



14th International Congress on the Archaeology
of the Ancient Near East

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Archaeological Evidence for Cultural Interactions between Iran, Central Asia, and Mesopotamia throughout the Hellenistic-Parthian Period from Viranshahr (Northeastern Iran)

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Abstract

Due to 6 seasons of archaeological excavations carried out by the Iranian-French joint team at Viranshahr, a Parthian-Sasanian settlement in the upper Atrek valley in northeastern Iran, a collection of material culture has been revealed indicating the cultural interactions across the ancient world during the Hellenistic and Parthian periods. The ceramic sherds of Viranshahr indicated technical and stylistic similarities with the ceramics of contemporary sites of central Asia on one hand and with those from the Gorgan plain on the other hand. Moreover, the general plan of Viranshahr represents a familiar plan applied to several identified settlements in central Asia and Iran simultaneously. The complex discovered at a mound in the southern area of Viranshahr also provided us with further evidence confirming the role of this site as a significant linkage between central Asia and Iran. Thanks to its exceptional location in the middle of the corridor connecting the east to the north and west of Iran, Viranshahr played a prominent role in conveying not only the artistic and cultural traditions but also social and political thoughts across the ancient Iranian world and beyond.

Keywords

Viranshahr, Parthians, Greco-Bactrian Architecture, Parthian Pottery, Ancient Iranian World

Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

Workshop

A16474ZZ - Connectivity in the Ancient Iranian World: Trade, Culture, and Communication

Type of paper

