



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Channels, pipes & soakaways. Drainage in southern Mesopotamian buildings of the Bronze and Iron Ages

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Abstract

While recent scholarship is increasingly able to answer questions about how water supply was managed in Mesopotamian cities, the topic of drainage has attracted considerably less academic interest. The last major study by Ms Hemker is from 1999; it offers an overview which drainage elements were common in the Ancient Near East, but doesn't question the functions originally assigned to drained rooms by the excavators (who usually didn't give much of an explanation for their interpretation). Her study should therefore be seen as an important milestone, but to make it clearer how drainage within buildings was actually used further questions need to be answered: How do the drained rooms actually look? Do they only appear in specific time periods or within specific buildings or are there no such restrictions? How trustworthy are the interpretations of early excavators? Based on the archaeological record, which room functions can be safely assigned, which are more speculative?

These questions shall be addressed in the following paper, using material from southern Mesopotamia, which dates to the Bronze and early Iron Age. The results are excerpts from the author's PhD thesis and are presented here for the first time.

Keywords

Archaeohydrology, drainage, kanal, pipe, soakaway

Session

2. Natural resources and anthropised landscapes

Type of paper

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