



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Kings and Stones: Inscribed Booty of the Old Akkadian Kings

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## Abstract

After Sargon established the Old Akkadian empire (2334–2154 BC), the Old Akkadian kings actively waged military campaigns against neighboring political entities. The campaigns resulted in expansion of the territory, as well as constant cultural contact and translation. The booty the kings took back to Mesopotamia from the conquered lands is an example of these cultural phenomena. I will discuss three topics in this paper: the booty's origin, its materiality, and its cultural significance as a dedication to the gods. Booty-taking is closely associated with the royal campaigns to the east. Through this process, the stone vessels moved across political and cultural borders. Most of the objects taken as booty are not only made of semi-precious stones but also embody cultural value. Their cultural value is reflected in their style of local production and the Mesopotamian appreciation of stones. The materiality, inscription, and context of the booty render it a hybrid cultural product with multiple layers of significance. The stone vessels were translated by the Old Akkadian kings as booty, with symbolic meaning associated with royal power. After it was taken to Mesopotamia and deposited in the temples, the booty came to signify the royal dedication to the gods.

## Keywords

booty, Old Akkadian empire, Inscribed objects, stones, cultural translation

## Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

## Type of paper

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