Julia Troche

Omur/City and Festival, Fall 2009

Final Paper Proposal

My paper will look at the ancient Bronze Age site of Emar near the Tigris river. Although Emar was predominantly a mud brick city, a most impressive find was discovered at the site – many hundred cuneiform tablets. These tablets, found in the Emar Temple M, discuss topics varying from individual transactions to descriptions of religious ceremonies and rituals.

In conjunction with these texts and the albeit limited archaeological evidence of the site, I will attempt to delve into a specific ritual which took place near a monumental stones by a gateway arch named for the stones. Here, at this gateway location, the text refers to specific ritual actions involving these sikkanu stones. My paper will summarize these rites, discuss the significance of their physical location with respect to Emar’s religious landscape, and attempt to surmise a logical explanation of the role and utility of the sikkanu stones.

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