



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Textile imprints on Neo-Babylonian cuneiform tablets: ongoing research

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Abstract

A limited number of Babylonian clay tablets dating from the 1st millennium B.C. feature textile imprints on their surface. These may have been produced by chance, or by wrapping the tablet in a textile. These traces provide data on the textiles in common use at the time, as well as on their manufacturing techniques. They complement the information provided by texts concerning textile craftspeople, and by textile tools, in a context where textile remains are rare.

This presentation will be based on the analysis of several case-study of Neo-Babylonian cuneiform tablets with textile impression. I will first present how textile imprints can be studied and what information they can provide. Secondly, I will question the possibility of a link between the content of the text inscribed on the tablet and the presence of a textile imprint.

It may contribute to our understanding of how these imprints were produced and on the context in which the tablet was written.

Keywords

clay tablets, textile, Iron age, Babylonia, craft

Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

Type of paper

Oral presentation