

Proceedings
of the 7th International Congress
on the Archaeology
of the Ancient Near East

12 April – 16 April 2010,
the British Museum and UCL, London

Volume 3
Fieldwork & Recent Research
Posters

Edited by
Roger Matthews and John Curtis
with the collaboration of Michael Seymour, Alexandra Fletcher,
Alison Gascoigne, Claudia Glatz, St John Simpson, Helen Taylor,
Jonathan Tubb and Rupert Chapman

2012
Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

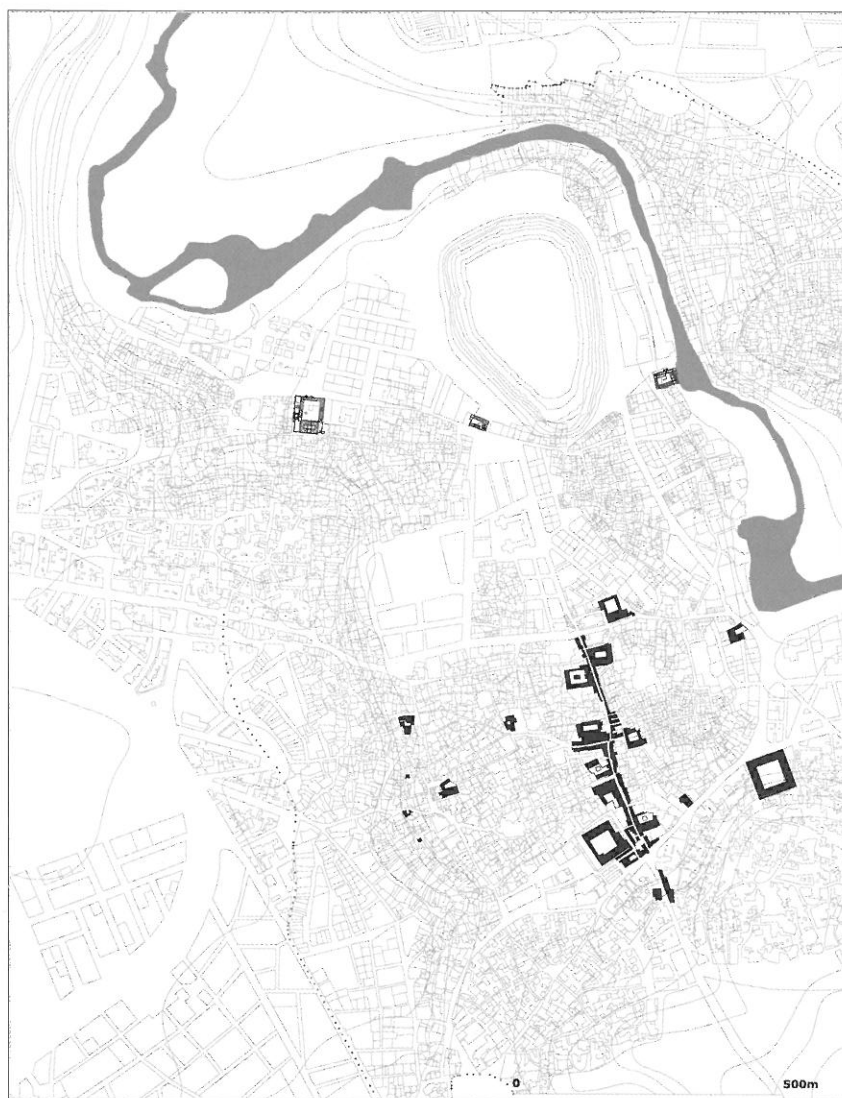


Fig. 7: The Ottoman form of the medina of Hama

THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST MEETS THE INTERNET... PROPYLAEUM – VIRTUAL LIBRARY CLASSICAL STUDIES – ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

GEORG NEUMANN¹

ABSTRACT

The Virtual Library Classical Studies – Propylaeum – is a joint project of the Bavarian State Library Munich, Heidelberg University Library, Tuebingen University Library (since 2008/09), the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) in Berlin, and the Institute of Classical Philology at the Humboldt University Berlin. Propylaeum is funded by the German Research Foundation (GRF). This paper outlines the scope and aims of the project and its usefulness in the field of ancient Near Eastern studies.

INTRODUCTION

As the name Propylaeum already suggests (Greek Propylon designates a monumental gateway to a temple), the Virtual Library is a portal which intends to give access to all kinds of information concerning Classical Studies. The aim of the project is to allow scholars, students and members of the general public a preferably quick, easy and efficient way to access subject-specific information and materials. Egyptology, Ancient History, Classical Archaeology and Philology, and Pre- and Early History are currently being hosted. The integration of Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Byzantine Studies, and Medieval and Neo-Latin Philology into Propylaeum began in 2009 (www.propylaeum.de) (Fig. 1).

WHAT DOES THE VIRTUAL LIBRARY OFFER?

- Specific catalogues of libraries, e.g. subject catalogues and library catalogues of scientifically specialised institutions.
- Lists of new acquisitions of the GRF funded special subject collections of the academic libraries.

¹ Tuebingen University: georg.neumann@uni-tuebingen.de

- The section 'Journals / Articles' lists subject-specific journals via the Electronic Journals Library (EZB), which displays all digitalised journals in the appropriate field of interest, and their availability.
- Under the menu item 'Subject Databases' you can find an extract from the Database Info System (DBIS), which is relevant to Classical Studies.
- In the section 'Digital Collections' you can find links to digitised encyclopaedias, book collections, manuscripts and collections of source materials.
- Scientifically relevant websites are evaluated, then indexed and listed according to library standards and criteria.
- The menu item 'Academic and Research Services' provides recent news, job and stipend announcements, as well as information related to science and teaching in the respective academic fields.
- Furthermore, with Propylaeum-DOK Propylaeum provides an e-publishing platform which is free of charge and accessible worldwide.

PROPYLAEUMSEARCH

The whole Propylaeum platform is searchable via 'PropylaeumSearch', which gives the user the opportunity to utilise all information hosted on the website. For example, it is possible to search in the catalogues of the University Library of Tuebingen, Heidelberg and of the German Archaeological Institute. It is also possible to take a closer look at bibliographic databases such as AIGYPTOS, GNOMON and OLC-SSG Classical Studies (which contains more than 95000 data entries only concerning Classical Studies), and you can search all tapped 'Internet resources', i.e. more than 1900 websites dealing not only with Ancient Near Eastern Studies, but also with Classical Archaeology and Egyptology. The PropylaeumSearch therefore forms the heart of the Virtual Digital Library and is intended as a tool for scholars and members of the general public to quickly and efficiently receive subject-specific and relevant information which is hosted on the Internet.

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STUDIES AND THE VIRTUAL DIGITAL LIBRARY (FIG. 2)

In 2009, the subject area of Ancient Near Eastern Studies, consisting of Ancient Near Eastern Philology / Assyriology and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology started to be integrated into Propylaeum. The new webpages have been online since October of that year and are constantly under development. The Tuebingen University Library Catalogue can be found under the menu item 'Library Catalogues'. This will be replaced in the future by a subject catalogue for Ancient Near Eastern Studies which is

under construction. Furthermore, the library catalogues of the German Archaeological Institute (ZENON), the Oriental Institute of Chicago and the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology (GPIA) at Amman are also searchable via the Propylaeum platform. It is also possible to view the lists of new acquisitions of the special subject collection 'Ancient Near East' at Tuebingen University Library, as well as of the German Archaeological Institute and the branch library for Egyptology, Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Tuebingen.

At present, the extracted list of subject-specific journals from the Electronic Journals Library (EZB) consists of 185 journals (e.g. *Iranica Antiqua*, *Iran*, *Iraq*, *JCS*). With this list, it is possible to get a quick overview of all known existing online journals dealing with the Ancient Near East (Fig. 3). Furthermore, there are already 68 databases to be found in the Database Info System (DBIS). Here, well-known databases such as ABZU and CDLI, as well as GNOMON, Brill's New Pauly and others can be found.

The link 'Internet Resources' leads to one of the most important parts of Propylaeum 'Ancient Near Eastern Studies'. The websites listed there have been indexed using Sisyphos, a special programme developed for this purpose (Fig. 4). Sisyphos can be used as a subject guide to the comprehensive collection of Internet resources which are professionally maintained and regularly updated. It is also possible to search through this collection via a hierarchical browsing vocabulary consisting of more than 600 terms of Ancient Near Eastern Studies. This allows quick and comfortable research.

The menu item 'Academic and Research Services' provides information on common abbreviations, mailing-lists, institutions, events (e.g. exhibitions and conferences), and job and stipend announcements.

Under 'Digital Collections' ETANA, the Chicago University Library: Electronic Open Stacks (EOS), and an Image Repository for Ancient Near Eastern Studies, especially created for Propylaeum can be found (Fig. 5). Currently, the Repository hosts pictures from the excavations at Tell Bderi, pictures of Neo-Hittite rock reliefs (from the collection H. Ehringhaus) and pictures from the collection of Prof. Schippmann, which contains photographs from all regions of the Near East (e.g. Mesopotamia, Levantine coast, Turkey, Iran, Persian Gulf region). All images are accessible for free and without access limitations. All photos are scientifically described and searchable. By December 2010 more than 7000 slides will have been digitised and will be available online soon.

In the area 'Academic and Research Services' the user can find lists of abbreviations, mailing lists, lists of institutions, events concerning Ancient Near Eastern Studies (e.g. exhibitions and conferences), and job and stipend announcements (Fig. 6).

CONCLUSION

Propylaeum provides with the special subject area 'Ancient Near Eastern Studies' a broad platform for research and teaching. It brings together all the information concerning the Ancient Near East in the Internet, including databases, digitised journals, websites and library catalogues. This provides the user of Propylaeum with tools for comfortable, fast and efficient work on the Internet.

Bibliography

- Effinger, M.
2007 Propylaeum - Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Altertumswissenschaften. Das neue altertumswissenschaftliche Fachportal: in *AKMB-news* 13, Heft 2, S. 40-41.
- Kloth, N.
2008 Die Ägyptologie im neuen altertumswissenschaftlichen Fachportal "Propylaeum: Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Altertumswissenschaften": in *Göttinger Miszellen* 217, S. 49-60.
- 2009 Propylaeum: Virtual Library Classical Studies – Egyptology: in *Proceedings of the Fifth Central European Conference of Egyptologists. Egypt 2009: Perspectives of Research, Pultusk 22-24 June 2009*, *Acta Archaeologica Pultuskiensia*, Vol. II, Pultusk, 89-100.
- Maharam, W.-A.
2007 Propylaeum - Virtuelle Fachbibliothek für die Altertumswissenschaften: in *Hausmitteilungen der BSB*, Nr. 104, S. 27–29.

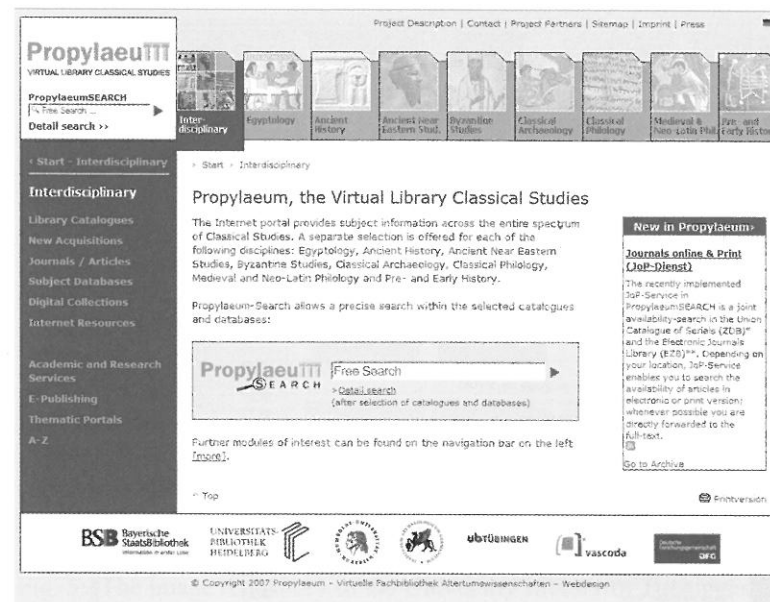


Fig. 1: Propylaeum homepage.

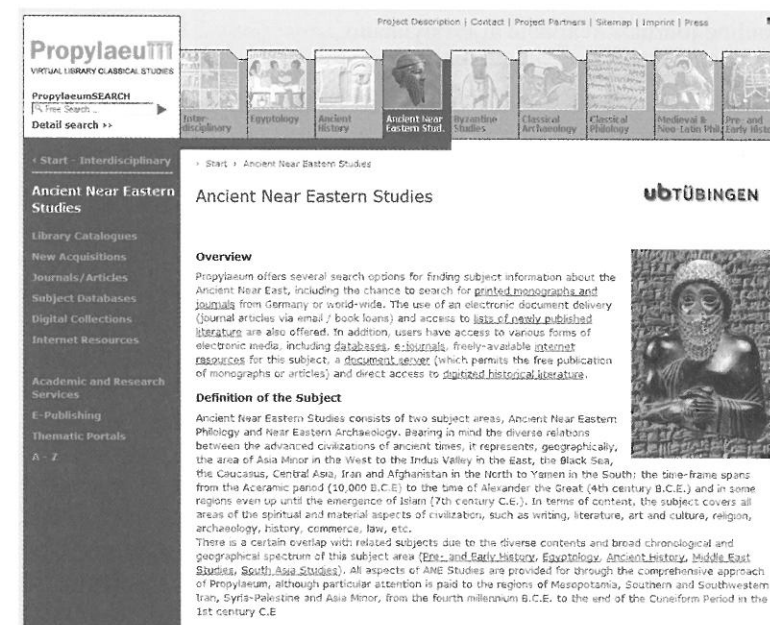


Fig. 2: Entry webpage for Propylaeum – Ancient Near Eastern Studies.

The screenshot shows the 'Propylaeum' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Project Description', 'Contact', 'Project Partners', 'Sitemap', 'Imprint', and 'Press'. Below this is a search bar labeled 'PropylaeumSEARCH' with a 'Free Search' button and a 'Detail search >>' link. A horizontal menu contains various subject categories: 'Interdisciplinary', 'Egyptology', 'Ancient History', 'Ancient Near Eastern Stud.', 'Byzantine Studies', 'Classical Archaeology', 'Classical Philology', 'Medieval & Neo-Latin Phil.', and 'Pre- and Early History'. The main content area is titled 'E-Journals' and lists numerous online journals with their respective logos and availability indicators (e.g., 'Actas y Comunicaciones del Instituto de Historia Antigua y Medieval', 'Ancient Society', 'Anisterron: History, Archaeology, Arthistory', etc.). A left sidebar contains navigation options like 'Start - Interdisciplinary', 'Ancient Near Eastern Studies', 'Library Catalogues', 'New Acquisitions', 'Journals/Articles', 'E-Journals', 'Subject Databases', 'Digital Collections', 'Internet Resources', 'Academic and Research Services', 'E-Publishing', and 'Thematic Portals'.

Fig. 3: List of online journals available at Propylaeum.

The screenshot displays the 'SISYPHOS' database interface, which is a collection of Ancient Near Eastern Internet Resources. The search results are for the query 'region of the roman province Syria'. The results are organized into two columns. The left column lists various regions and periods with their respective counts, such as 'Alghanistan (0/4)', 'Pakistan and Northwest India (0/1)', 'Mesopotamia (1/11)', 'region of the roman province Syria (1/19)', 'palaeolithic (> 18000 B.C.) (1)', 'neolithic (ca. 9000-5500 B.C.) (2)', 'chalcolithic (ca. 5500-3000 B.C.) (0/1)', 'bronze age (ca. 3000-1200 B.C.) (0/8)', 'early bronze age (ca. 3000-2000 B.C.) (3)', 'middle bronze age (ca. 2000-1600 B.C.) (7)', 'late bronze age (ca. 1600-1200 B.C.) (4)', 'iron age (ca. 1200-539 B.C.) (8)', 'later periods (from ca. 539 B.C.) (14)', 'region of the roman province of palestine (0/2)', 'Turkey (1/29)', 'Iran (1/9)', 'Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf (0/18)', 'Central Asia (0/7)', and 'Caucasus (0/4)'. The right column provides detailed information for selected results, including titles like 'Atchak / Tell Atchana', 'Lebanon, Baalbek', 'Lebanon, Tell el-Burak', 'Shovzar / Lertisa - An archaeological survey in the settled area', 'Tell Bazi - Excavations', and 'Tell el-Burak - Excavations'. Each entry includes the creator's name, publisher, and a brief description of the site's content.

Fig. 4: Screenshot of Sisyphos – A database for websites.

The screenshot shows the 'image repository' of the University Library of Tuebingen. The main feature is a large grid of small thumbnail images of ancient artifacts, including rock reliefs, statues, and inscriptions. A larger, detailed view of a specific artifact, the 'Neo-Hittite rock relief of Warpalawas', is shown on the left side of the interface. Below the grid, there is a search and filter section with various options like 'Download', 'Verhalten', 'Objekttyp', 'Weitere Optionen', 'Titel', 'Klassifizierung', 'Fundort', 'Plan / Skizze', 'Fundkontext', 'Datierung', 'Epochen', 'Kulturperiode', 'Gefäßtyp', 'Darstellung / Thema', and 'Detail'. The interface is clean and organized, facilitating the search and viewing of ancient artifacts.

Fig. 5: The image repository of the University Library of Tuebingen – On the left: The Neo-Hittite rock relief of Warpalawas.

The screenshot displays the 'Academic and Research Services' page within the Propylaeum website. The page is structured with a left sidebar containing navigation links: 'Start - Interdisciplinary', 'Ancient Near Eastern Studies', 'Library Catalogues', 'New Acquisitions', 'Journals/Articles', 'Subject Databases', 'Digital Collections', 'Internet Resources', 'Academic and Research Services', 'E-Publishing', 'Thematic Portals', and 'A - Z'. The main content area is titled 'Academic and Research Services' and contains several sections: 'The main aim of this page is to provide special information about job offers, stipends, exhibitions, conferences etc. concerning the scientific field of Ancient Near Eastern Studies.', 'Access to the agade-Mailinglist' (with a link to 'List of the "Reaktion der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie" list of the "German Archaeological Institute"'), 'Abbreviation Lists' (with a link to 'List of the "Reaktion der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie" list of the "German Archaeological Institute"'), and 'To the Institutes for Ancient Near Studies in Germany'.

Fig. 6: The so-called 'Academic and Research Services' in Propylaeum – Ancient Near Eastern Studies.