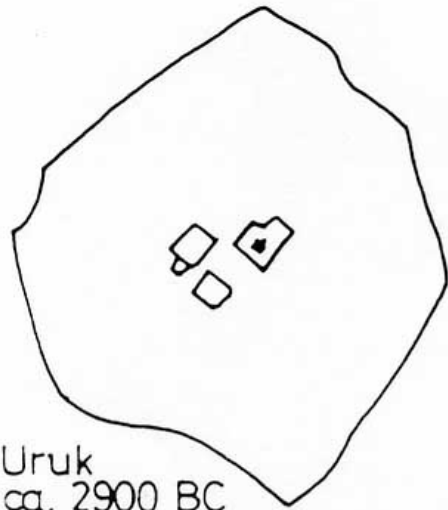


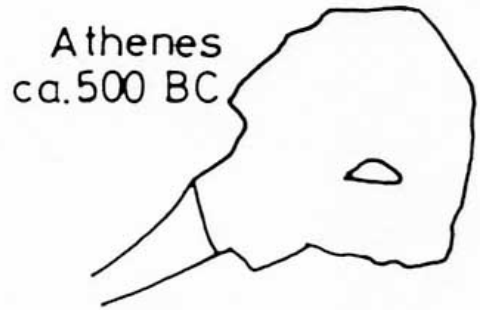
*Years BC*

5000–4000	Halaf/Ubaid	
4000–3200	Uruk	} Protoliterate period
3200–3000	Jemdet Nasr	
3000–2750	Early Dynastic I	} Pre-Sargonic period
2750–2600	Early Dynastic II	
2600–2350	Early Dynastic III	
2350–2150	Dynasty of Akkad (Gutian interregnum)	} <b>ED IIIA 2600-2500 BCE</b> <b>ED IIIB 2500-2350 BCE</b>
2150–2000	3rd Dynasty of Ur (Amorite interregnum)	
2000–1800	Isin–Larsa Dynasties	} Old Babylonian period
1800–1600	1st Dynasty of Babylon (Kassite interregnum)	

Outline of archaeological and historical periods.



Uruk  
ca. 2900 BC



Athenes  
ca. 500 BC



JERUSALEM  
ca. 50 AD



Rome  
ca. 100 AD

\_\_\_\_\_ km

Comparison of the sizes of some major cities of antiquity.



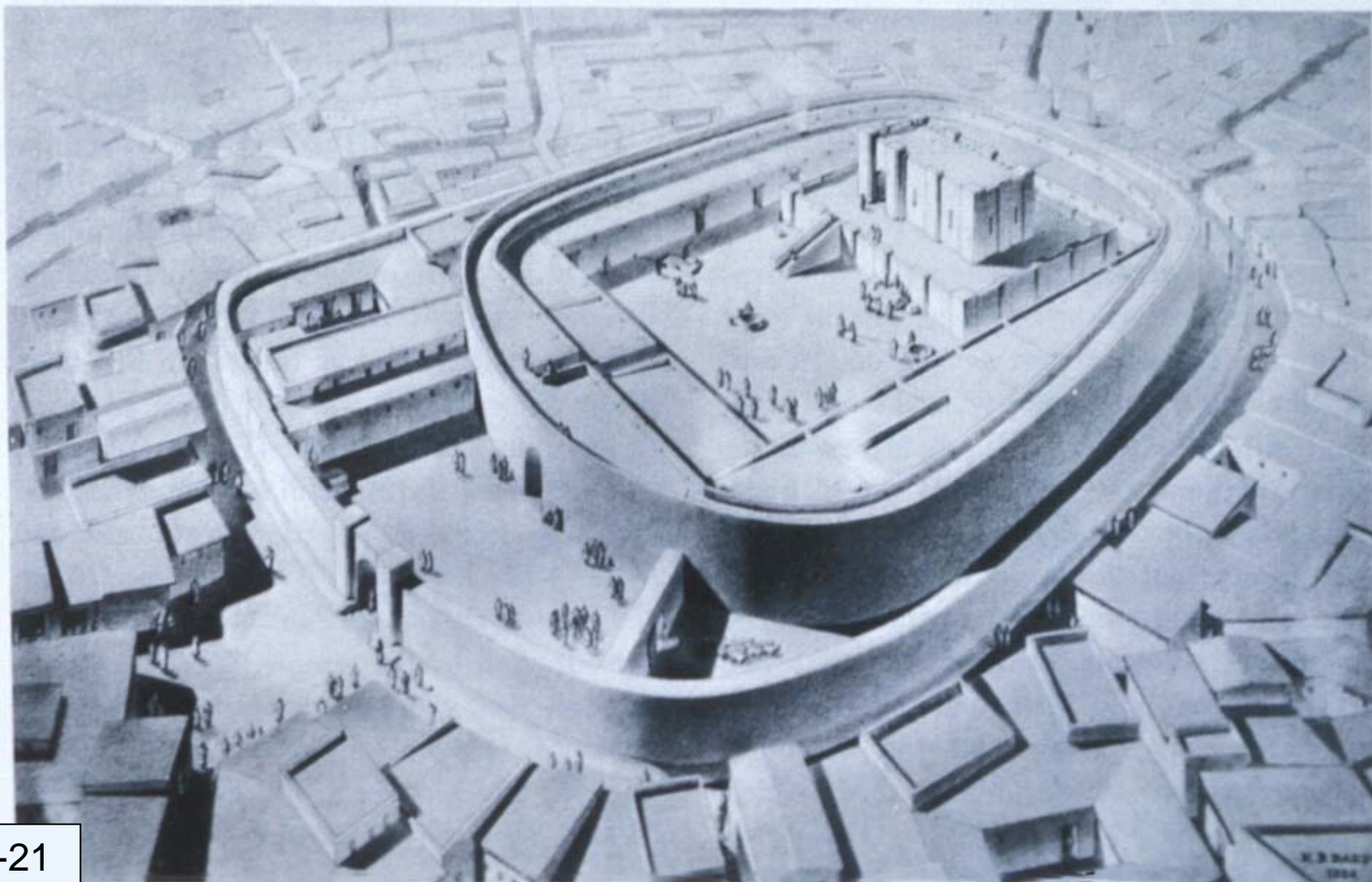
**Gilgamesh** The epic hero Gilgamesh here holds two bulls with human faces. Gilgamesh is not being an animal lover. The scene probably depicts his epic battle with these monstrous and powerful enemies. (Source: *The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania*)

# The Epic of Gilgamesh





36. Khafaje, temple oval.  
Reconstruction by Hamilton D. Darby

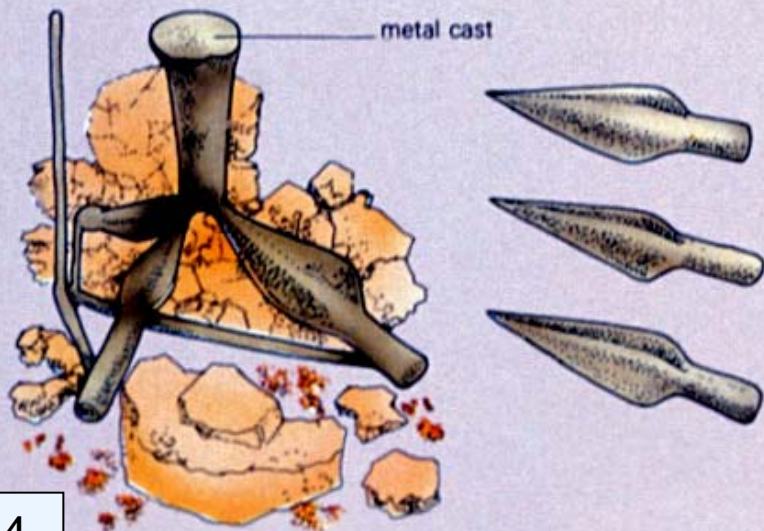
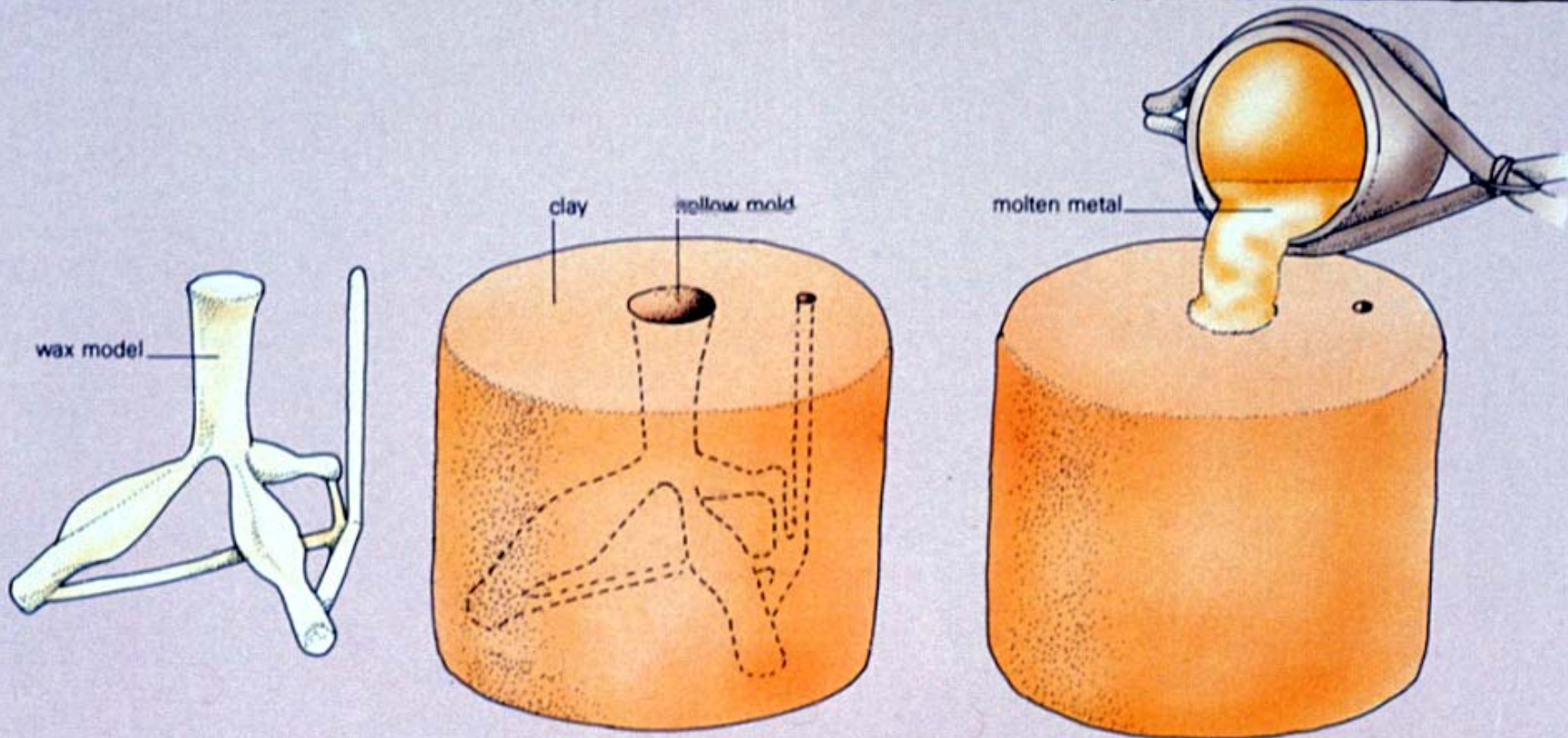




*Figure 8:1* Door plaque from near gateway to Temple Oval at Khafajah, late Early Dynastic (c. 2500 BC). The processions of sheep and goats belong in a tradition of temple iconography reaching back to the Uruk period. (Frankfort 1939, Plate III A. Photo: courtesy the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago)



49. Offering stand, from Khafaje. Copper.  
*University of Chicago, Oriental Institute*



Above left The *cire perdue*, or lost-wax method of casting complicated shapes in bronze, gold or silver was invented in the 4th millennium BC. The earliest examples are from the Nahal Mishmar hoard in Palestine. First, a model was made out of wax. This was covered with fine clay to form a mold, which was then heated so that the wax melted and ran away. Molten metal was poured into the clay mold which would be broken open to release the complete object.

As early as the Aceramic Neolithic period objects were manufactured out of copper,

perhaps originally native natural metallic copper, and soon afterward copper was smelted from ore. In the 4th millennium gold, silver and lead also came into use. The properties of copper were much improved by alloying with other metals: first arsenic, then tin, lead and zinc (c. 700 BC). In the 2nd millennium BC iron and steel were manufactured but they did not become important until the 1st millennium BC.

The earliest objects were shaped by hammering but by the end of the 6th millennium copper artifacts were cast from molten metal.

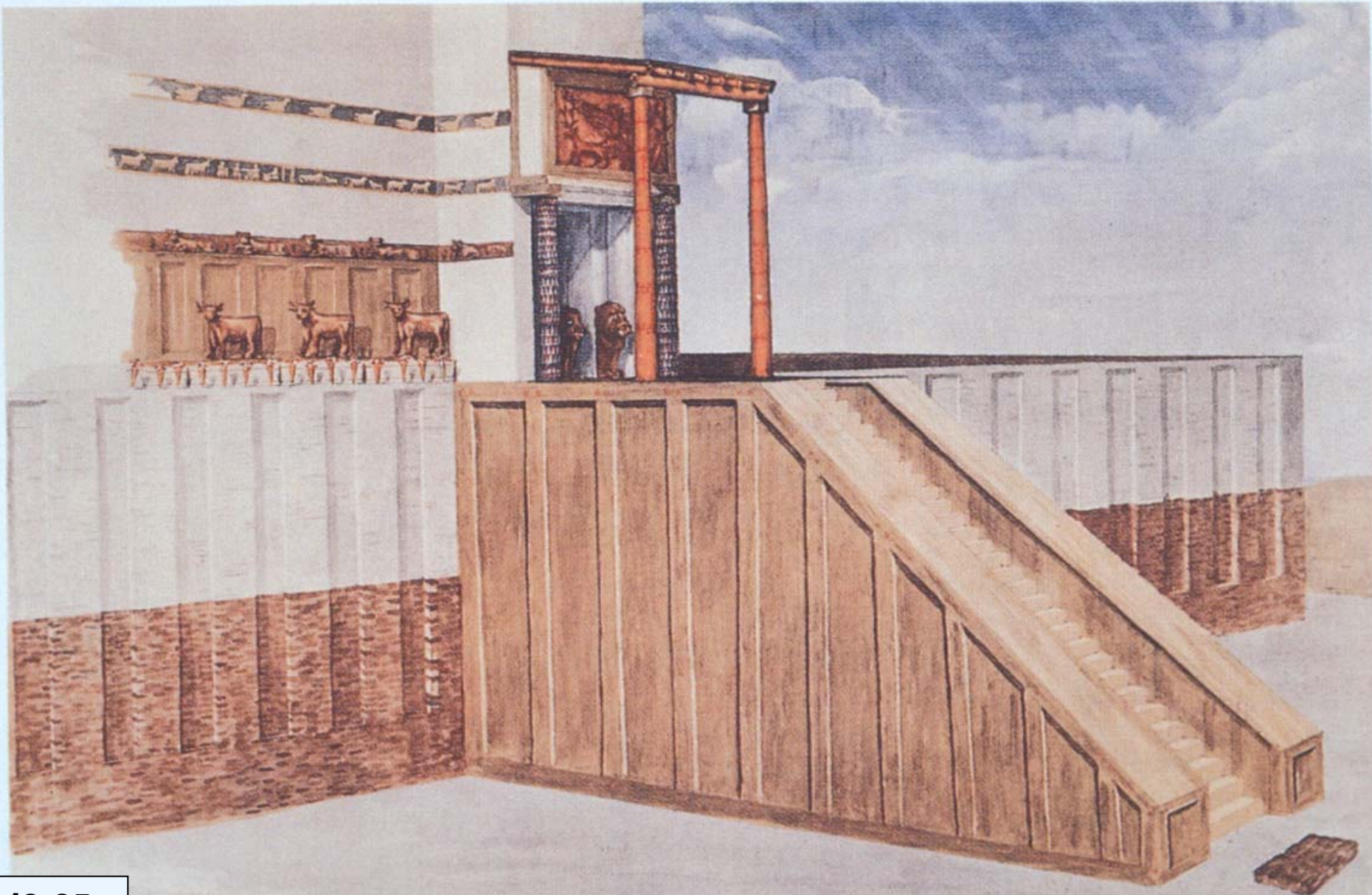
# Base of Hollow-Cast Statue



# Stone Statue of Priest (from Al-Ubaid)



# Temple of Ninhursag



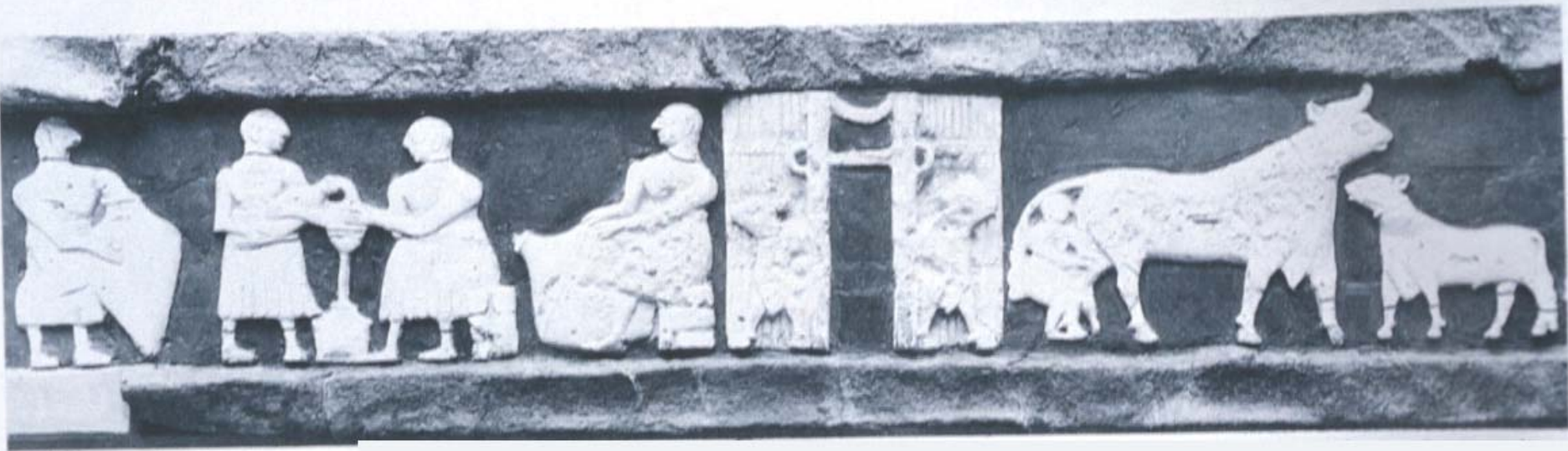
# Pillar from the Temple at Al-Ubaid



91 Tell al-'Ubaid temple column, 2500 BC, made by coating a tree-trunk with coloured stones and shell. Such techniques, inherited from prehistory and using local rather than imported materials, disappeared with the collapse of Sumer.

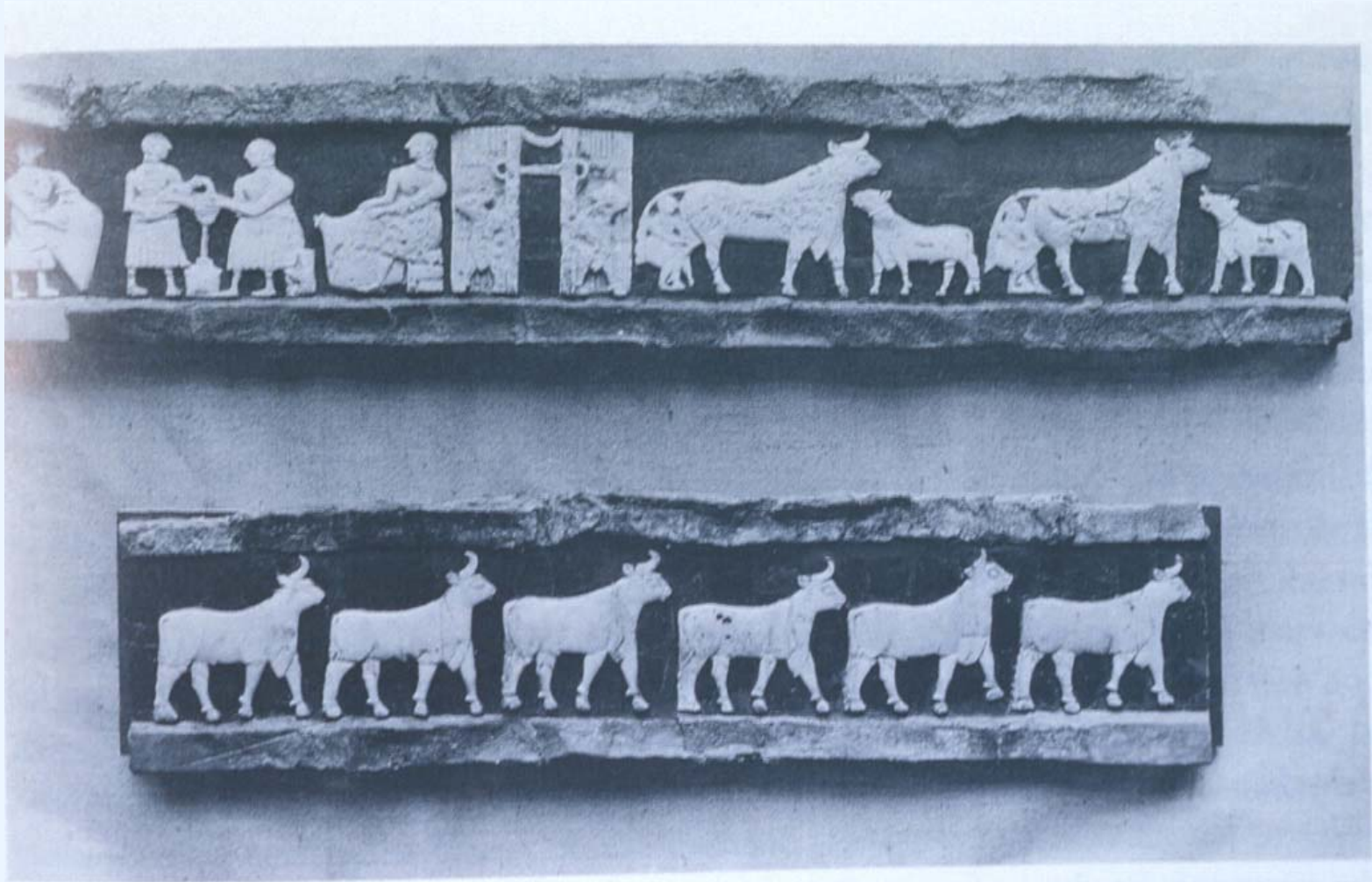


# Stone Frieze (Temple of Ninhursag): Milking Cows, Making Butter

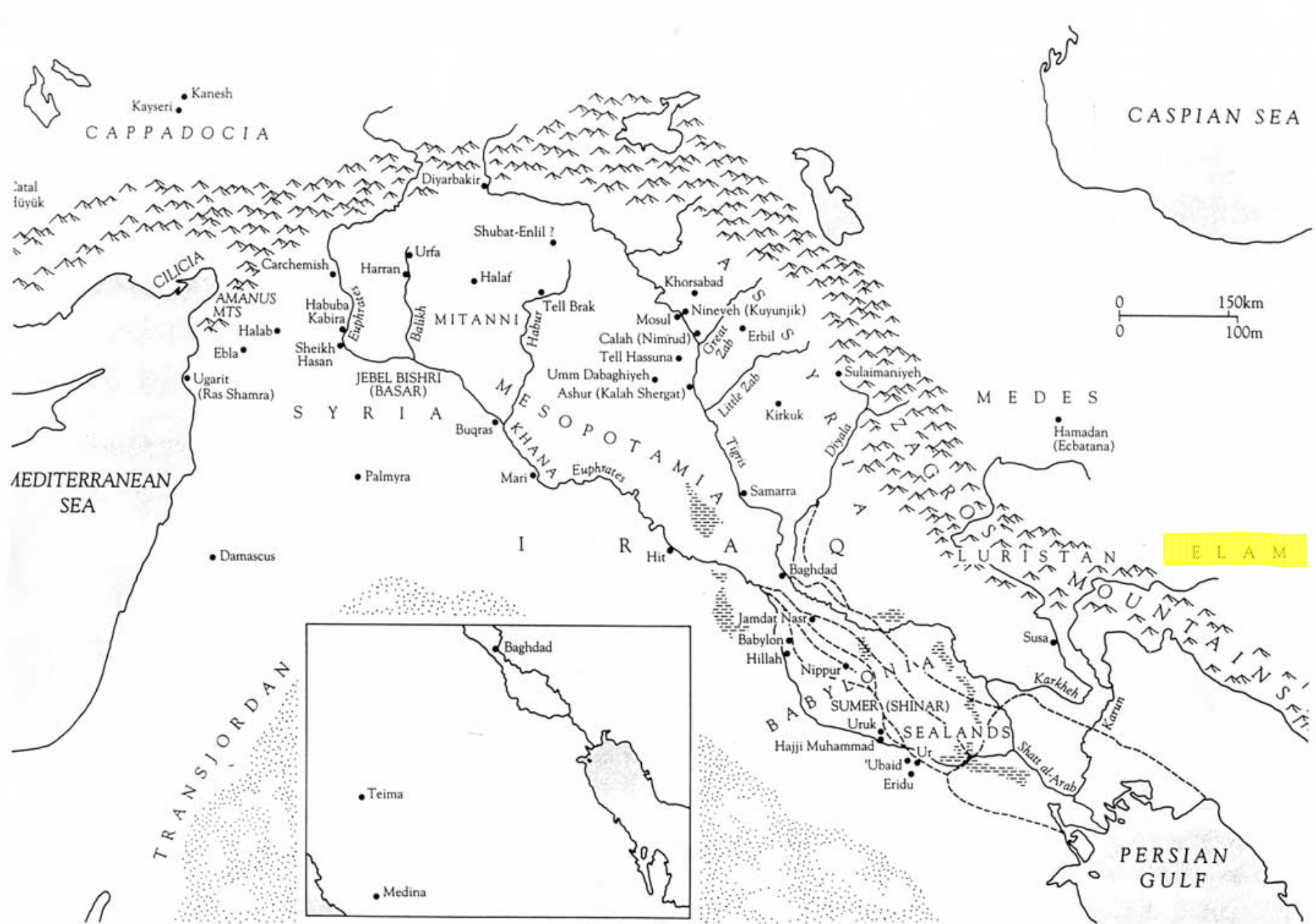


10 Stone frieze, framed in copper, from the Ninhursag temple facade at Tell al-'Ubaid. On the right a cow is being milked, while its muzzled calf looks on. In the centre is a farm shed. The men on the left, holding large jars and transferring liquid from one container to another, are probably making butter for storage. About 2500 BC.

# Stone Frieze (Temple of Ninhursag): Cow Husbandry



33 Cow husbandry was an important feature of the ancient Mesopotamian economy. The top section of this frieze from Tell al-Ubaid, ED III period (c. 2600 BC), shows a dairy scene. The figures are of limestone, mounted on a slab of slate, 22 cm (nearly 9 in) high.





M2-28

Lioness Statuette (Elam)



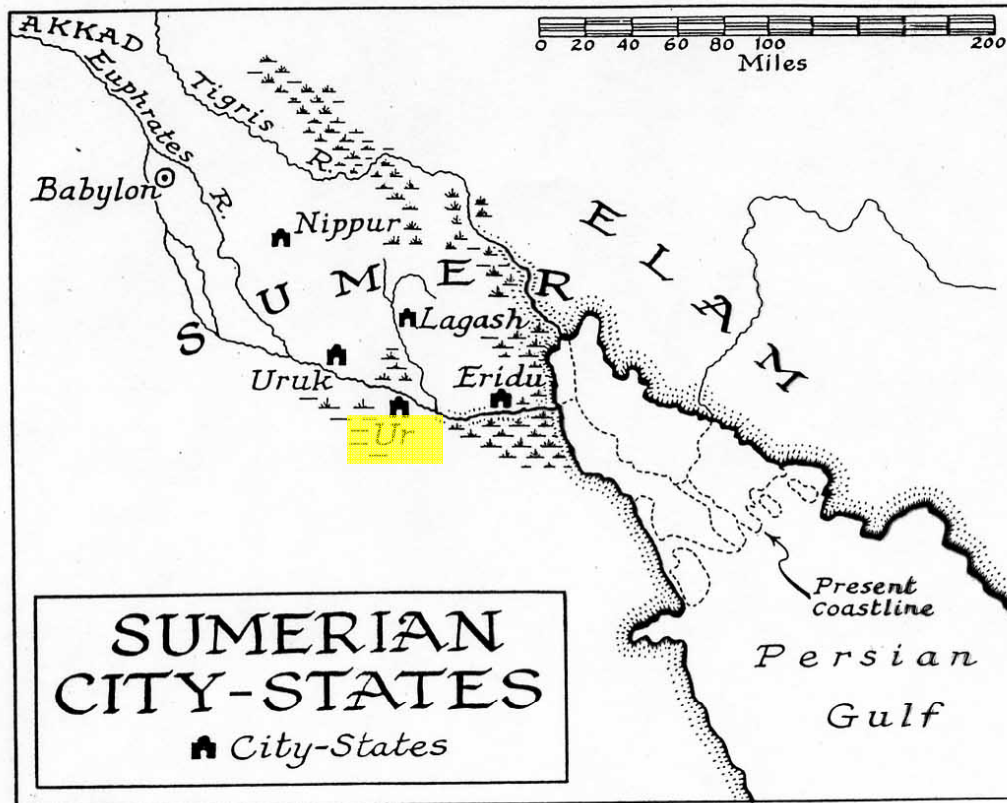
Figure 45. Protoelamite seals, from Susa. From L. Delaporte, *Musée du Louvre, Cat. des cylindres orientaux I* (Paris, 1920), (a) pl. 24.8, (b) pl. 26.7.



*Figure 6.* Wild sheep (*Ovis ammon anatolica*). Photographed in 1983 near Konya, Turkey. Photo by S. M. Tarhan. Courtesy, Dr. G. Heidemann, Institut für Haustierkunde, Universität Kiel.

# Leonard Woolley excavating





### Mesopotamian Chronology

*(All Dates B.C. and Approximate)*

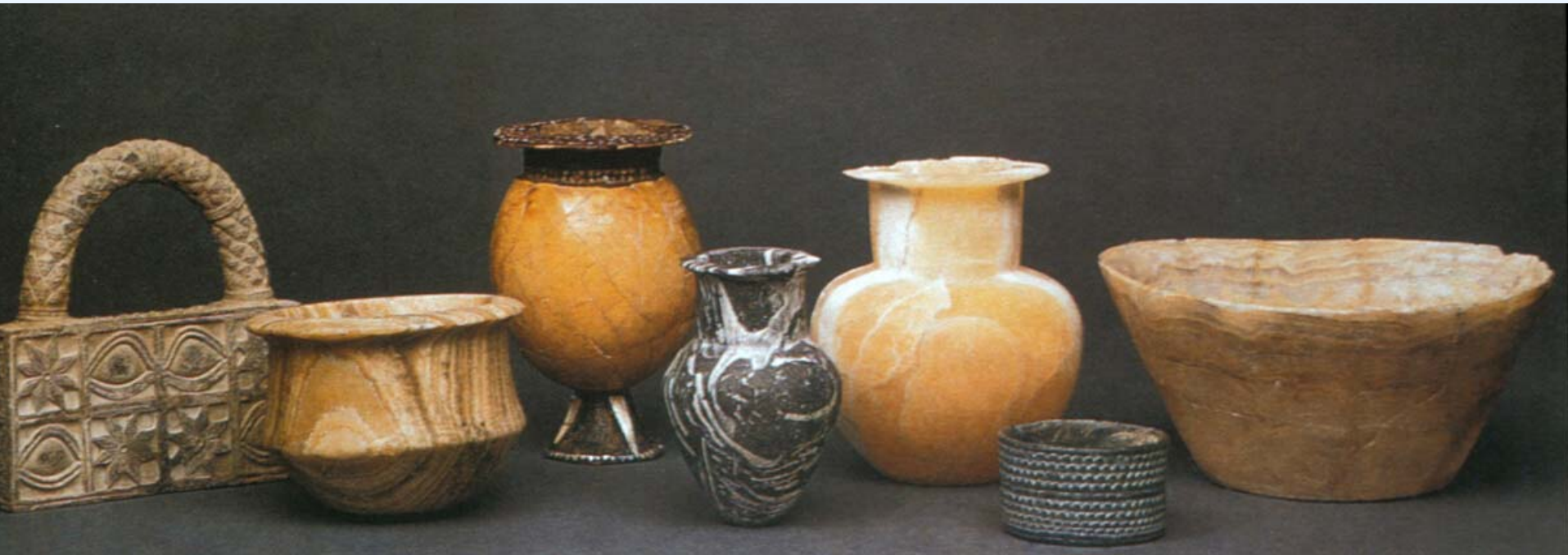
8000–4000	Neolithic era
4000–2350	Civilization emerges; intercity warfare
2400–2250	Ebla flourishes
2370–2200	Akkadian Empire: Dynasty of Sargon
2100–2000	Empire of Ur: the Sumerians' "Last Hurrah"
2000–1530	Amorite domination: Old Babylonian Empire
1700–1500	Emergence of Indo-European peoples
1700	Code of Hammurabi
1530–1100	Kassites dominate Mesopotamia

# Jewelry from the Royal Cemetery



M2-33

# Vessels from the Royal Graves



# Helmet of Mes-Kalam-Dug

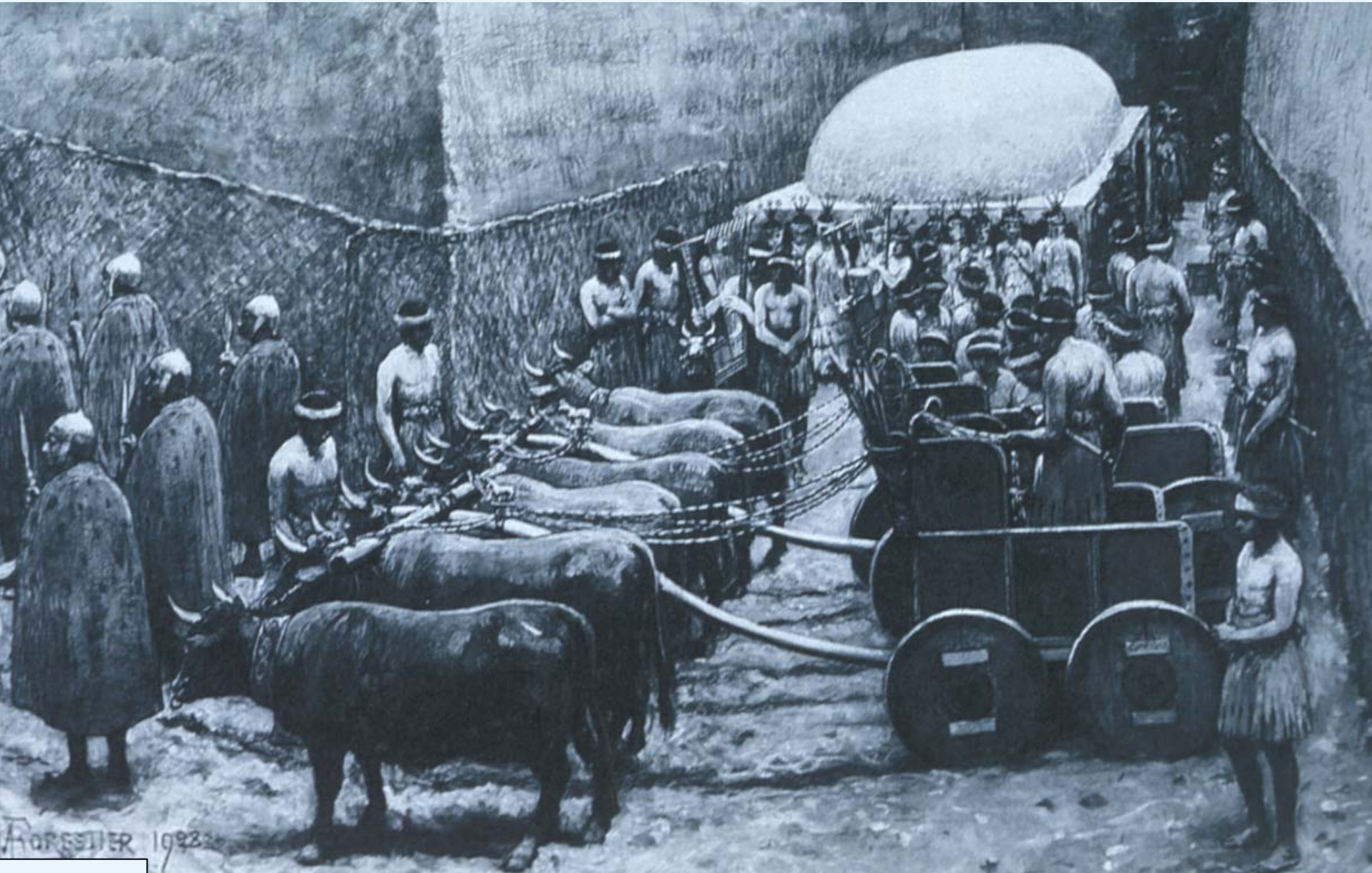


M2-35

# Cylinder Seal of Pu-abi



# Procession at the Queen's Grave



# Suicides at the Queen's Grave



# Cosmetics in Shells



# Gold Bowls from the Royal Graves



# Queen's Headdress (in situ)



M2-41

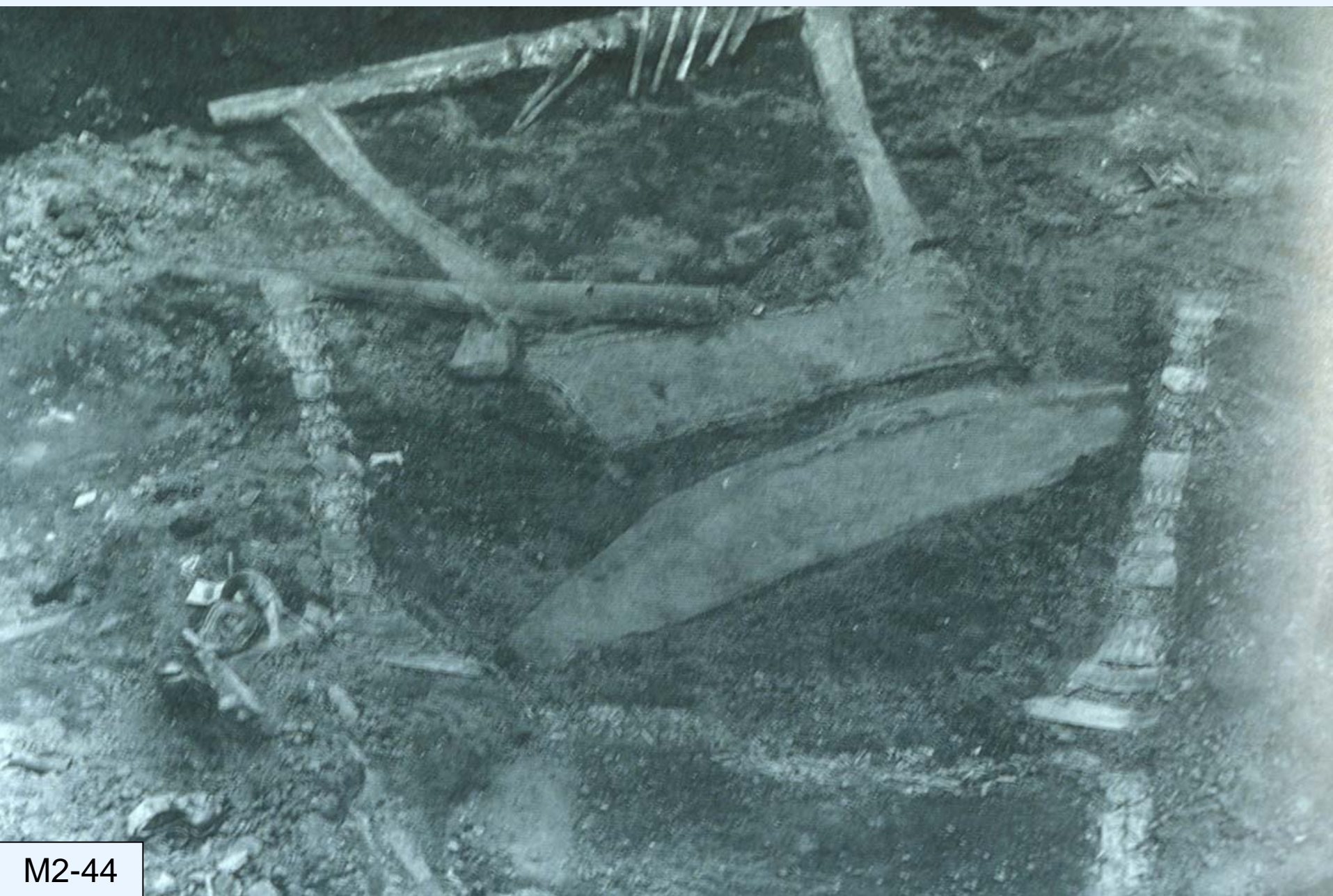
# Queen's Headdress (reconstructed)



Harp/Lyre  
with  
bull's head



# Harp/Lyre (in situ)



M2-44

Left:  
Bull-headed lyre  
Gold, lapis lazuli,  
shell on wooden  
reconstruction  
Ur, Iraq  
ca. 2650-2550 B.C.  
CBS 17694  
H. 165 cm.  
(reconstructed)  
See page 46

Right:  
Qur'an  
Ink, gold and  
pigment on paper  
Hamadan, Iran  
Dated A.H. 559 (25  
April A.D. 1164)  
NE-P 27  
41.5 × 28.5 cm.  
See page 51



# Gold Dagger





57 Inlaid statuette of a ram and a plant, probably used as a support. From Ur. About 2600 BC.

M2-47

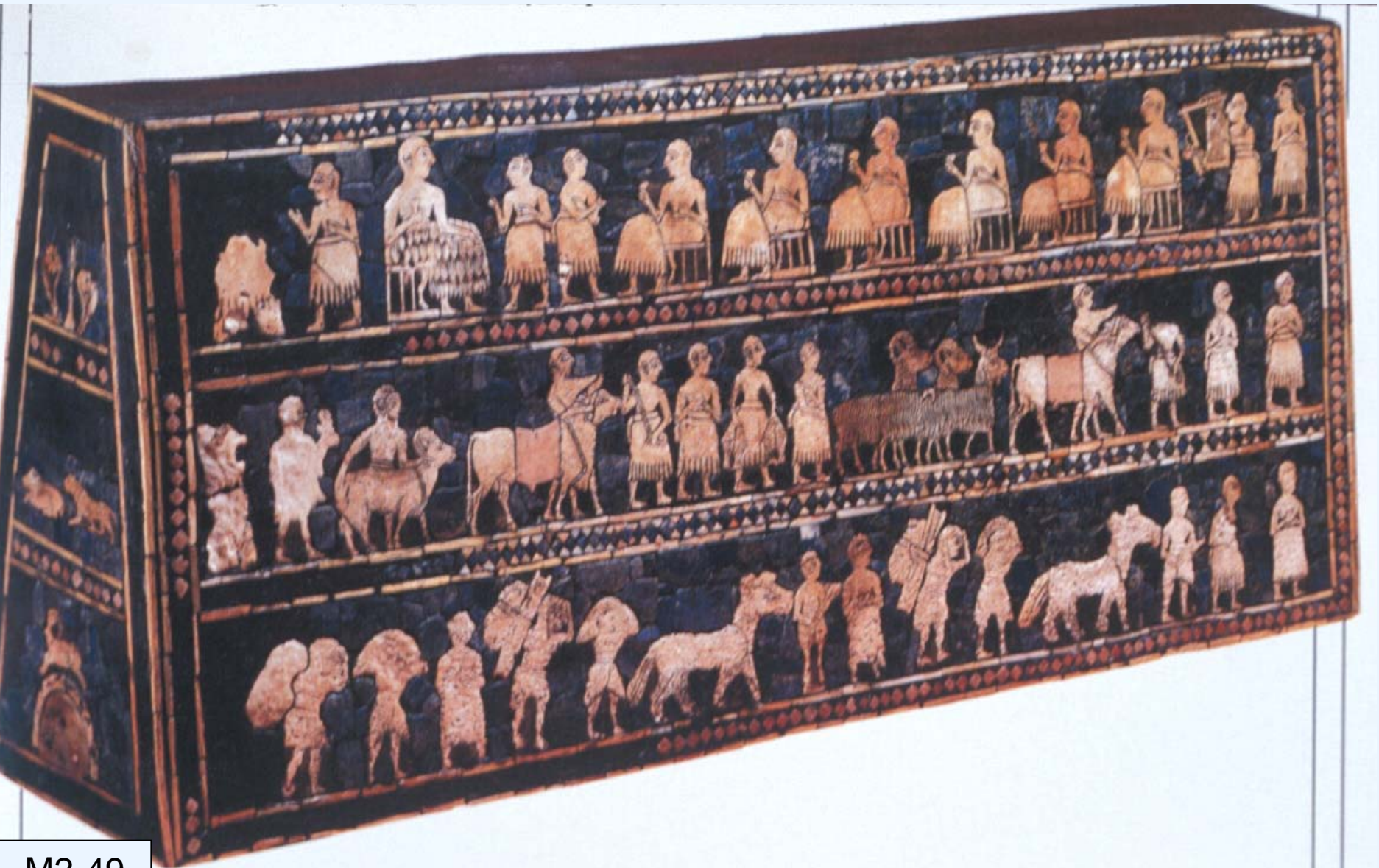
## Statuette: The Ram in the Thicket



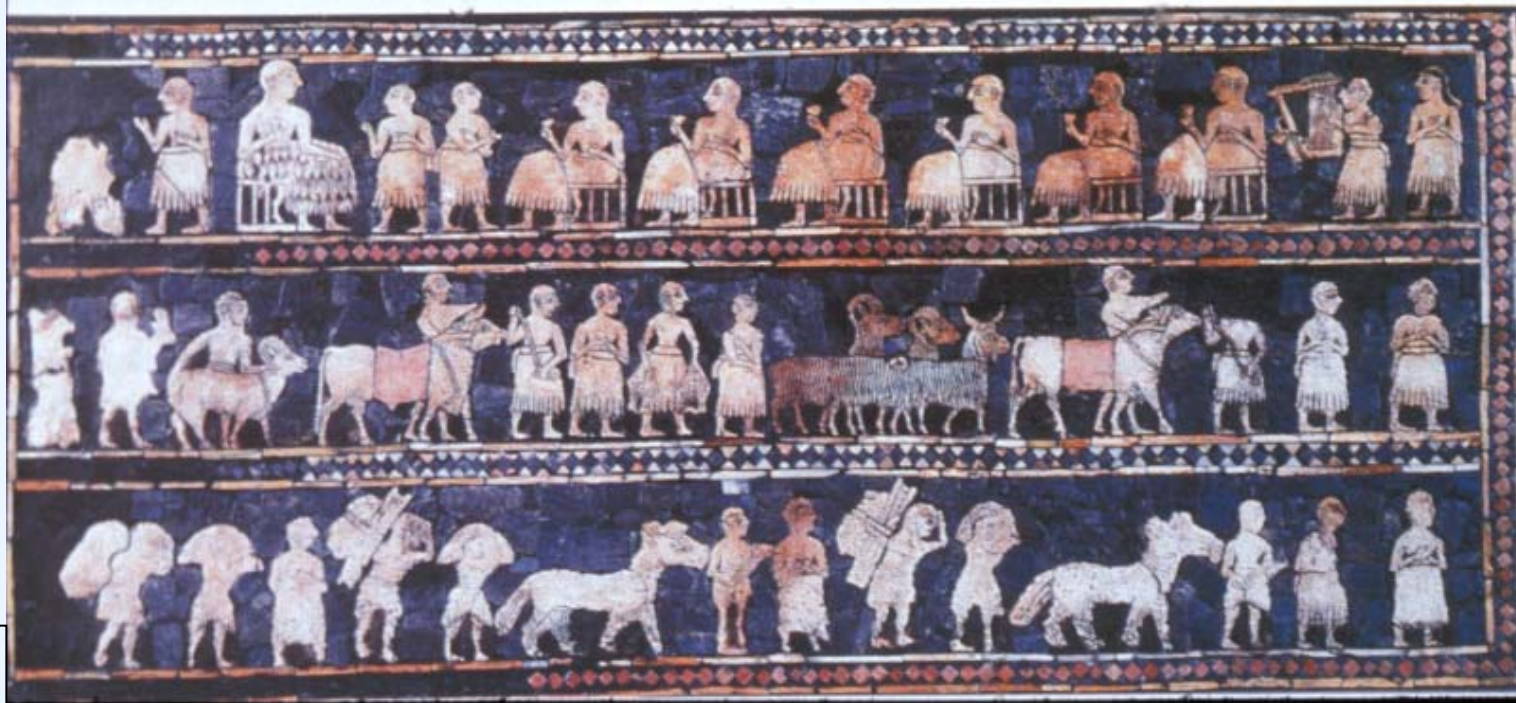
Phoenician  
Furniture  
Inlay (Ivory)  
depicting a  
goat eating a  
tree



# The Standard of Ur



M2-49



# The Standard of Ur: Top Register (Preparations for War)



# The Standard of Ur: Top Register (Preparations for War)



The  
Standard of  
Ur: King and  
Attendant  
(at banquet)



# The Standard of Ur: Banquet Preparations



# The Standard of Ur: Harpist at Banquet



# Harp/Lyre found in Royal Graves



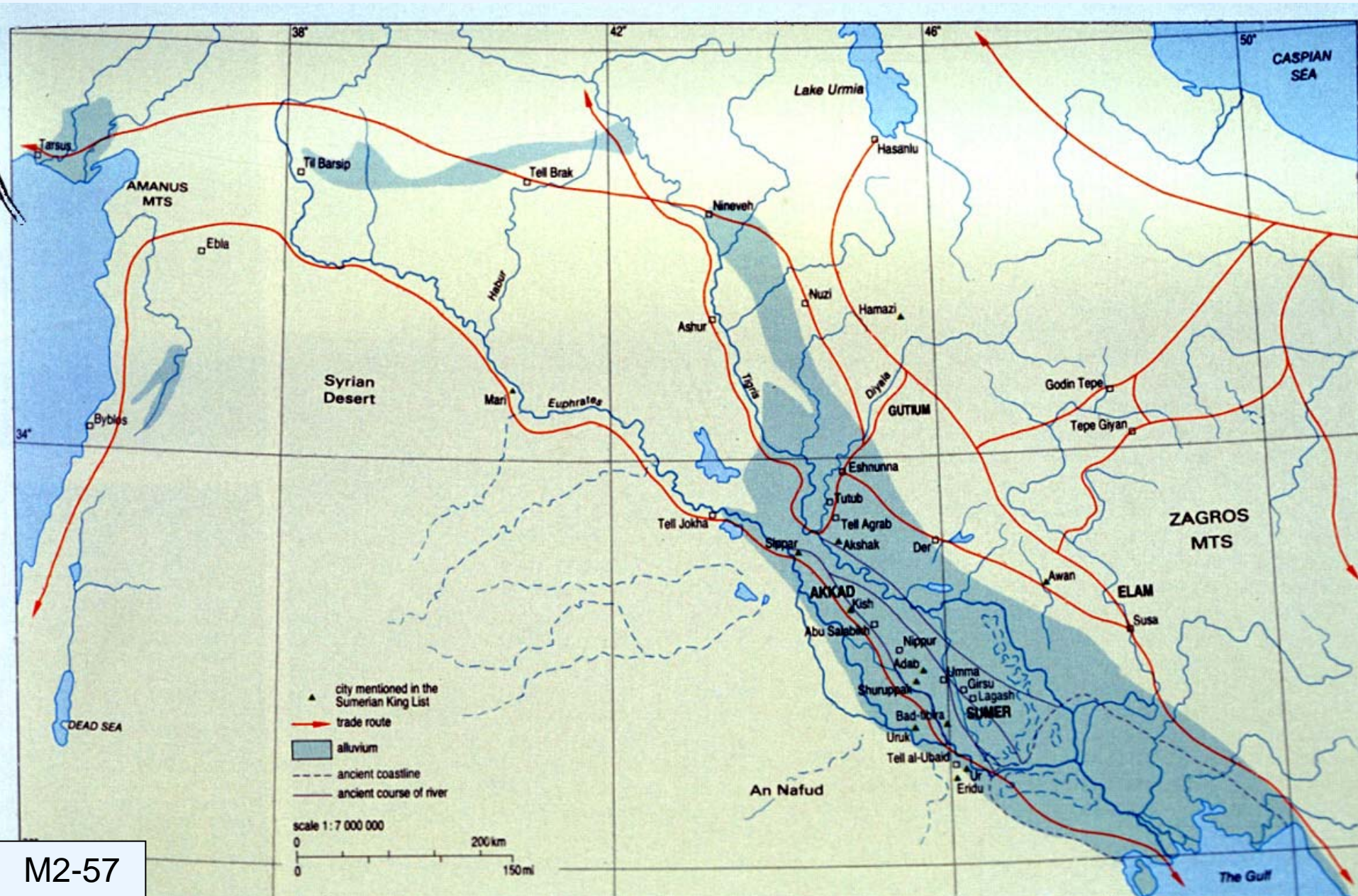
*Years BC*

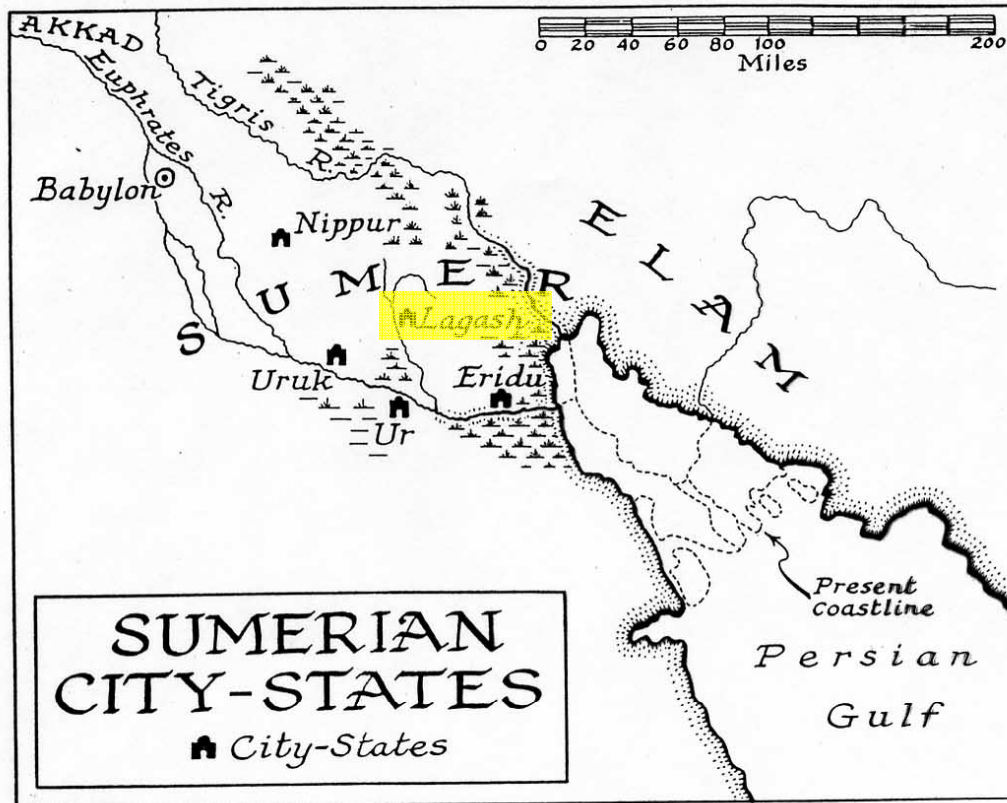
5000–4000	Halaf/Ubaid	
4000–3200	Uruk	} Protoliterate period
3200–3000	Jemdet Nasr	
3000–2750	Early Dynastic I	} Pre-Sargonic period
2750–2600	Early Dynastic II	
2600–2350	Early Dynastic III	
2350–2150	Dynasty of Akkad (Gutian interregnum)	} Old Babylonian period
2150–2000	3rd Dynasty of Ur (Amorite interregnum)	
2000–1800	Isin–Larsa Dynasties	} Old Babylonian period
1800–1600	1st Dynasty of Babylon (Kassite interregnum)	

**ED IIIA ca.2650-2500 BCE**  
**ED IIIB 2500-ca.2350 BCE**

Outline of archaeological and historical periods.

# Trade Routes during the ED III Period





### Mesopotamian Chronology

*(All Dates B.C. and Approximate)*

8000–4000	Neolithic era
4000–2350	Civilization emerges; intercity warfare
2400–2250	Ebla flourishes
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1700–1500	Emergence of Indo-European peoples
1700	Code of Hammurabi
1530–1100	Kassites dominate Mesopotamia

# Stone Plaque depicting Eannatum of Lagash



**45** ABOVE Fragmentary inscribed stone plaque depicting Enannatum, ruler of the Sumerian city of Lagash around 2450 BC. The torso is shown frontally, the head is in profile and, despite a certain degree of realism, the eye is still huge (cf. Fig. 43) and is balanced by a large nose on one side and a highly stylised ear on the other. Note the sheepskin skirt. From Tello (ancient Girsu) in southern Iraq. Ht 19 cm.

---

Lagaš Dynasty 2550 Ur-Nanše  
Akurgal  
Eanatum  
Enanatum I  
2450 Enmetena  
Enanatum II  
Enentarzi  
Lugalanda  
2380 UruKAgina

---

Conquest by Lugal-zagesi

Akkad Dynasty 2350 Conquest by Sargon  
2371 Sargon  
2315 Rimuš  
2306 Maništušu  
2291 Naram-Sin  
2254 Šar-kali-šarri

---

2230 Gutian interregnum

---

Gudea's dynasty at Lagaš

---

Conquest by Ur

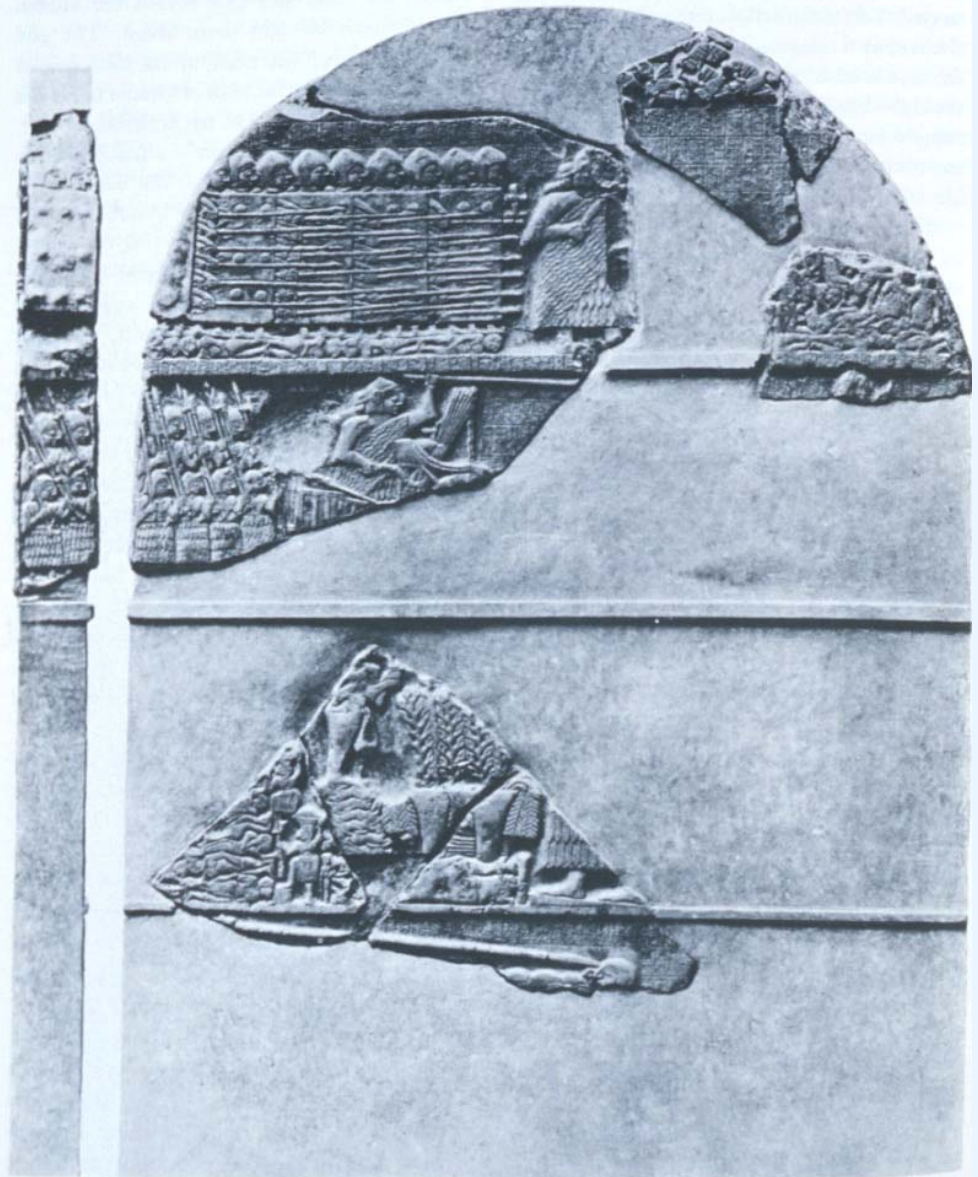
Ur III Dynasty 2113 Ur-Nammu  
2095 Šulgi

# Tablet from the time of Lugalzagezi, King of Uruk (2340-2316 BCE)

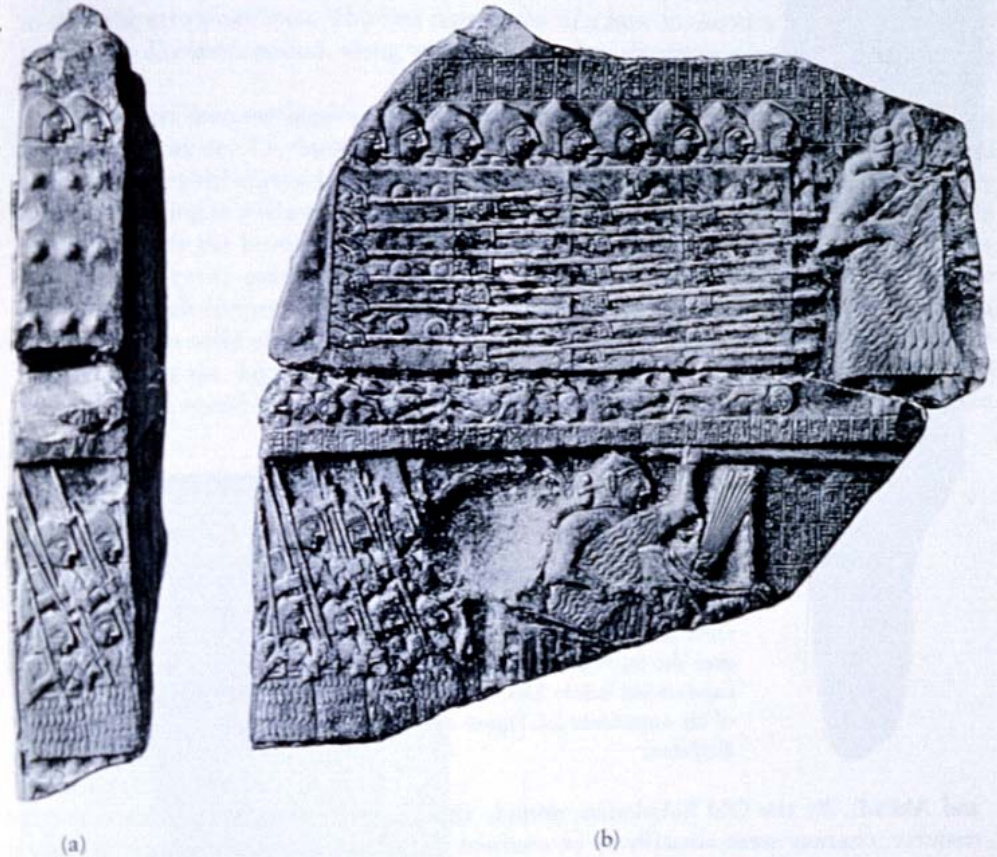


# The Stele of the Vultures

74. Side and obverse of Eannatum's stele of victory,  
from Telloh. *Paris, Louvre*

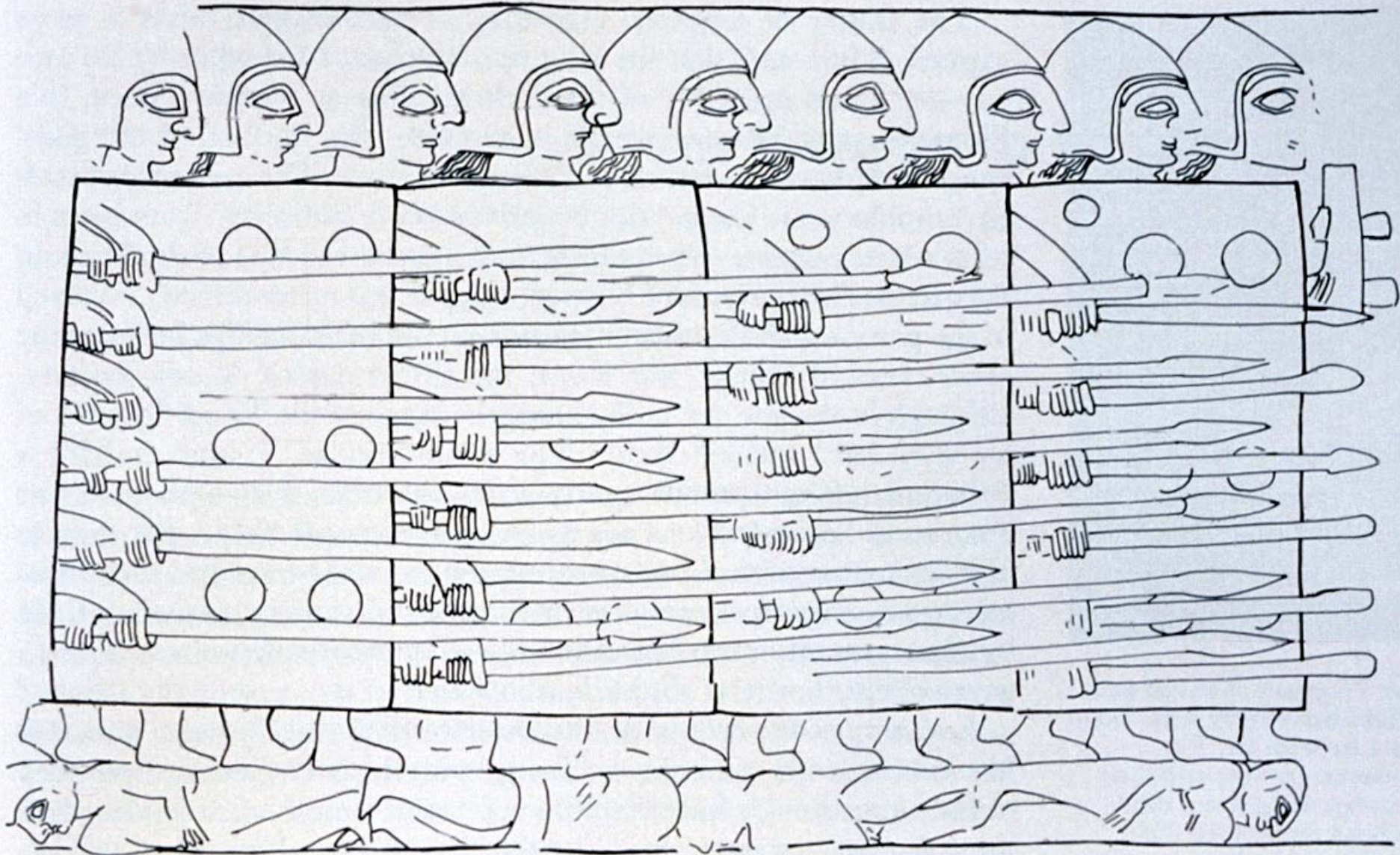


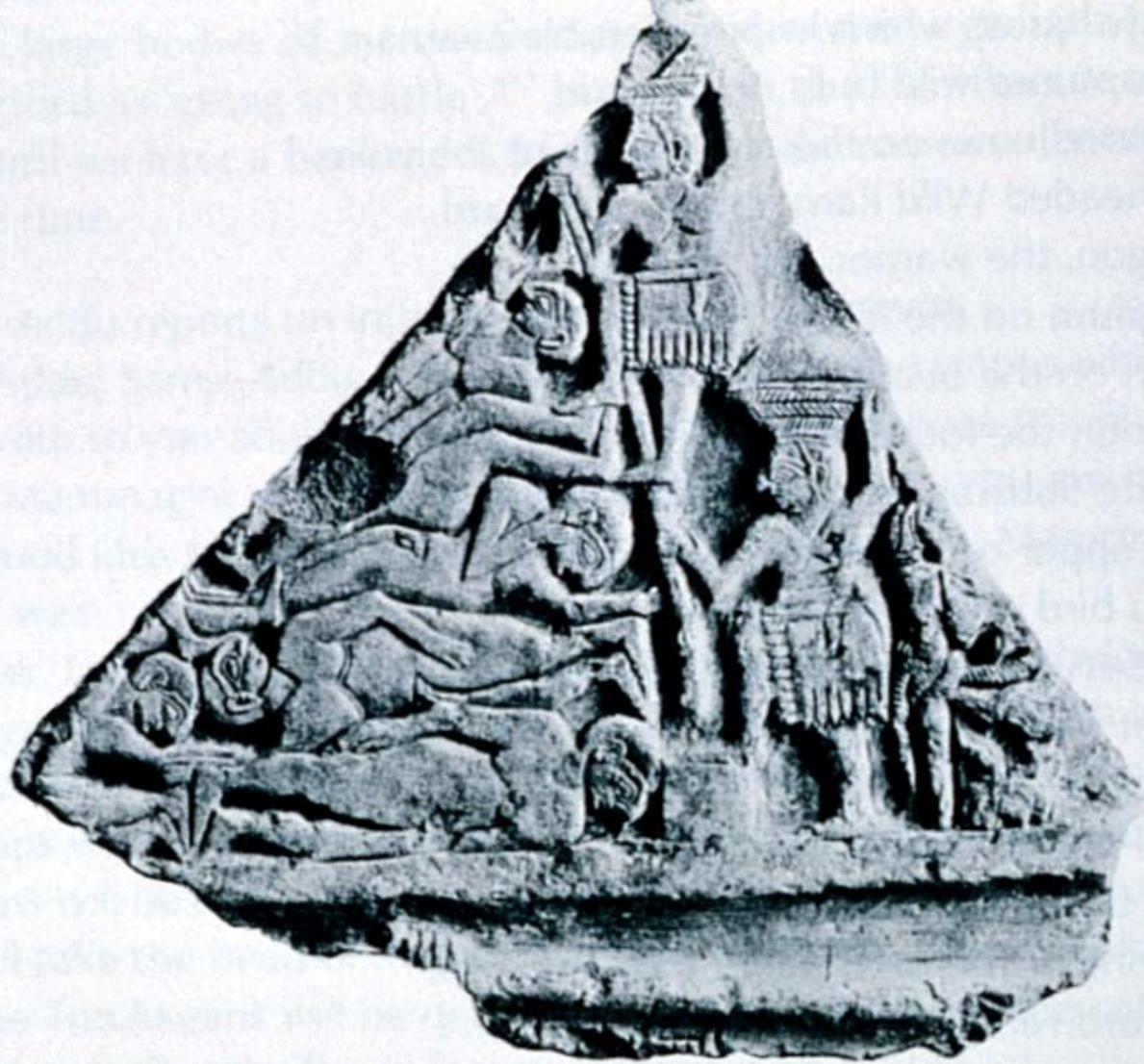
# The Stele of the Vultures



*Figure 13:2* Stele of the Vultures (so named from another fragment showing them preying on the dead; see also Figure 13:5), from Girsu, c. 2450 BC. Troops of Lagaš arrayed against the enemy from Umma. With a long inscription of Eanatum. (de Sarzec 1884–1912, Planche 3 bis and 4 ter)

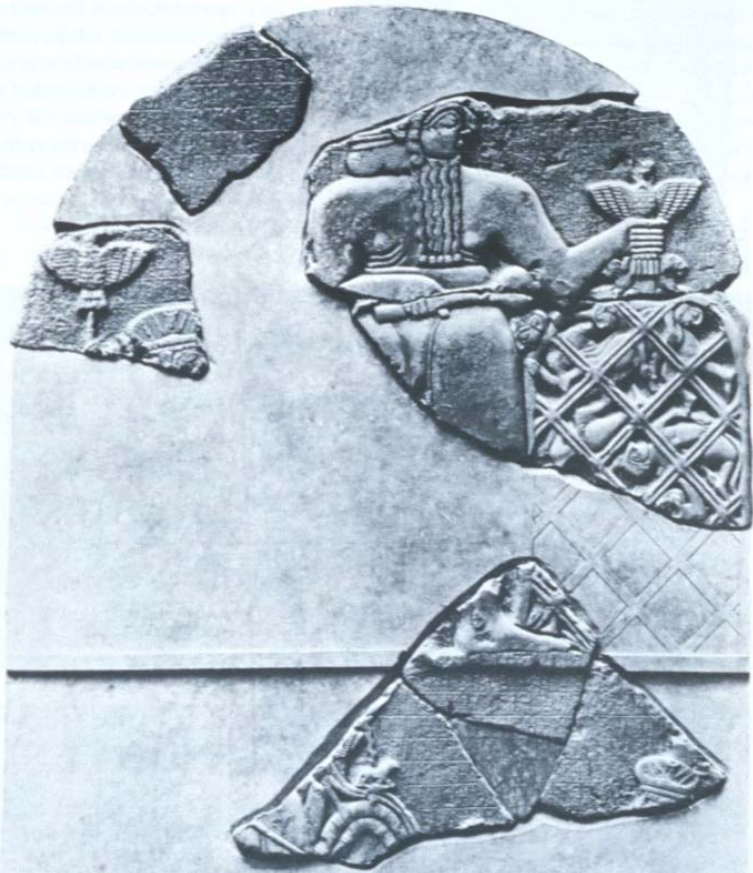
# The Stele of the Vultures: Infantry





*Figure 13:5* Stele of the Vultures: forming a burial mound of enemy corpses after the battle. (de Sarzec 1884–1912, Planche 3c)

reverse of Eannatum's stele of victory,  
Telloh. Paris, Louvre



The Stele of the Vultures:  
The God Ningirsu  
holding enemies in a net

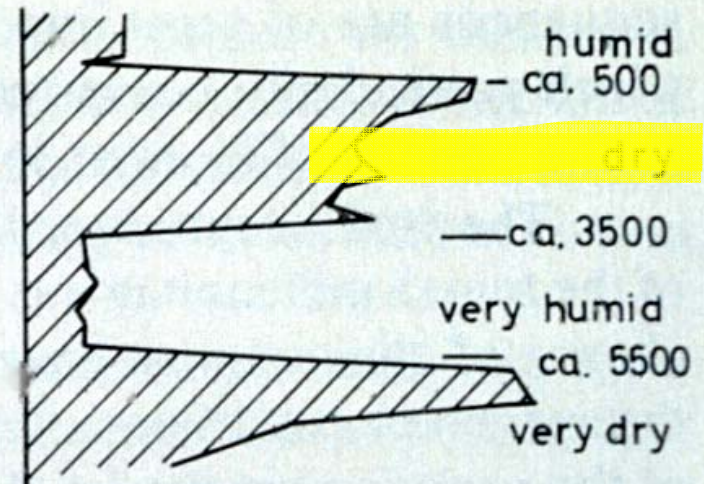
# Tablet from the time of Lugalzagezi, king of Uruk (2340-2316 BCE)



# Graph: Historical Levels of Humidity as a Measure of Climate

## *From Isolated Settlement to Town*

*Figure 17. Results from deep drilling in the floor of the Persian Gulf: proportions of organic matter (hatched) in the sediments and inferences regarding the ancient climate. After W. Nützel, "The Climatic Changes of Mesopotamia and Bordering Areas, 14,000 to 2,000 B.C." *Sumer* 32 (1976): 20.*



# Old Babylonian Cylinder Seal (from Tell Asmar)

THE LEGACY OF BABYLO



# Statue of a Priest (from Tell Asmar)



# Statue of a Priest (from Khafaje)



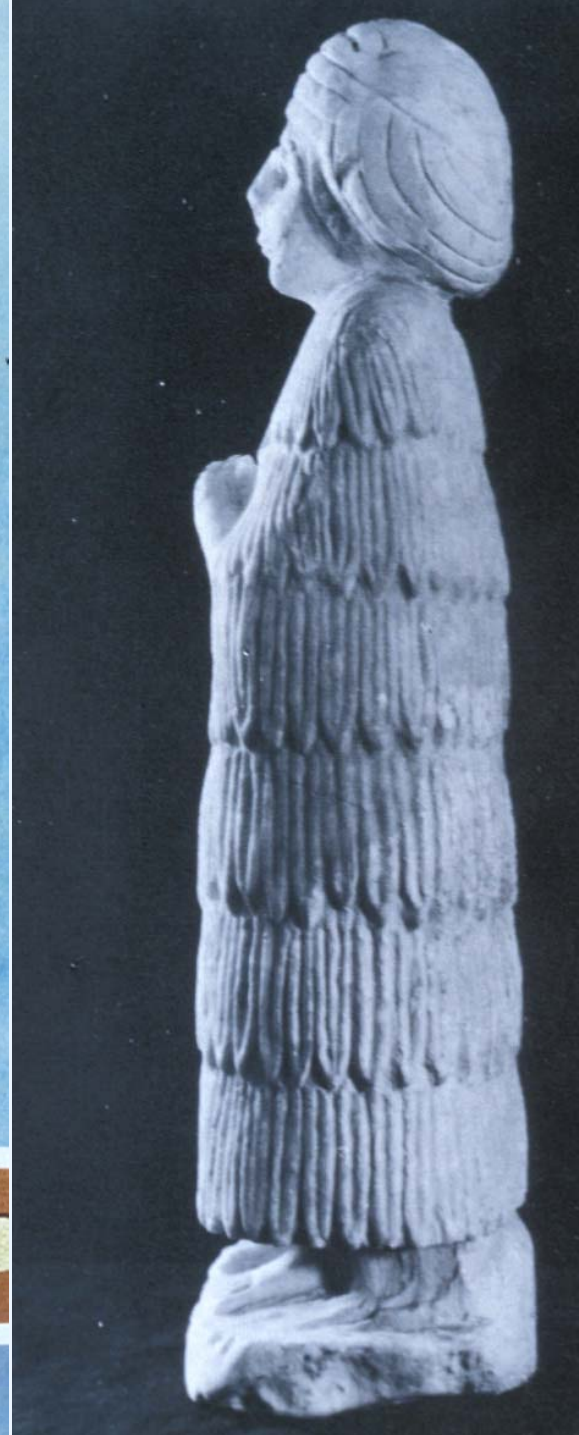
52. Statue of a priest, from Khafaje.  
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania University Museum*

# Clay Model of a Sheep



M2-69

Statue of a  
Priestess  
wearing a  
mantle made  
of sheep  
fleece



# Stele from Telloh



M2-72

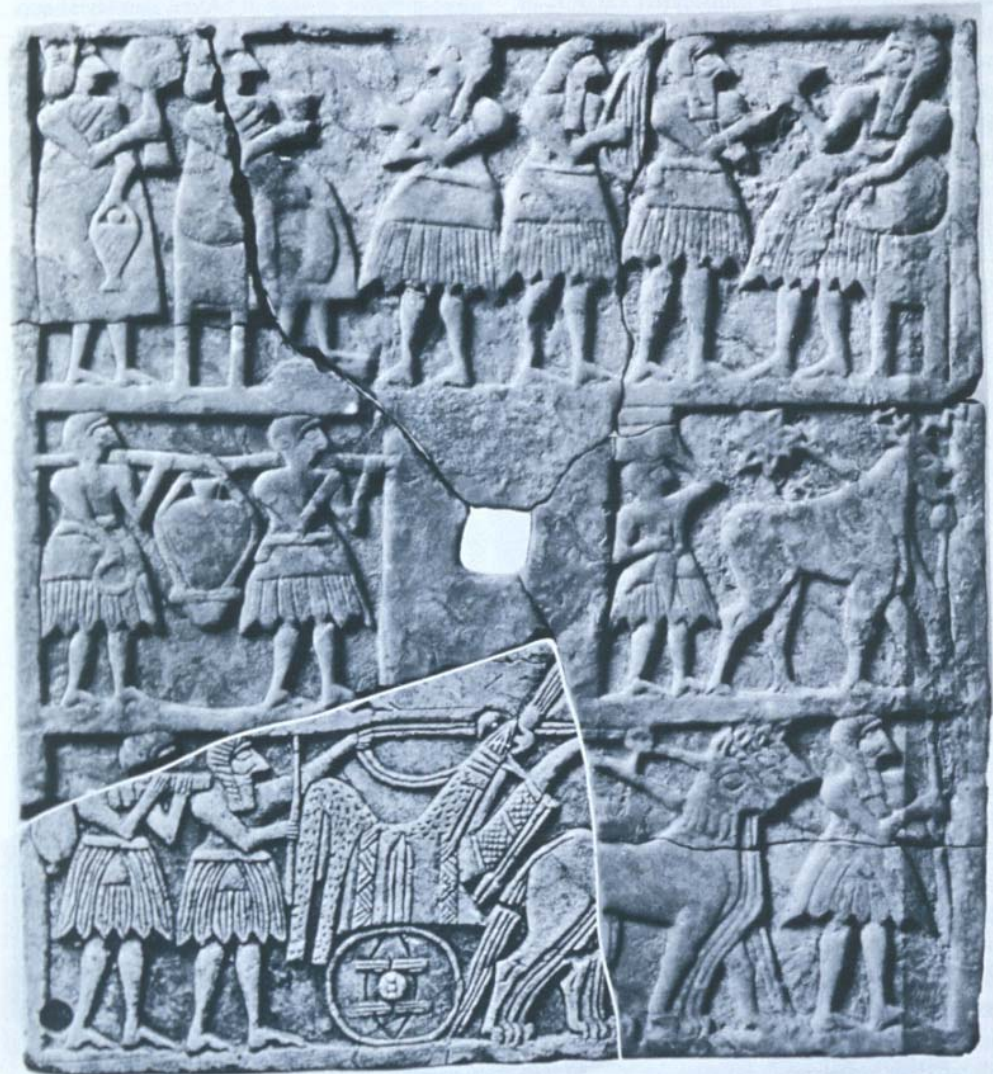
73. Stele, from Telloh.  
*Paris, Louvre*



M2-73

72. Stele, from Khafaje, with a fragment, from Ur.  
*Baghdad, Iraq Museum*

# Stele from Khafaje





*Figure 2:7* Macehead of Me-salim. The inscription reads 'Me-salim, King of Kish, builder of the temple of Ningirsu, set this up for Ningirsu. Lugal-šag-engur was the ensi of Lagaš.' (AO 2349 A. Photo: Musée du Louvre (AO))

70. Vase of Entemena, from Telloh. Silver, on copper foot. Paris, Louvre



M2-76



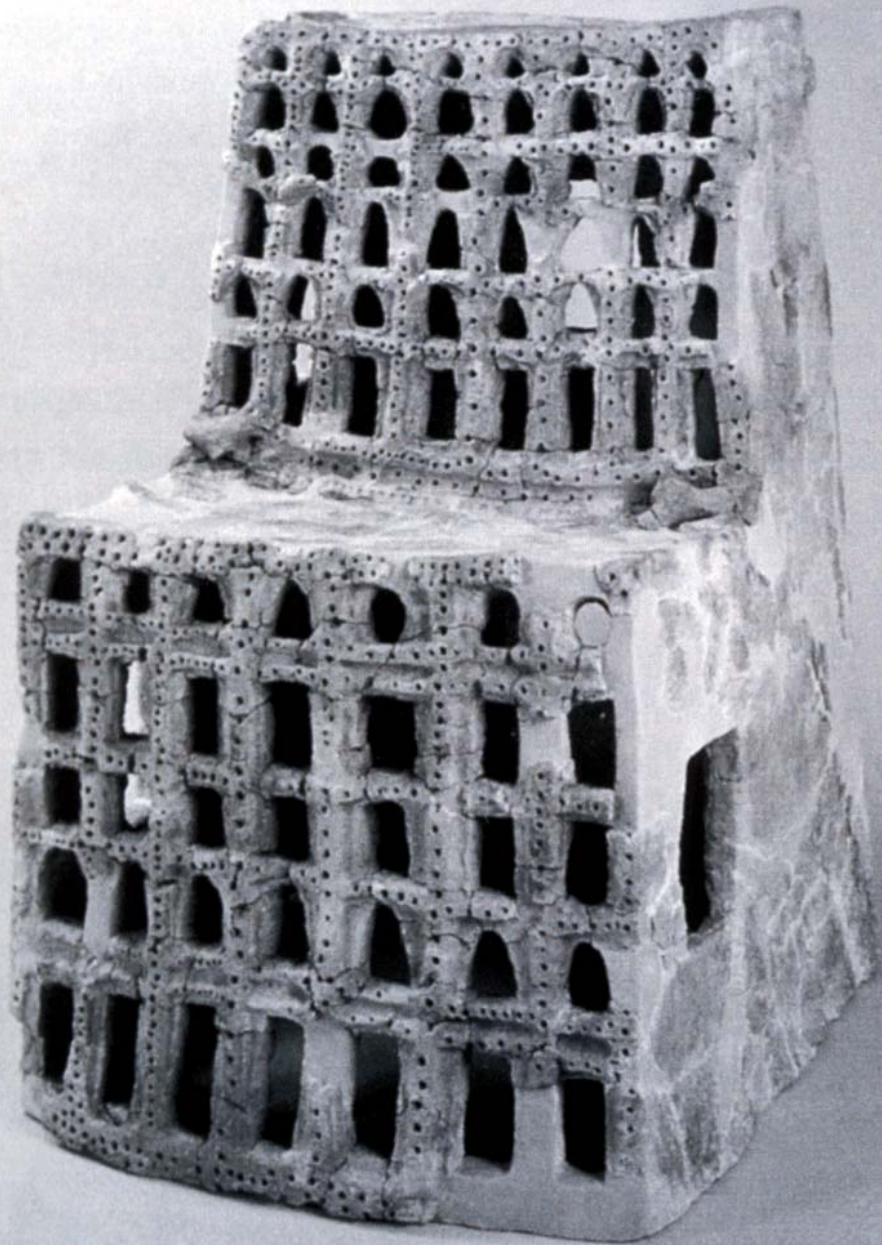
# The Imdugud Bird (storm deity): copper relief, Temple of Ninhursag at Al-Ubaid



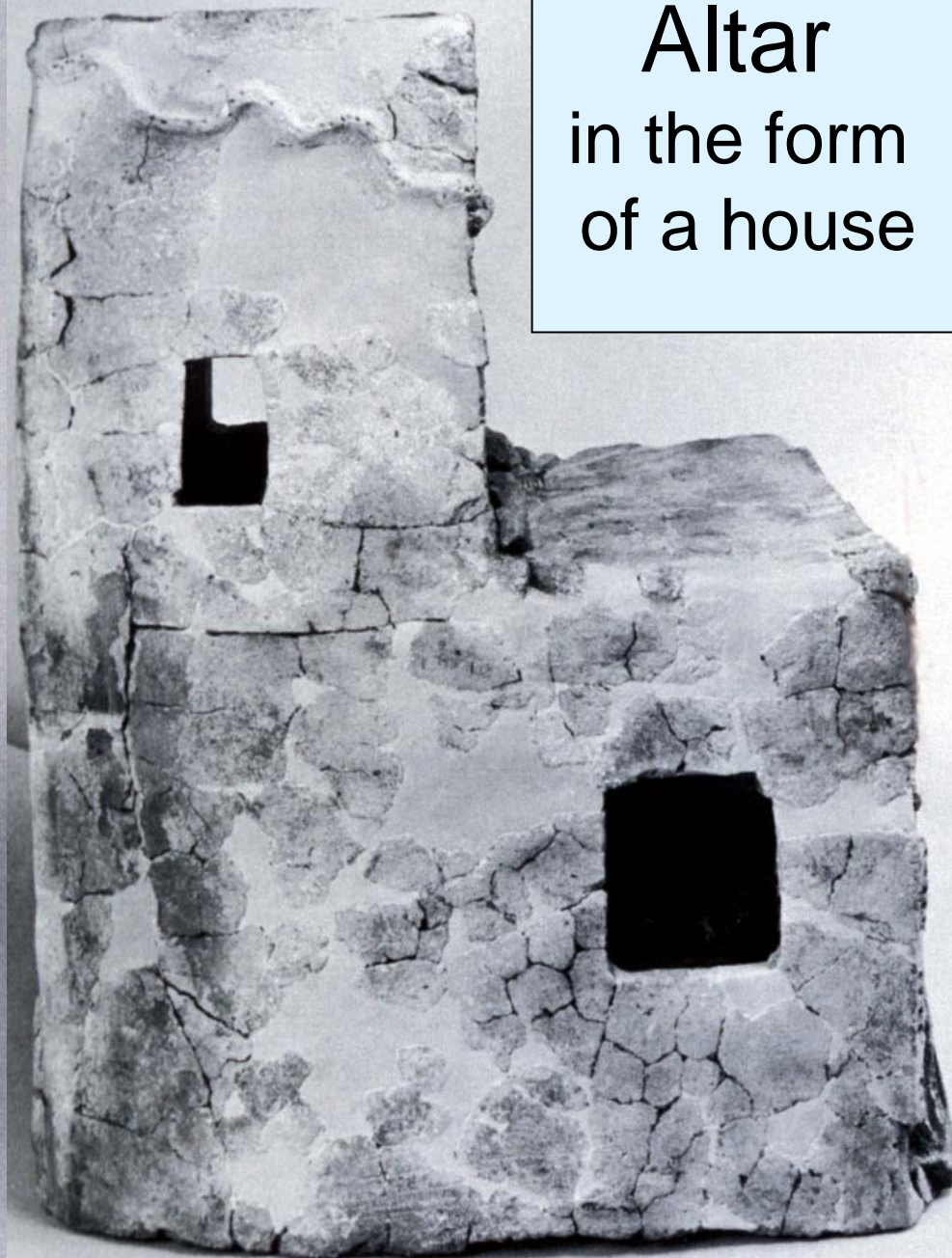


CHARIOT MODEL, EARLY SUMERIAN

M2-79



M2-80



Altar  
in the form  
of a house



Fig. 9. Drawing of an Akkadian period cylinder seal impression showing a house-shaped altar set before a seated deity. Reproduced from Boehmer 1965, fig. 387

# Assyrian Relief of Gilgamesh holding a lion cub



# Cuneiform Tablet: record of grain payment



3 Administrative tablet in Sumerian recording cultic payments of grain for the goddess Bau. Dated to the fourth year of Uru-inim-gina, ruler of Lagash (about 2348 BC). From Girsu.

Sumerian  
Rulers:  
depicted as  
laborers  
carrying  
building  
materials for  
the upkeep of  
temples

