



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Proto-Urban Times in Susiana (Iran): New Studies on Susa I Ceramics

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Abstract

Founded at the end of the 5th millennium BC, Susa is perhaps the site that has yielded the most important assemblage of painted ceramics for Late Chalcolithic. These so-called “Susa I” ceramics are part of a broader tradition of black-on-buff ware, whose development extended over a large part of ancient Iran. The result is a dynamic regional koine, distinct from the Ubaid world but resulting from a parallel trajectory.

The Susa material comes mainly from the ‘Susa I’ necropolis, excavated by Jacques de Morgan from 1906, where about 1,500 complete painted vases were discovered. Since their arrival at the Louvre in 1908, only a limited part of it has been studied and published. In recent years, hundreds of unpublished vases have been “rediscovered” in the museum’s storerooms, and a comprehensive restoration and study of the collection, still ongoing, has been undertaken. The reassessment of the entire ‘Susa I’ corpus has been coupled with the one of ancient excavations, thanks to new discoveries in the archives of the Louvre, and the more recent ones, notably the partially published excavations of the ‘Acropole 2’ trench by Perrot and Canal. This brings a new light on proto-urban times in Susa and Susiana.

Keywords

Susa I, Ceramic, Black-on-Buff, Iran, Chalcolithic

Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

Type of paper

Oral presentation