonacossi (University of Udine)
- 4) *Preliminary data from Qasr Shemamok and its region in the 3rd millennium BCE: between Ninevite 5 and Post-Akkadian occupations* - Ilaria Calini, Maria Grazia Masetti Rouault (EPHE, UMR 8167 Orient et Méditerranée)
- 5) *A new 3rd millennium BC periodization for the Middle Tigris Region* - Peter Pfaelzner (University of Tübingen)
- 6) *Stratigraphy and ceramic production during the first half of the 3rd millennium at Bash Tapa in the Erbil Plain* - Juliette Mas, Christophe Nicolle (Collège de France, UMR 7192 PROCLAC)
- 7) *General value and local specificities of the 3rd millennium sequence from Kani Shaie* - Steve Renette (University of Cambridge)
- 8) *Assessing the Early Bronze chronology through the Girdi Lashkir's sequence* - Miguel Molist Montaña, Anna Maria Bach Gómez (USB – Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Type of paper

Workshop