

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Does it all still stand in the Diyala region? Remarks on pottery, chronology, and stratigraphy in light of new excavations.

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Abstract

As is well known, the Diyala excavations carried out during the 1930s by the University of Chicago represent the bedrock upon which the "chronological edifice," spanning the mid-4th and the entire 3rd millennium BC, was built. Today, new data are available for the greater region spanning the Zagros Piedmont, and the upper Diyala area in particular. The aim of this presentation, then, is to focus on the major pottery sequences that cover the time-span bridging the 4th and 3rd millennium BC. ?Concurrently, considerations about architecture, landscape dynamics and burial customs will be taken into account to address issues of change, continuity, or crisis. Given Diyala's geographical location I believe it is now possible to reconsider old ideas that have persisted in academic discourse and, in many instances, hindered our understanding of the cultural processes and practices at play in the area. Should the Diyala region still be considered merely a cultural backdrop to the southern alluvium, or did it contribute in unique ways to the flourishing of 3rd millennium BC Mesopotamia? ?These questions will be considered in light of new data and excavations to try to answer the main question: Does it all still stand in the Diyala region?

Keywords

Diyala Region, Stratigraphy, Pottery, Late Chalcolithic , Early Broze Age

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