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Paisajes, escrituras, símbolos y arquitecturas del antiguo Irán
Landscapes, Scriptures, Symbols and Architectures of Ancient Iran



La tumba de Ciro en Pasargada.
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Foreword

Ancient Iran, Persia, and Elam constitute a fascinating field of study about which we have more and more information. The 26th issue of our journal allows a revision through several aspects of the current research along with Iranian, French, Italian and Spanish scholars.

We usually remember that cuneiform was deciphered thanks to the Darius' inscription in Behistun. It was written in Old Persian, Babylonian and Elamite. From Persian, it was possible to start deciphering the Babylonian, even if the Elamite took more time. It is indeed very interesting that the inscription was written in the native language of the region, and that Achaemenids recognised it. Some outside and later views have not understood this correlation.

The study of Silvia Balatti about written materials of Achaemenid Iran continues a line of research about the Iranian writing system that even today provides very interesting results.

The Iranian Architecture is the aim of some papers in this issue. The first one is the contribution of Davide Solaris and Roberto Dan about the signification and the archaeology of Masjed-e Soleyman, reinterpreting its origin and socio-cultural context. In the same way, the cultural transfer on behalf of Babylonians in Persepolis analysed by Pierfrancesco Callieri is related to architecture but also to Archaeology and to the information that we obtain from them.

Carlos Fernández Rodríguez explores water management and its function in the habitability of Southern Iran during the Iron Age, showing that it is to the situation on the other side of the Gulf. Fernando Escribano Martín investigates what we know as the 'Persian garden', as well as its origins and development. To do this, he should start from Pasargadae in Persia, but also from more ancient times.

Sébastien Gondet analyses agriculture's development and history of the Achaemenid Persepolis' occupation, which is a key aspect for understanding the functioning of this Persian capital. On the other hand, Alireza Khounani presents the vineyards of the Arsacid-Partian Nisa, a concrete example of agriculture and trade in another important period of Iranian history.

In terms of material culture, Giulio Maresca presented a paper about the Sistan pottery in the Iron Age, and Negin Miri developed specific research of an example of a bulla kept in a Museum of Teheran.

We close this wide ranging and interesting theme that we group in this foreword with the studies of Zahara Gharenkhani reflects on some hybrid creatures of the Pre-Islamic Persia, reconsidering their symbolism, which goes beyond the time when they were conceived.

The array of studies of different kind that we present in this issue accounts for the rich world that is under investigation around Ancient Iran, whose Elamite and Persian manifestations, progressively more related, transcend both in time and space.

F. Escribano Martín, C. del Cerro Linares, C. Fernández Rodríguez and F. L. Borrego Gallardo