

Abstracts of lectures given at the Third Dutch Symposium of the Ancient Near East, Leiden, The Netherlands, November 15th, 2008.

Abrupt Climate Change and Cultural Transformation: an introduction Olivier Nieuwenhuys, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University

Just a few decades after the discovery that humans were changing the Earth's atmosphere, climate is hot. Palaeoclimatologists are making unprecedented advances in the reconstruction of past climates, and have demonstrated that climate change in the past was common, often severe, and occasionally abrupt. Archaeologists, too, have recently become increasingly interested in climate as a causal factor in explaining culture change. Within the multi-disciplinary project Abrupt Climate Change and Cultural Transformation, our team explores the cultural repercussions of the so-called 8.2 ka event: an abrupt climate anomaly with global effects between 6200-6000 BC. In the Near East, the event resulted in two centuries of diminished rainfall and reduced temperatures. I wish to introduce the project and its members to DUSANE, discuss our approaches and perhaps already present some results. How did Late Neolithic communities cope with the abrupt climate event? And, how can we archaeologists use climate in our interpretations without succumbing to climate determinism or catastrophism?

Geoarchaeological research of Mesopotamian stone: haematite, magnetite and goethite. Martine de Vries-Melein, Instituut voor Geo- en Bioarcheologie, VU

The Acadian šadanu is usually translated as haematite. Especially in the old-Babylonian period (approx. 2000-1600 B.C.) it was a popular material for cylinder seals and weights. In my presentation I will comment on several non-destructive material analysis techniques which have been carried out on artefacts made of iron oxides (haematite, magnetite and goethite), and the most recent results of this geoarchaeologische research.

The material research is part of a vaster study of the use of this material in Mesopotamia. The goal of this research is explaining the short-term popularity of these non-local stones. Beside material analyses I use archaeological data, historical sources and cuneiform texts concerning the material. One matter which has become clear in this research is that the archaeological denomination "haematite" and the Acadian word šadanu both include more materials than only haematite.

The Luwians within the history of Anatolia (2000-700 BC) Alwin Kloekhorst

Our knowledge of the history of Anatolia in the 2nd millennium BC is for the largest part based on the documents found in the royal archives of the Hittite Empire. This means that our understanding of this history is rather Hittite-centered. Yet, it is clear that also other peoples, speaking other languages, must have inhabited Anatolia during that time, one of which were the Luwians. During the last few decades it has become more and more clear that these Luwians must have inhabited a large part of Anatolia and may have formed the biggest linguistic group within the Hittite Empire.

In this talk the most recent ideas about the history of this Luwian speaking people before, during and after the Hittite

The Aegean and the Levant in the late Bronze Age: sharing material culture? G.J.M. van Wijngaarden

In Greece and the near East there is good archaeological evidence for contacts between the two regions in the Late Bronze Age. Even though Levantine imports in Mycenaean Greece and Mycenaean imports in the near East are not very abundant, they are widely distributed and cover several centuries. The archaeological evidence for contact between the two regions is not equally distributed in the Near East. There are clear variations in quantity and variety in the presence of Mycenaean imports. In this paper, I will briefly review the archaeological evidence for contacts

between the Aegean and the Levant. Then I will concentrate on a number of tombs and places with a wide variety and large quantities of this material and I will elaborate on the significance of these intercultural contacts for specific people.

The Babylonian priest: prebends, purity and rank **C. Waerzeggers VU University Amsterdam**

In the Babylonian temples of the first millennium BCE, a great variety of priests were active in the worship of the gods. Cultic singers, exorcists, bakers, butchers, gatekeepers and dozens of other specialists contributed to the upkeep of the divine household and the provision of offerings on the sacrificial table, the central act of Babylonian religious practice. Authorized by hereditary right and subject to purity rules, the priesthood constituted a distinct group within society. One of the requirements demanded upon admission to priestly office was the possession of a prebend, a legal title lending its owner the right to receive income from the temple in return for cultic service. However, conventions of present-day scholarly discourse on the Babylonian economy have literally written the priesthood out of our appraisal of this ancient society. Not only is the use of the term 'priest' frowned upon, by consistently focusing on the economic aspects of the prebend as a 'type of income' instead of as a 'right to serve in the cult', we have delegated priestly activity to the realm of property management on a par with the ownership of houses, fields, slaves or any other kind of sale commodity known in this society. This has erased an entire class of families, who by all means apply for the label 'priestly', from our vision. This lecture will make a contribution to restore attention to the cultic function of 'prebend owners', and redress the current neglect of purity and practice in Babylonian religion.

Nederlandse opgravingen in Sakkara 2007-2008: het graf van Ptahemwia **M.J. Raven**

Abstract: De opgravingen van het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Sakkara (Egypte) lopen al sinds 1975, eerst in samenwerking met de Egypt Exploration Society uit Londen, sinds 1999 samen met de Leidse Universiteit (opleiding Egyptologie en Faculteit Archeologie). Gewerkt wordt in de begraafplaats van de hoogste ambtenaren uit de hoofdstad Memphis ten tijde van het Nieuwe Rijk (met name 14e en 13e eeuw v.Chr.). Uit dit terrein, ten zuiden van de beroemde trappenpiramide van Sakkara gelegen, komen vele kunstschatten die nu in het Leidse museum staan en daar rond 1820 werden weggehaald. Het museum is dus in de unieke gelegenheid om documentatie bij de eigen collectie te verzamelen. Tot dusver zijn al de graven gevonden van Horemheb (Toetanchamons minster van defensie en later zelf farao), Maya (minister van financiën van Toetanchamon), Tia (zwager van farao Ramses II) en een tiental andere. In 2001 werd voor het eerst een graf ontdekt uit de tijd van Achnaton (1353-1335 v.Chr.), Toetanchamons vader en bekend door de religieuze revolutie die hij ontketende. Dit behoorde aan de rentmeester van Achnatons zonnetempel in Memphis, Meryneith, en zat nog vol wandreliëfs, schilderijen en zelfs een compleet grafbeeld. In 2007 werd dit succes geëvenaard door de ontdekking van het graf van Ptahemwia, eveneens een tijdgenoot van Achnaton. Ptahemwia was schenker des konings, en daarmee verantwoordelijk voor de ravitaillering van de hele hofhouding. Ook zijn graf bevat nog mooie wandreliëfs in de kenmerkende vrije stijl van de periode van Achnaton. Helaas leverde het onderzoek van de ondergrondse grafkamers in 2008 niet veel op, omdat deze reeds in de oudheid geplunderd werden.

Titel Late Roman Red Slip Wares in the Eastern Mediterranean: mirroring Political and Economic Hegemony? **Philip Bes - ICRATES Project (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)**

Abstract The first phase of the ICRATES Project (Inventory of Crafts and Trade in the Roman East) from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven focussed on collecting, analysing en interpreting the published evidence for tablewares in the Roman East (terra sigillata, red slip wares). Deconstructing this tradition of publication that spans the entire twentieth century has resulted in a database with over 25,000 entries. As such, the approach nicely joins hands with major changes taking place in the field of Roman pottery studies, in particular the view that the time is ripe for pottery to be used as a (quantitative) tool in reconstructing exchange patterns. More specifically, how the quantitative, chronological and geographical parameters of this category of Roman-period pottery reflect socio-economic and socio-cultural features, as well as unveil some possible causes for diachronic changes that characterized their dispersion.

In this paper, the collected evidence for the Late Roman period (fourth through seventh centuries AD) is looked at in detail. After a consideration of the problems archaeologists, ceramologists and the occasional ancient historian face when making use of Roman-period pottery for interpretative purposes, it continues by introducing the basic characteristics of the major categories of tablewares studied, and highlighting the main quantitative, chronological and geographical dimensions of the collected evidence. Finally, it is argued that these dimensions to a certain extent reflect political-administrative, military and economic developments at the time.