
Vito Messina
In this paper, the Author discusses a change from flexed to extended burial, observed at Uruk in locus U/V XVIII around the time of the Parthian annexation of Babylonia. He particularly focuses on the question whether this annexation could explain the introduction of the extended burial practice in the light of a number of related issues, namely the Parthian influence or the influence of Zoroastrian burial practices. Given the Zoroastrian proscription against corpses coming into contact with the Earth, he rightly points out that the Zoroastrianism of the Parthians must make one pause before attributing in-ground burials to it and he proposes other theoretical possibilities giving reasonable explanations for this change. Indeed, with the continuous Parthian control over Babylonia the possibility that ethnically diverse troops came to be stationed in this region increases greatly and in the 2nd-1st century BC different causes brought into Babylonia foreign groups other than Parthians as permanent or semi-permanent residents.

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**Thèmes** : 3.2.3. Séleucides, Parthes et Sassanides
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