



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Archaeological Geophysics in Assur

FASSBINDER J. ¹, WOLF M. ^{1*}, HERR J. ¹

¹ Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Munchen, Germany

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Assur (modern Qal'at Sharq??) was the Assyrian Empire Assur's first capital and Assyria's ancient religious capital. The city covers ca. 1.5 square km – 2000 m in the north-south direction and ca. 500-700 m in the east-west direction. Walter Andrae investigated this large area from 1903 on by digging a total of 10 excavation trenches 5 m wide and up to 700 m long in the east-west direction parallel to each other in the north-south direction. Old trenches and heaps of the excavated ground impede a complete prospection and force us to produce a mosaic of magnetograms across the entire city. Barthel Hrouda, pioneered geophysical methods in the Near East and Assur in 1989. Only 35 years later, we accomplished our geophysical work in the frame of the new research project headed by Karen Radner and Janoscha Kreppner. The magnetogram of the entire area, processed as total field measurement, reveals a variety of magnetic anomalies and features. The interpretation benefits from the application of further geophysical methods such as mineral magnetic analysis and resistivity survey. Input from archaeologists and the knowledge of comparative excavations, layouts and ground maps of houses play a fundamental role in the comprehensive interpretation of the data.

Keywords

Archaeological Geophysics, Magnetometry, Electrical Resistivity Tomography, Assur, Iraq

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