



5th Kültepe International Meeting 5. Uluslararası Kültepe Toplantısı



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Abstracts (in the alphabetical order)
Özetler (alfabetik sıraya göre)

Old Assyrian Epistolography. A Synthesis for the Contextualisation of Rhetoric
Matthias Adelhofer (Vienna University)

The correspondence between the Assyrian merchants comprises by far the largest, single corpus in any of the Old Assyrian archives we know. Letters incorporate manifold aspects and considerations for the purpose of conveying information and eliciting support. In my PhD project, I wish to combine salient information about the material, formal and over-all socio-economic background of the epistolography with the rhetoric, the argumentative means, that set letters apart from mere factual documentation of the trade. In the end, this should give us a good basis for informed inferences about the values, norms and mentalities involved in the Old Assyrian trade from yet another and ultimately emic point of view. Thus, I would like to present my main approaches and give a few illustrative examples about the sort of conclusions about the texts and the people behind them that I believe can be drawn through them.

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Preliminary Ancient DNA Results from Kültepe-Kaneš

Ali Akbaba (Middle East Technical University, Ankara), Semih Özen (Anadolu University, Eskişehir), Sevgi Yorulmaz, Mehmet Somel (Middle East Technical University, Ankara) & Handan Üstündağ (Anadolu University, Eskişehir)

The heterogeneous ancestry of residents of Kültepe-Kaneš has been a topic of long-interest. Cuneiform tablets vividly describe merchants from Assur settling in Kaneš and intermixing with locals, but how much these dynamics are reflected in Kaneš burials is unknown. In this study supported by a TUBITAK 1001 grant, we prepared aDNA sequencing libraries from the remains of 57 individuals excavated from Kültepe, including Early Bronze Age as well as Middle Bronze Age burials. Low-depth shotgun sequencing revealed that human DNA proportions were >5% among close to half of these libraries (n=25); these also showed postmortem damage patterns indicating authenticity. Both sexes and various age groups are represented in the sample. Here we will describe preliminary results from the analysis of this dataset regarding population affinities and genetic kinship.

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FactGrid Cuneiform Project: Linked Open Data for the Old Assyrian Text Project Dataset

Adam Anderson (Berkeley Institute for Data Science)

The Old Assyrian Text Project (2006-2014) was a collaborative research project which used FileMaker as a relational database in order to provide digital copies of the Old Assyrian texts to the researchers who were conducting further work with the textual material, whether in the form of tablets, docketts, seals, and bullae. This research was funded by the Carlsberg Foundation and guided by Mogens Larsen and Thomas Hertel. The project came to an end in 2014 when both the funding and the demands on the scholars in collaboration shifted. The existing data and metadata has since lived in a FileMaker file, which has made any ongoing research collaboration practically impossible. The purpose of the FactGrid Cuneiform Project is to provide an open source platform to enable an open, free, multilingual, international scholarly collaboration between researchers from any discipline for both the textual sources and the material cultures from which they originated. This presentation will include a descriptive framework for the newly developed Linked Open Data (LOD) ontology for both text-historical research as well as archaeological assemblages related to the cuneiform tablets. A link to the slides will be circulated beforehand with an open invitation for all to participate. adamganderson@gmail.com

An Evaluation on a Group of Ceramics Found in the South Terrace Palace

Cihan Ay & Fikri Kulakoğlu (Ankara University)

The palaces which were unearthed in the 8th level of Kültepe constitute the oldest administrative buildings in the Karum period in Kültepe. This level is contemporary with building level II of Karum. However, Tahsin Özgüç had mentioned that the South Terrace Palace was started to be built in the 9th layer and took its final shape with the additions made in the 8th level. In this sense, an initial macro-analysis of a group of pottery found in the South Terrace Palace of Level 8 differ from the ceramics found in Karum II in terms of shape, technique, and ware. On the other hand, the dendrochronological data obtained from the contemporary Old Palace unearthed beneath the Warshama Palace, gave the dates 2027/24 BC, i.e. earlier than the Karum period. Therefore, the pottery discovered in the South Terrace Palace may also belong to the period before the Karum period.

In this study, pottery that was found in this palace will be examined again. It will be discussed how this pottery which was found in the South Terrace Palace dating just before or at the beginning of the Karum age differ from the pottery discovered in the Karum level II.

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Traces of Handwriting – The Case of Ennam-Aššur

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The Old Assyrian period is known, among other things, for the private archives of merchants excavated in the ancient city of Kaneš in Central Anatolia. These archives can contain from a few dozen to over a thousand tablets; and in most cases, they seem to have been built by

several generations. In 1994, such an archive with more than 1100 tablets was excavated in the lower town. The texts mainly reflect the lives of three family members, namely the trader Šalim-Aššur and his two sons Ennam-Aššur and Ali-ahum.

This contribution focuses mainly on the eldest son Ennam-Aššur. He is the person most often mentioned in the texts of the archive and his letters show remarkable cuneiform signs and a consistent hand that is easily recognisable. With the help of handwriting comparison, I try to find out which texts he wrote himself. Did he only write his own letters and documents, or also those of others? Is it possible to find out from the handwriting when a letter was written and why?

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The Old Assyrian Onomastics from an Emar Perspective

Yoram Cohen (Tel Aviv University)

In the last KIM meeting (published as KIM 4 2021), Guido Kryszat dedicated a study to the question of meaning of the appearance of Western names in the Old Assyrian onomasticon and Early Assyrian religion. My paper will be a response to Kryszat's thesis from an Emar perspective. I will try to assess the significance of western names in the Emar onomasticon and their contribution to the problem of the origin of similar names in Old Assyrian times.

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The Importance of Kültepe in the Formation of Hittite Art

Ji Yeon Choi (Ankara University) & Fikri Kulakoğlu (Ankara University)

The Hittite style is rooted in the Karum period and is said to have emerged especially in the late period, the Ib-a layers. In particular, some items found in depicted artifacts such as ceramics, seals, and figurines found in Karum Ib-a layers in Kültepe provide evidence that the so-called "Hittite" style already began in the Karum period.

In this study, the origin of Hittite art will be evaluated through archaeological artifacts found in Kültepe with reference to Kültepe. Archaeological artifacts such as ceramics, metal artifacts, seals, and iconographic items found in Kültepe, including especially the depictions of gods and goddesses and their stylistic features will be compared with the artifacts found in other Hittite centers, and their continuity between the two periods will be discussed. In particular, the importance of Kültepe in the emergence of Hittite art will be discussed based on some of the works discovered in Kültepe in recent years.

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Middle Iron Age at Kültepe in the Light of Knowns and New Observations

Nilgün Coşkun (Mustafa Kemal Üniversitesi, Antakya) & Fikri Kulakoğlu (Ankara University)

The first settlement in Kültepe after the Assyrian Colony Period belongs to the Middle Iron Age. This period, represented by Level 5 at the Mound, has two phases. Above the Middle Iron Age layer, there is a continuous settlement from the Late Iron Age to the end of the Roman Period (Levels 4-1).

During the Kültepe excavations, weak architectural traces were encountered in the Middle Iron Age layers; it was heavily damaged by the Hellenistic and Roman Periods. In addition, less durable architectural features compared to other periods accelerated this destruction. The orthostat fragments with reliefs found in Kültepe suggest that there is a monumental public building in Kültepe, as in other contemporary centers, but these structures have not been reached yet. However, examples of the variety of forms and decorations representing the Central Anatolian Middle Iron Age pottery culture have often been captured independently of the architecture.

Kültepe Middle Iron Age potteries are studied in detail in terms of form, technique and decoration. There is a continuity between the pottery of both phases. The everted rimmed bowls continue to exist throughout the Middle Iron Age. Cups start in the early period and continue to be used increasingly until the end of the period. Trefoil jugs and spouted pitchers are also present in both phases, but they are more intense in the last phase. Kraters were used extensively throughout the entire Middle Iron Age. There is also a continuity in the pots.

Although statistically less numerous, decorated potteries provide valuable data for dating. One of the biggest distinctions in decoration is the color of the slipping. In the early phase, decoration is mostly applied on the red or brown slip. In the late stage, the cream slipping becomes widespread. Monochrome paint decoration is common in the early phase, and polychrome decoration in the late phase.

This ceramic group, located in and to the south of the Halys Basin, is mostly in the form of collections independent of stratigraphy. The relationship of Central Anatolian Middle Iron Age pottery with political structures and its similarities with other contemporary cultural regions is unclear. Uncertainties regarding the naming, origin, dating and development processes of this pottery still exist. In addition, we have limited information about the similarities and differences between the Late Iron Age pottery and the previous phase. The primary programme of the Kültepe excavations is to excavate new areas where the Middle Iron Age can be described in detail. In order to shed light on the questions about the most distinctive material culture element of the period, the potteries in the excavation archive are examined. kulakoglu@yahoo.com; nilguncoskun@yahoo.com

The Long Arm of Aššur

Jan Gerrit Dercksen (Leiden University) & Jacob Jan de Ridder (Philipps University, Marburg)

Several documents among the epigraphic finds at Kültepe refer to incidents between Assyrians and local people in Syria and Anatolia that caused diplomatic friction. In order to maintain its economic lifeline, the free movement of its traders, the authorities in Aššur developed a set of measures to solve such conflicts. In this paper, we will outline the diplomatic culture of Aššur and how this functioned in the almost two centuries documented by texts, and discuss several of the most interesting cases.

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Gender Variations in Language in the Archives of Elamma

Anita Fattori (São Paulo University and Paris 1 – Panthéon Sorbonne University)

Early in the 1990s, the archive of the Assyrian merchant Elamma was dug out from his house in the lower town of Kaneš. About two decades later, the cuneiform tablets were edited by Klaas R. Veenhof in the volume AKT 8 (2017). The publication of these documents provides us with an opportunity to gain considerable insights into the organisational aspects of an Assyrian family and the involvement of their members in the trading networks between Anatolia and Mesopotamia in the 2nd millennium BC. This archive records many aspects of the lives of some women from this family such as the transmission of the female patrimony, the social role of religious women, and the insertion of women, established in Aššur or Kaneš, in commerce. The systematic analysis of the language used in the letters from Lamassutum, Ummī-lšhara, and Šalimma enhance our understanding in how these women insert themselves in relationships, established and maintained bonds, as well as how they negotiated their roles in this society from the favored matrix of interpersonal sociability in the period, family. In this presentation I intend to show how members of the same family group engaged and shared common practices, including language and literacy to get a better understanding of the entanglements of family, gender, and language. Do these women position themselves in specific ways depending on what they communicate and with whom they interact? In what ways are social relations embedded in the language of commerce? How do gender roles vary in the carousel of subjective positions in a communication system? My central hypothesis is that women highlight kinship when they communicate by letters, relying on a network of trust and proximity that makes relations of kinship.

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The Cult of Aškašepa in Hittite Sources

Amir Gilan (Tel Aviv University)

Mount Aškašepa famously appears next to the deities of the Land of Kaneš in a treaty between the king of Kaneš and the Assyrian merchants (Kt 00/k 6). The Mountain is consequently identified with Mount Erciyes (Erciyes Dağı). Mount Aškašepa, and more often a deity by that name, continued to be venerated by the Hittites long after Kaneš itself was deserted, often in connection with other deities affiliated with Kaneš. The present contribution will survey these attestations and explore some of their meaning(s).

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Assessing Activity Patterns Using Enteseal Changes at Kültepe-Kaneš during the Early and Middle Bronze Ages

Donald Kale, Semih Özen, Doruk C. Özgü & Handan Üstündağ (Anadolu University, Eskişehir)

There are several skeletal markers used to determine the lifestyle and subsistence activity of skeletal assemblages. Enteseal changes (EC) have shown to be a good indicator of unfolding activity patterns in archaeological human populations. EC are remodelling modifications of entheses (attachment area of muscle into bone) caused by the mechanical activity of fibrocartilaginous tissue (tendon). The intensity and extent in time of physical activity causing

exponential alterations of EC has been firmly established. Various methods have been developed in order to record EC in skeletal populations. In this research, EC were collected following the "Revised Coimbra Method" (Henderson et al. 2016) guidelines. The Coimbra Method facilitates broad-scale data assessment with low inter-observer error.

The skeletal assemblage involves a total of 52 individuals from the Early and Middle Bronze Age Kaneš (Kültepe) site. The sample in foci (44 individuals analysed) consists of *young adult* and *middle adult* age groups; 15 individuals from the Mound (Tepe) dated to the Early Bronze Age and 29 individuals from the Lower Town (Karum) dated to the Middle Bronze Age. Age estimation of the individuals was deduced through the utilization of osteological methods, sex estimation was additionally supported by ancient DNA analyses.

It has been well-established that EC are stimulated from repetitive physical activity associated with heavy labour. The information provided by the EC can shed light on physical activity patterns, labour division among social classes, age, and gender groups. The interpretation of the data in archaeological samples may be deceptive in case of missing documentation from the archaeological context. Thus, the analysis is conducted suitably to the contextual evidence from the burials. To sum up, we intend to elucidate and reconstruct the physical activity models and their tendencies comparatively for the Early and Middle Bronze Age populations of Kaneš. In this manner, questions in the scope of labour and activity may be further explored and clarified considering the two distinct periods.

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Material Culture of Late Chalcolithic Age at Kültepe: Excavations at the Central Trench, Kültepe 2021

Ryoichi Kontani (Notre-Dame Seishin University, Okayama), Fikri Kulakoğlu (Ankara University) & Yuji Yamaguchi (Okayama University)

The Kültepe research team has been conducting excavations on the Tepe since 2015 under the theme of "Origins of Kültepe". We have identified almost continuous cultural layers from the beginning to the end of the Early Bronze Age, and have reported on their material culture at the north trench of this site (Kulakoğlu et al. 2020). The results not only indicated that the settlement at Kültepe dates back to at least around 3000 BC, but also provide data for the Early Bronze Age chronology of Central Anatolia. However, the material culture of the Late Chalcolithic Age and the transitional period of the Late Chalcolithic-Early Bronze Age was unclear.

In the 2021 season, we identified a Late Chalcolithic layer under the southern slope of the Warshama Palace in the central trench. The remains of a large structure made of mud-bricks, black burnished pottery with white filled incision, and Red-Black pottery were excavated from this area. Radiocarbon dating also indicated 3300-3000 cal BC. Considering the topography of the Tepe, with the central part being the highest, it is very likely that the Late Chalcolithic layer extended over a wide area under the Warshama Palace. This discovery shows that Kültepe dates back at least to the Late Chalcolithic Age. This is important in considering the material culture of Central Anatolia during the Late Chalcolithic period, which is parallel to the Uruk period.

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The Development of Old Assyrian Theophoric Personal Names from the Early 19th to the Late 18th Centuries

Guido Kryszat (Johannes-Gutenberg University, Mainz)

A first analysis of theophoric personal names of the early Old Assyrian Period as presented in the proceedings of the 4th Kültepe International Meeting (in Subartu 46) yielded a number of surprising results. A first look at the names of the late Old Assyrian Period, contemporary to Kārum Kaneš Ib, shall show if and how the Assyrian onomasticon is the subject to changes from the 19th to the late 18th centuries. Which names and theophoric elements are still popular? And which new developments can be revealed? Can Anatolian influences on the Assyrian onomasticon be shown? The paper will try to give a first answer to these questions.

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The Settlement Sequence of the Kültepe Mound from the Late Early Bronze Age to the End of the Assyrian Colony Period. A New Stratigraphic and Ceramic Sequence

Fikri Kulakoğlu (Ankara University), Valentina Oselini (Bologna University), Luca Peyronel & Agnese Vacca (Milan University)

The paper presents a preliminary chrono-typological evaluation of the pottery retrieved in stratified deposits related with architectural phases spanning from the end of the 3rd millennium BC to the end of the Middle Bronze Age occupation of Kültepe coming from the new excavations in the south-western sector of the mound. The analysis focuses especially on the potter assemblages of the MBA monumental stone building excavated in 2020-2021, immediately west of the stone-paved 'Plaza'. The pottery from this context can be ascribed to Kültepe mound Levels 7-6 (Lower Town Ib-a), dating to the 18th century BC, and encompasses several complete restorable vessels and thousands of diagnostic potsherds. Simple Ware with light monochrome buff fabrics, resembling the later Drab Ware, is documented by numerous mass-produced hemispherical bowls with smoothed, flattened or string-cut narrow bases, carinated bowls with slightly inverted and flat rims, spouted bowls, jars, and jugs. Red Slip Ware with or without burnishing is also well attested (amounting to ca. 20-30% of the total), featuring several types, i.e. bowls and jugs with beaked spouts. Cooking pots with ridged or out flared rims and globular bodies have been also documented. Moreover, in the stone buildings, more than five big pithoi were set into the floor, two of which are still *in situ*, and two exceptional jars with applied decoration were also part of the rooms' equipment.

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Recent Excavations on the Southwestern Mound of Kültepe. A New Public building from the End of the Assyrian Colony Period at Kaneš-Neša

Fikri Kulakoğlu (Ankara University) & Luca Peyronel (Milan University)

New excavations in the southwestern mound of Kültepe started in 2019 with the aim of constructing a fine-tuned stratigraphic sequence anchored with radiocarbon dating, in order to clarify the occupational phases on this sector of the mound. The excavations brought to

light a series of superimposed structures showing a long-lasting occupation, spanning from the late 3rd millennium BC to the Iron Age. In the area immediately west of the stone paved plaza an enigmatic monumental stone building dating to the last phase of the Assyrian colony period and to the end of the Middle Bronze occupation at Kültepe was discovered in 2020 and almost completely excavated in 2021. It is composed of two adjacent underground rooms: a long storeroom with a recess where two big pithoi were sunk into the floor at the eastern end and an adjacent large hall. The stone walls are still preserved to a height of 4 m in the south-west corner and are built with worked blocks dressing with quite regular rows the lower part of the inner facades. The walls had no outer faces at their underground level, since the stones were abutted directly against the earlier stratigraphy cut by the foundation trenches. The building was accessible through a staircase made by stone steps set parallel to the western wall. The staircase allowed to reach the upper storey at the ground level, now completely lost. The paper presents the stratigraphy, architecture and materials of the building, discussing its functional interpretation in relation with the urban organization of the southern sector of the town.

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Of Lions and Sheep. Animal Exploitation at Kültepe and in Central Anatolia during the Middle Bronze Age. New Data from Recent Excavations

Fikri Kulakoğlu (Ankara University), Luca Peyronel (Milan University) & Claudia Minniti (Salento University)

The paper presents the preliminary results of the analysis of animal remains retrieved at Kültepe during the 2020 and 2021 seasons. The materials come from the excavations of a monumental stone building dated to the last Middle Bronze Age occupation at the site and located in the south-western part of the mound. A large number of remains were identified according to class, species, anatomical element, sex, and age. The sample is particularly significant due to its excellent preservation that allowed to gain detailed information on the husbandry practices and the animal exploitation at Kültepe in the period corresponding with mound levels 7-6 (kārum Ib-a), roughly dated to the 18th century BC. Data show that the animal exploitation at Kültepe was based on domestic animals. Overall, sheep and goats are the most dominant species, followed by cattle, while pigs are less represented. Domestic species not used for food, equids and dogs are also well documented. Hunting should have had a marginal role, but a certain variety of wild species is documented in the sample. Red deer and wild boar prevails, while other species, such as wild sheep, wild goat, bear, wolf, fox, hare and birds are barely represented. Of particular interest are the discovery of some lion bones and some seashells belonging to oysters and limpets. The unusual presence of a variety of wild species and the huge amount of animal bones in the filling layers of the building suggest a possible ceremonial function of the area.

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Seal Impressions in the Šalim-Aššur Archive (94/k)

Agnete W. Lassen (Yale Babylonian Collection, New Haven)

This paper will discuss the seal impressions from one of the merchant archives excavated at Kültepe in 1994. The archive was recovered in the house of the family of Šalim-Aššur and reflects the activities of several generations. Around 200 individual seals were impressed on envelopes and bullae in the archive, which comprises c. 1200 texts of various types. The family of Šalim-Aššur can be reconstructed through several generations and I have been able to identify one or more seals belonging to most of his family members. This paper will explore the styles, imagery and inscriptions of the Šalim-Aššur family seals and the implications they have for our understanding of the glyptic chronology, patterns of seal ownership and seals as marker of identity in Old Assyrian society.

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Current Research and Future Prospects in Aerial Archaeology

Hong-jong Lee (Korea University) & Hyoungki Ahn (Korean Institute for Archaeology Environment & Korea University)

Archaeology aims to study the remains of human activity in nature. Although cultural relics in mountains or hilly areas are easily detectable by naked eyes, those in flood plains and low lands are not easily identified. Because low land areas have been used as arable fields and subjected to various changes induced by human land use and natural processes such as climate changes and land reclamation. Understanding the characteristics of paleo-landscape and its dating helps *to comprehend the past land use*. It allows archaeologists to respond promptly and effectively during the test and full excavations.

Aerial archaeology was commenced by O. G. S. Crawford (1886-1957) in the 1920s and developed further by prof. Takahasi Manabu of Litzmeikan University in Japan who proposed a six-staged geomorphological analytical method. Currently, a 3D analytical program replacing stereoscope is widely used for archaeological survey using the aerial photography. The first aerial research case was the one applied to the large-scale excavation prior to Sejong administration-centered complex city land development. This research successfully revealed the presence of old river terraces, natural levee, old channels, and backswamps in this area. Based on these results, excavations discovered the settlement, paddy fields dating to the 12th century BC as well as the urban site, settlement and tomb cluster (150 burials) dating to the 3rd-5th centuries AD located 8 m below the surface. Since then, it became mandatory to apply the aerial photography for an alluvial area survey.

Since the 1980s, the nation-wide land development in South Korea have seriously altered the original landscape. Thus, aerial photography using the photos taken during the 1960-70s became so popular in South Korea because it is effective in identifying the old land surface. It is now regarded as the best analytical method to presume the presence of the buried sites. Following the survey of the Sejong city, the research on the Pungnaptoseong Citadel, the first capital of ancient Baekje kingdom, Mongchontoseong fortress and Seokchon-dong tomb are the representative cases. In addition, the research on the Kültepe site revealed the buried old paleo-channel between the upper city and the lower city.

Aerial archaeology combined with the newest technologies provides some promising analytical techniques. Dr. Gino Caspari's research team from the Swiss National Science Foundation discovered the traces of the nomadic horse culture in the southern Russia before AD 0, based on the analysis of satellite images using A.I. (artificial intelligence) technology. The

collaborative project between America and Afghanistan supported by the department of state of USA also found 4,500 sites, using the spy satellites, commercial satellites and drones.

Applying the digital technologies, visual technologies and A.I. technologies to archaeology in the future is expected to greatly contribute to the archaeological research to the great extent. One can choose among the satellite images, drone and aerial photography as for a research method, depending on the local archaeological and environmental contexts.

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Gold in the Jewels from Aššur and Kaneš

Cécile Michel (CNRS, ArScAn-HAROC, Nanterre & CSMC, Hamburg University)

Gold, together with silver, was the main reason for Assyrian trade in Anatolia. The gold brought back to Aššur was perhaps used to buy tin from the Elamites, but above all it was used to make offerings to the temples and was also hoarded, among other things, in the form of jewels. Archaeological remains from Aššur and Kaneš include various samples partly made of gold while texts excavated at Kültepe provide data on gold and its trade, and some hints about the work of the goldsmith. Cross-referencing the texts and the objects makes it possible to draw up an inventory of gold jewels (headbands, rings, bracelets, earrings, pins, beads, medallions, etc.), to give a description and identify the permanency of forms between the two sites. Some of the jewels were also worn by the divine statues.

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Šamuha and Kaneš

Andreas Müller-Karpe (Philipps University, Marburg)

Until now most of the Old Assyrian trading stations mentioned in the archives of Kaneš cannot be safely located. One of the few exceptions is Šamuha. The decisive tablet, which proves the localisation of Šamuha at Kayalıpınar, was discovered in 2014 at this site. But excavations started there already in 2005. Although most of the uncovered ruins belong to the Middle Hittite and Imperial period, remains from Early Hittite/Old Assyrian times have also been found.

They represent level 5 and 6 at this site. From level 5 two buildings were excavated, most likely houses of merchants. The inventory of these houses shows strong parallels to those of the lower town in Kaneš. Two fragments of tablets with Old Assyrian cuneiform script, several sealings and pottery can be compared with corresponding finds from Kaneš and other sites of this period. The occupation of Level 5 in Kayalıpınar – Šamuha ended in a major fire disaster. Walls of mudbrick were burned, pottery and other small finds all show clear traces of fire. Some evidence suggests that the destruction occurred a little later than the end of the layer Karum Kaneš Ib.

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Rites for the Dead, Amity for the Living: The *nasbītum* Rite as a Medium for Cross-Cultural Understanding, and the Importance of Religious *Translatio* at Kārum Period Kültepe.

William Nation (Harvard University, Cambridge)

The *nasbītum* rite was practiced in Aššur during at least the Old and Middle Assyrian periods, and an analogous rite, also called *nasbītum* in the Old Assyrian texts, was practiced in Anatolia at the time of the Assyrian merchant presence. The dictionaries incorrectly list *naspittu* for the Old Assyrian evidence, and *našbatu* for the Middle Assyrian, but textual evidence published by Jan-Gerrit Dercksen has clarified both the correct rendering of the term and the ritual context to which it refers. This paper further elucidates the nature of the Assyrian *nasbītum* based on the broadened textual evidence, and argues that it revolves around mortuary rites analogous to the better known *kispum* ritual from the Old Babylonian corpus. The similarity is further suggested by the probability that the term *nasbītum* comes from the verb *sabā'um*: to draw / brew beer. The paper also investigates the connection between the Anatolian and Assyrian so-called *nasbītum* rites, suggesting that it is unlikely that there is a genetic connection between the two traditions. Instead, the evidence suggests a situation in which these religious practices were similar enough to be mutually intelligible, such that they could both be described by the same Assyrian term. The Assyrian and Anatolian conception of a shared ritual practice facilitated cross-cultural communication between the groups at Kaneš, and eased potentially fraught diplomatic situations. The paper will argue that religious *translatio*, typified in the *nasbītum* but demonstrable in other areas as well, was foundational to the shared lives of the Assyrians and Anatolians at Kültepe/ Kaneš.

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Typological Evaluation of Level II Structures in Kültepe-Kaneš Lower Town

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The lower town of Kültepe-Kaneš, which has been systematically excavated since 1948, consists of four building levels, of which the latest has two phases (Ia and Ib). It was inhabited approximately for 250 years. It has also housed a *kārum*, i.e., center for Assyrian merchants who came to Anatolia to trade. In the lower town, not only Assyrian merchants, but local people of Anatolia and people from other ethnicities lived and did business with each other as well. Located at an important crossroads, Kültepe-Kaneš covered, together with its lower town an area of about 2.5 km². Due both to its cosmopolitan structure and its immense dimensions, the city of Kaneš was one of the largest settlements of Near East. Among the four building levels discovered in the lower town, the building level II, from which comparably the richest written archives were recovered, is roughly dated to 1950-1835 BC. Anatolia's oldest known written records were also found in this building level. This study will focus on the typology of the architectural structures belonging to the building level II. Some of them were previously published by Prof. Dr. Tahsin Özgüç. Two different typological evaluations were done regarding these published structures. In 1959, the structures were grouped under four types; however, in 1986, Prof. Dr. Tahsin Özgüç stated that there were five different types of structures built. In this study, a new typological evaluation will be done for all the structures dated to the level II, and the number of structure types will be determined. Based on this data, the reasons behind constructing different types of structure will attempted to be revealed. Also, the development and origins of these structure types will be examined technically and

schematically. Additionally, it will be determined whether there is a standardization in terms of design and planning. Showing the structure types on a general plan, their spatial distribution in the settlement plan will be established, and by making comparisons with some of the contemporary settlements, similarities and differences will be determined. There is not much information on the residential structures of the Assyrian period settlements in Central Anatolia, other than the data obtained from Kültepe. No residential structure that is contemporary in particular with building level II has been discovered yet. Using the types of residential structures found in Kültepe, this study will help in gaining insight on the residential structures of other contemporary settlements of Central Anatolia.

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Law and Justice in Karum Kaneš and its Depiction on Cylinder Seals

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The backbone of the Assyro-Anatolian trading system and the century-long success of the merchants' communities with a sophisticated administrative and economic structure was clearly law and justice – established, guaranteed and controlled by the relevant organizations and the people involved in them. Since every economically active person at ancient Kaneš owned at least one cylinder or stamp seal in order to sign and validate written documents and letters and the closures of goods and doors, it is not too far-fetched to claim that the concern for justice entered also the imagery of seals. But how could the plea for law and justice – abstract concepts which cannot easily be depicted – enter the cylinder seals' depictions of those who were highly dependent on the righteousness of economic procedures?

The seal impressions on the tablets from levels II and Ib of the lower town of Kaneš constitute by far the most important source of Anatolian, Assyrian and Syrian imagery in the early second millennium. Step by step, the iconography can be better understood and more depictions are deciphered. Nevertheless, many elements of the extremely varied and dense depictions on these masterpieces of art are still difficult to be interpreted. Among the least understood pictorial elements are the so-called 'filling motifs' between the human protagonists, which were clearly no meaningless fillers of free space, but meant an added protective value for the seal owner, and sometimes even contained informations about the seal owner's profession or belief. It will be argued in this paper that many cylinder seals from Karum Kaneš II and Ib do depict a special element, which was indeed the ancient symbol of law and justice, but that these symbols have not yet been recognized as such. Interestingly, this motif found also entry in the Babylonian repertoire, but was probably created in Anatolia or Assyria during the Colony period.

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Stable Isotope Analysis and Differences in Diet and Social Status in the Kültepe-Kaneš Population (the 2nd millennium BC)

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Diet often plays a vital role in defining social divisions within and between social groups and thus can be used to understand the social pattern of archaeological populations. Diet in

historical and archaeological populations have traditionally been reconstructed using ethnographic and textual records, archaeozoological, and archaeobotanical remains. Recently, the advanced technique of stable isotope analyses has been started to investigate past diet. This new method provides a direct measure of consumed food resources and can be used to determine dietary habits, subsistence strategies and inter- and intra-population variation in dietary habits over time. The research utilises the results of stable isotope analyses of carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and nitrogen ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$) from human and animal bone collagen in conjunction with archaeological, bioarchaeological, aDNA, and previously analysed strontium (Sr) isotopes data. The sample from the Kültepe-Kaneš Population consists of 65 individuals belongs to different age groups, sexes, time periods, burial places, grave types, and grave goods. For the local signals, 7 animal bones from different species were sampled. This study aims to investigate social differences expressed through diet in the Kültepe-Kaneš (the 2nd millennium BCE), to determine whether dietary social disparities existed during the Assyrian Trade Colony period in the region.

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The Sources of Tin for Kültepe/Kaneš and Tell Atchana/Alalakh): Two Synchronous Production Systems

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It is well known that MBA texts from Kültepe mention tin arriving by caravans from unspecified eastern sources, long thought to be Afghanistan or Central Asia. However, at least two sources or tin ore lie within 150 kilometers of Kültepe. The extensive underground tin mining at Kestel reached its height towards the end of the Early Bronze Age (ca. 2000 BC). Similarly, the volcanic-hosted hematite-cassiterite veins at Hisarcik contain ceramics that indicate active mining in Early Bronze Age II and III. However, the isotopic composition of the majority of tin ingots from the Uluburun shipwreck (ca. 1320BC) indicate that they were produced in the Taurus Mountains. Therefore, despite the Kültepe texts being silent on the matter, it is clear that surface tin mining of local continued well after the bedrock workings were exhausted.

At issue has been whether local tin was also used at Kültepe/Kaneš, despite the textual evidence citing only an Asian source. Using the LBA Uluburun tin ingots as a case study, multi-method analysis determined that two-thirds of the tin cargo were produced at Bolkardağ from local Taurus ores, while the remaining ingots were derived from Central Asian tin ores. With this two-source convergence in mind, preliminary analysis of bronze artifacts from both Kültepe and Tell Atchana was undertaken to determine tin provenance at each location. The Late Bronze Age material from Tell Atchana yielded a median $\delta^{124}\text{Sn}$ value of 0.76‰, consistent with the Taurus-derived ingots of Uluburun, and a lack of correlation between Sn content (%) and Sn isotopic composition. The Early to Middle Bronze Age artifacts from Kültepe display a larger range in isotopic composition. Furthermore, lower $\delta^{124}\text{Sn}$ (<0.8‰) of Taurus origin correlate with lower Sn contents ($\leq 5\%$). In contrast, the high $\delta^{124}\text{Sn}$ (0.8-1.8‰), likely from the Lapas mine of Uzbekistan, correlates with higher Sn (8.4-12.5%). This relationship suggests that two systems of bronze production were active. Higher-value objects were crafted from tin imported by the Assyrian traders. At the same time locally

sourced Anatolian tin from the Taurus was smelted to form lower-value objects, probably by the Kaneshite inhabitants.

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Changes in the Settlement Plan at the End of the Early Bronze Age III in Kültepe: New Data on the Transition from Public Buildings to Private Workshops

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During the transition to the last phase of the Early Bronze Age (EBA) in Kültepe, important developments in terms of settlement planning could be observed on the mound. As a result of the commercial relations established with Northern Syria and Mesopotamia, probably based mainly on the exchange of metals, Kültepe reached a high level of prosperity resulting in the construction of monumental buildings, unique in Anatolia in terms of size and plan. Trade relations with the southern neighbors are visible through cylinder seals, imported and local imitation ceramics as well as jewels made of precious metals.

At the end of the EBA III, the monumental public buildings were destroyed by fire. These were replaced by buildings with modest and simple structures built directly on the ruins. Furnaces and hearths discovered in almost every room, as well as crucibles containing slags and other important finds demonstrate that now industrial activities were carried out. Stone built cell-plan structures and silos from the same layers suggest important socio-political changes during this period. This paper focuses on these significant changes in the settlement plan at the end of EBA III in Kültepe and the dynamics behind those in the light of the new data.

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Current Studies on the Hellenistic Period in Kültepe

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The first data on the Hellenistic Period of Kültepe began to come in the first period excavations conducted under the direction of Prof. Dr. Tahsin Özgüç. These data consisted of tombs, structures and related finds. A general framework was drawn that the mound was also inhabited during the Hellenistic Period, based on the data in question, which has not been studied in detail. However, during the excavations of the new period, which were started under the direction of Prof. Dr. Fikri Kulakoglu, a detailed study of the Hellenistic-Roman levels and finds has come to the fore in order to complete the stratigraphy of both the mound and the Karum (necropolis), thus providing a clearer understanding of the Classical Kültepe Period. In this direction, on the one hand, the finds of the first period excavations were examined, on the other hand, excavation works were started in the mound.

As a result of the short-term excavations due to limited opportunities, a structure that gives information about the Hellenistic Period settlement was identified. The stone floors at different elevations that can be seen from place to place, and the door openings on the walls that were closed with different construction techniques show that the building had more than

one phase. According to the information obtained from the ceramics belonging to the second half of the 3rd century BC from the base level, it is understood that the building, which was started to be used after the second half of the 3rd century BC, was reused with various repairs in later phases. In addition to these, important results have been reached regarding the ceramic culture, burial traditions and religious rituals of the Hellenistic Period Kültepe.

In this study firstly the excavations in the building will be introduced and the usage phases will be explained briefly. Then, with a holistic approach, the archaeological finds will be evaluated together with their context and it will be tried to contribute to the illumination of the Hellenistic Period texture of Kültepe.

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