



Where Kingship Descended from Heaven

Studies on Ancient Kish

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DESCRIPTION:

From 1923 to 1933, the Chicago Field Museum and the University of Oxford conducted archaeological excavations at the site of Kish, located on the floodplain of the Euphrates River in modern Iraq approximately 80 kilometers south of Baghdad. Over the course of ten years of work, the expedition explored seventeen different mounds both inside and outside the ancient boundaries of Kish. The finds were divided at the end of each season, with the Iraq Museum retaining half of the objects and any one-of-a-kind items and the two excavating institutions splitting the remainder. Beginning in 2004, the Field Museum undertook a reevaluation of its Kish holdings. To highlight new research and insights into the material culture from Kish and our understanding of the importance of the site to Mesopotamian archaeology, the Field Museum held a symposium in 2008 that brought together an international group of scholars who presented papers on various aspects of the ancient city. This volume, which grew out of that symposium, presents a wide array of studies on the excavated material remains from Kish, including cuneiform texts, animal figurines, human remains, lithics, figural stucco wall decorations, and more.

ISBN:

9781614910923 (pb)
9781614910930 (pdf)

PRICE:

\$99.95 (pb)
\$80.00 (pdf)

PUBLICATION DATE:

10 April 2023 (pb)
10 April 2023 (pdf)

BINDING:

Paperback & PDF eBook

PAGES:

329

ILLUSTRATIONS:

217 figs & 36 tbls.

PUBLISHER:

Institute for the Study of
Ancient Cultures

IMPRINT:

Institute for the Study of
Ancient Cultures

SERIES:

Studies in Ancient Cultures

READER INTERESTS:

Ancient Near East
World Archaeology