



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Tombs at Seleucia on the Tigris: Typology, Distribution, Grave Goods and Burial Practices

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Abstract

This paper aims to reanalyze the corpus of burials identified in the urban area of Seleucia on the Tigris during the Seleucid and Parthian periods. It will assess the main types of burials (including graves with or without flat brick coverings, 'cappuccina' tombs, and chamber tombs), their locations, the grave goods found within them, and the identifiable funerary practices. To achieve this, the published documentation from the American and Italian excavations will be reviewed, synthesizing key data and addressing major issues.

Additionally, the documentation of burials identified by the Italian Archaeological Expedition will be supplemented by unpublished information regarding noteworthy tombs located in the areas of the Stoa, Archives, and 'Porticoed Street.' This information, preserved in the Archive of CRAFT – UniTO, pertains to the excavations at Seleucia on the Tigris conducted in the 1960s and 1980s.

These data will provide valuable insights into the use of funerary spaces and the customs employed in this Seleucid and Parthian metropolis, where the tradition of burying the dead within the settlement limits continued, at least in part, in continuity with ancient Mesopotamian practices.

Keywords

Seleucia on the Tigris, Funerary Practices, Parthian period, Seleucid period, Mesopotamia

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