



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

An Ugaritic God in Carthage: Rediscovering Kothar through Punic Inscriptions

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Abstract

During the fourth excavation campaign in 2024, conducted in Carthage by the joint mission of the Institut National du Patrimoine (INP) and the University of Rome "La Sapienza," archaeologists uncovered an altar bearing a fragmentary Punic inscription with the name *kšr* (Ku-ša-ru), a component of a personal name. Ku-ša-ru, or Kothar, is known as the god of craftsmanship and wisdom in Ugaritic mythology and played a significant role in the ancient Near Eastern pantheon, akin to Enki/Ea, particularly associated with artisanal skill and technological innovation. The inscription, preliminarily dated to the late 4th–3rd century BC based on paleographic analysis, was reused as building material within a Roman wall. However, it may originally have been connected to craftsmanship activities documented in the area during the Punic period. This discovery offers new insights into the religious and cultural interactions between Carthaginian and Eastern Mediterranean traditions, illuminating the diffusion and integration of Levantine deities into Carthaginian worship practices.

Keywords

Carthage, Ugarit, Inscription, Punic, Kothar

Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

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