

# II WORKSHOP ON LATE NEOLITHIC CERAMICS IN ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA: POTTERY IN CONTEXT

## PREFACE

At the beginning of 2017, the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and the Archaeology Museum of Catalonia (MAC), which is part of the Catalan Cultural Heritage Agency, signed a collaboration agreement. This partnership has since blossomed, and we now have a consolidated research group, which also includes the University of Girona. Our first foray into the world of university education was hosting the presentation of the UAB Degree in Archaeology at the Museum, and teaching on the Master and Degree course. In this way, we have published a MAC monograph of the seminar, we collaborate it, thus reaffirming our inter-institutional commitment to academic research.

The publication titled *II Workshop on Late Neolithic Ceramics in Ancient Mesopotamia: pottery in context*, is one of a new specialized series which focuses on both national and international issues. Regional issues, with international recognition, will be published in the corresponding monographic series.

With this new series of publications, the MAC seeks to project itself internationally, while at the same time still working to catalan archaeology. This project will also be helped by reformed journals of MAC: *Empúries* and *Cypsela*.

Recently, the Museum has been carrying out extensive work on the Neolithic period. We are participating in the excavation of the Neolithic site called La Draga, where we have held an exhibition and published its catalogue. We are also planning to publish a book on the Neolithic in Andorra. In April 2018, we held a seminar in Girona on the Early Neolithic period, the proceedings of which will be published next year in this new monographic series. Likewise, a monograph is currently in course for Serra del Mas Bonet settlement (Vilafant, Girona), whose collections are housed at the museum.

This has considerably boosted research on the Neolithic period and has attracted significant attention from influential research groups. We also want to contribute to this knowledge as we have two highly regarded specialists on the period: Dr. Ramon Buxó and Dr. Antoni Palomo.

This new monographic series bestows the MAC with an important scientific tool for the dissemination of knowledge, which we hope will receive international recognition. This tool is essential for national museums such as the MAC, or the Museum of Art of Catalonia and the Museum of Science and Technology of Catalonia, which play the same role. A national museum needs to be able to swing between the service of the population and the dissemination of the knowledge generated. I insist on using the word generate, because this means that research is one of our museum's basic aims, and this dissemination needs to be on both a national and international level.

The Archaeology Museum of Catalonia aims to be an indispensable tool for transmitting our country's

culture and scientific knowledge. It contributes rigorously, in the line with the Catalan research system, to generate new knowledge within the field of archaeology.

Allow me, therefore, to greet this new monographic series and thank the organizers of this international seminar: Dr. Miquel Molist, Professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona; Dr. Anna Gómez, professor associate at UAB, Dr. Jörg Becker, researcher at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (Germany); and Dr. Antoni Palomo, the edition and monographic series coordinator.

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