Archaeozoology of the Near East
Edited by Marjan Mashkour and Mark Beech

Key Features:
· Major contribution to interpretation of faunal remains from the Palaeolithic to the Byzantine period
· Contributions from more than 60 specialists
· Important case studies from major urban and religious sites.

This two part volume brings together over 60 specialists to present 31 papers on the latest research into archaeozoology of the Near East. The papers are wide-ranging in terms of period and geographical coverage: from Palaeolithic rock shelter assemblages in Syria to Byzantine remains in Palestine and from the Caucasus to Cyprus. Papers are grouped into thematic sections examining patterns of Palaeolithic and Neolithic subsistence in northern Mesopotamia, Anatolia and the Iranian plateau; Palaeolithic to Neolithic faunal remains from Armenia; animal exploitation in Bronze Age urban sites; new evidence concerning pastoralism, nomadism and mobility; aspects of domestication and animal exploitation in the Arabian peninsula; several case studies on ritual animal deposits; and specific analyses of patterns of animal exploitation at urban sites in Turkey, Palestine and Jordan.

This important collection of significant new work builds on the well-established foundation of previous ICAZ publications to present the very latest results of archaeozoological research in the prehistory of this formative region in the development of animal exploitation.

About the Author:
Mark Beech is Cultural Landscapes Manager in the Historic Environment Department of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage in the United Arab Emirates. He is responsible for undertaking archaeological fieldwork and research within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, including the development of the official Abu Dhabi database of archaeological, palaeontological and cultural heritage sites, as well as the use of GIS as a cultural heritage management tool. He is also an Honorary Visiting Fellow in Zooarchaeology and Environmental Archaeology in the Department of Archaeology, University of York.

Marjan Mashkour is a faculty member of CNRS based in Paris. She is the first Iranian to specialize in the field of zooarchaeology and has been engaged in many field and laboratory projects in Iran and the Near East. Her research interests are in the late Palaeolithic fauna of the Zagros Mountains and the domestication of the wild goat in Iran.
Catalogue of the Western Asiatic Seals in the British Museum (Volume 4)
Cylinder Seals

By Edith Porada and Dominique Collon

Where the Egyptians have wall paintings, the ancient Near East has cylinder seals as the main source of illustrative material, covering a range of subject matter and periods not covered by relief sculptures. The seals are particularly attractive, and the inscriptions are rare examples of personal prayer from the ancient world.

This volume continues the story of the cylinder seal styles of the second millennium BC beyond Babylonia in this internationally recognized series documenting the British Museum's cylinder seals collection. The Isin/Larsa and Old Babylonian Periods of the early 2nd millennium BC merited a whole volume (Volume III), as did the succeeding Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian periods of the 1st millennium BC (Volume V) and the Pre-Achaemenid and Achaemenid periods of the 1st millennia BC-AD in Iran (Volume VI). However, between 2000 and 1000 BC whole series of regional glyptic styles were developed in various autonomous kingdoms and city states. Each of these has merited its own chapter or section within this current volume, with its own selection of photographs and catalogue entries.

As the seals featured in this volume came from a number of different sites, they reflect a greater variety of styles than is the case with the single-period or single-origin groups of seals treated in the previous catalogues. There was also a greater exchange of seal-cutting expertise between the various kingdoms, and it is possible to make tentative suggestions as to seals possibly cut by the same craftsman.

About the Author:

Dominique Collon obtained a Post-Graduate Diploma in Western Asiatic Archaeology from the Institute of Archaeology in London. In 1968 she was invited by Edith Porada to study at Columbia University in New York for an MA (1969) and Phd (1971), the latter on The Seal Impressions from Tell Atchana/Alalakh (1975). In 1983 she became a full-time curator at the British Museum and retired as Assistant Keeper of the Department of Middle East in 2005. She has taken part in archaeological fieldwork at numerous Near Eastern sites. She has published over 250 articles and three catalogues of the cylinder seal collections at the British Museum. The present one, co-authored with Edith Porada, is the last in the series.

Edith Porada (1912–1994) was born in Vienna, where she grew up and obtained her doctorate on the Akkadian cylinder seals of Ancient Iraq in 1935. She moved to New York in 1938. During the next decade she catalogued the seal impressions from Nuzi near Kirkuk in Iraq (1947) and wrote the important two-volume Corpus of the Ancient Near Eastern Seals in the Pierpont Morgan Library Collection (1948) as curator of that collection. From 1958 until her death she taught at Columbia University in New York. In the 1980s she was asked to write the present volume and worked on the seals every summer in the British Museum.