

Preface by the Series Editor

The 14th volume of the OREA series addresses ‘The Ancient Throne’ and represents the outcome of a workshop held on 27th of April 2016 at the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE). The 10th anniversary conference of the ICAANE took place from 25th to 29th of April 2016 in Vienna and was hosted and organized by the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. While the general proceedings of the sections were published with Harrassowitz Verlag in 2018, the experts’ workshops appear as separate volumes of the OREA series which are generously supported by the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press. Altogether 12 additional books have already been published or are in the pipeline for publication in the OREA series as outcome of these substantial workshops of the Vienna ICAANE.

The present volume focuses on the phenomenon of ‘thrones’ in a broad diachronic view from the ancient Near East to the Islamic period and covers the timespan between the 3rd millennium BCE and the 14th century CE. The book is edited for our internationally peer-reviewed series by Liat Naeh and Dana Brostowsky Gilboa, who also initiated and organized the workshop about ‘The Throne in Art and Archaeology: From the Dawn of the Ancient Near East until the Late Medieval Period’. The editors brought together 11 contributions focusing on the topic that will be of considerable interest to researchers dealing with elites, royal, rituals, symbolism, monumentality and their material and iconographic representations in differing sociocultural contexts. The interdisciplinary approach of the editors is shown in the range of collected articles, which are covering the fields of art, archaeology and written sources to discuss the phenomenon of ‘thrones’. The geographical and cultural range of discussed subjects include Bronze Age Mesopotamia, Minoan Crete, Mycenaean and Homeric textual sources, early Iron Age Cyprus, Archaic Greece, Iron Age Levant, Phrygian Turkey, Parthian Iran and Mongolia.

I warmly thank the editors of this volume, Liat Naeh and Dana Brostowsky Gilboa, for their engagement to realize this volume and to all contributing authors for sharing their scientific expertise. Financial support for the preparation of this volume was additionally provided by the Mandel Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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