

Dūr-Katlimmu 2008 and Beyond

Edited by Hartmut Kühne

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Editorial Foreword

This volume initiates a new series *Studia Chaburensia*. It will be devoted to the study of provincial regions with an emphasis on the development, change, and collapse of settlements, environment, economy, administration, and every day life in rural areas dependent on urban centres or not. Chronologically unlimited, the series will focus on the Assyrian and contemporary civilisations of the second and first millennia BCE. Geographically it will encompass Upper Mesopotamia as well as neighbouring regions.

January 2010-01-15

Foreword

This book is the result of an International Colloquium under the title of “Rural Assyria (1350-500 BC)” held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the excavation of Tall Šēḫ Ḥamad, October 6-8, 2008, at the site itself to incorporate the genius loci. Next to the excavation house a large tent was put up and it is gratefully acknowledge that the muḥtar and guardian, Mr. Hassaian al-Assad, placed his liwan to our disposal which served as the convention room. Technical support came from the director of the local High School, Mr. Kemal al-Assad. A shuttle took care of the transport between the venue and the accommodation at Deir az-Zor. The final event, the excursion to Tall Umm ʿAqrubba, was made possible by the kind cooperation of the local authorities and will be remembered by all of us. My sincere thanks are offered to the participants of the Colloquium who used their presence in Syria to join the meeting and to the Šēḫ Ḥamad team, particularly to the cook, Mr. Ibrahim al-Manla Issa, who hosted the colloquium.

The very intensive discussions during the colloquium demonstrated that the process of ruralising and administrating the Ġazira by the Assyrians during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age was not nearly covered in a satisfactory manner; this topic remains to be debated on another occasion more thoroughly. This volume therefore rather mirrors the state of the local and regional research with an emphasis on the Assyrian central place of Dūr-Katlimmu / Magdalu. Most of the speakers of the Colloquium (pp. X-XI) contributed their papers to the book; other speakers preferred to offer a different study. In addition there are papers by authors who had not been involved in the Colloquium. However, at the same time it became obvious that the discussion of the rural development of the Ġazira and adjacent regions during pre-state and state periods needs a promoter and a publishing medium. This led to the inauguration of the series *Studia Chaburensia*.

Gratitude is expressed to the authors of this volume and to the publishing house with its competent staff.

Berlin, January 2010

Hartmut Kühne