



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Rural Babylonian Settlements in the 1st Millennium BC: Some preliminary results from the Spring Season 2024

SCHNEIDER B. ^{1*}

¹ University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland

*Corresponding author

Abstract

In the area to the Southeast of Nippur, belonging to the region known as the "Heartland of Cities" during the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC, a process of ruralization can be observed around 1000 BC. Because of the chance find of the Murash archive in secondary context within a single room of a private house at Nippur in 1893, the written documentation of the second half of the 5th century BC is exceptionally good. Besides the more famous settlements named after foreign ethnicities, the designation of such villages after the professions of different specialists (parchment makers, bridge builders etc.) are remarkable for this region. During the RuBab Spring 2024 season, preliminary fieldwork could gather some information concerning larger scale brick production. Furthermore, potential secondary quarrying of brick material for the production of artificial basalt was observed at several later sites. Another aim of project RuBab will be the excavation of a small rural site, probably a seal cutters workshop. The ongoing research provides hints towards a high degree of specialization in rural areas, currently expected only in urban centers. The new evidence from Rural Babylonia is challenging also the notion of the countryside as "agricultural backwater" of all-mighty cities.

Keywords

Babylonia, Bricks, Rural, Production, Survey

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Workshop

A16096RP - Rethinking Rurality Taking a Non-Urban Perspective on the Archaeology of Villages

Type of paper

Oral presentation