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Reading rubbish : using object assemblages to reconstruct activities, modes of deposition and abandonment at the Late Bronze Age Dunnu of Tell Sabi Abyad, Syria

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Propositions belonging to the PhD thesis

Reading Rubbish.
Using Object Assemblages to Reconstruct Activities, Modes of Deposition and Abandonment at the Late Bronze Age *Dunnu* of Tell Sabi Abyad, Syria

by Victor Klinkenberg, MA

1. Among the settlements in the Middle Assyrian empire, some can be defined as a *dunnu*, owned by a private individual. The significance of this ownership for the understanding of the function and use of these settlements is, due to a dominant historical perspective on this subject, often overestimated.
2. The establishment of the Tell Sabi Abyad *dunnu* in the Balikh region was part of the military conquest and consolidation of imperial power in this region by the Middle Assyrian empire. However, most of the activities which were carried out in this settlement were concerned with feeding the local society.
3. The majority of objects which were found on the floors of the Tell Sabi Abyad *dunnu* are related to the last use-phase of these spaces and therefore yield an incomplete view on the changing function and use of the settlement.
4. Most archaeological deposits at Tell Sabi Abyad which yielded cuneiform tablets were deposited through secondary discard and are consequently a careful selection of items from larger ancient archives.
5. Considering the ease of use and practical benefits of three-dimensional visualizations for the understanding of complex spatial patterns in archaeology it is imperative that these techniques are taught to all archaeology students.
6. The importance of diverse fieldwork experience for the understanding of archaeological processes and phenomena cannot be overestimated. Students should therefore be encouraged to take part in projects outside of their main academic focus.
7. To gain a comprehensive understanding of historical cultures an intensive collaboration between archaeologists and historians is of the utmost importance.
8. Relational data bases are inadequate tools for the representation of complex archaeological datasets and should be substituted with object-oriented 'ontological' databases.
9. The independence of the Faculty of Archaeology is a crucial factor for its success.
10. The new Dutch labour law concerning temporary work contracts has a detrimental effect on academic scholarship and should be revoked at once.
11. Considering the amount of drinks which accompany every archaeological conference and meeting, there is no doubt that archaeology is a social science.
12. The Dutch custom of excluding chicken livers as an ingredient for a 'Bolognese' sauce deprives the final dish of the essential warm and soft flavour it was intended to have in the original recipe from Bologna.