

STUDIES IN  
ANCIENT  
HISTORY  
AND ARCHAEOLOGY



GHASSAN TAHA YASEEN



HUM  
Press

# **Studies in Ancient History and Archaeology**

*Ghassan Taha Yaseen*



IIUM Press

Published by:  
IIUM Press  
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011  
© IIUM Press

*All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher.*

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Ghassan Taha Yaseen

Studies in ancient history and archaeology / Ghassan Taha Yaseen.

ISBN 978-967-0225-17-3

1. Ancient civilizations. 2. Archaeology and history. 3. Pottery, Islamic ---Islamic countries. I. Title

953

ISBN 978-967-0225-17-3

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia - MAPIM  
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed By :

**IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.**

No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3<sup>1</sup>

Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves

68100 Batu Caves

Selangor Darul Ehsan

# Contents

Contents	vi
Tables	ix
Figures	ix
Introduction	xi
<b>Chapter one</b>	
<b>Settlement of the Hamrin Basin from Early Times to the End of Old Babylonian Period</b>	<b>1</b>
• <i>The Hamrin Basin</i>	2
• <i>Location</i>	2
• <i>Name</i>	3
• <i>Topography</i>	4
• <i>The Settlement</i>	5
• <i>The Early Settlements</i>	5
• <i>The Halaf Settlements</i>	6
• <i>The Ubaid and Uruk Settlements</i>	6
• <i>The Early Dynastic Settlements</i>	7
• <i>The Akkadian Settlements</i>	8
• <i>The Old Babylonian Settlements</i>	10
<b>Chapter Two</b>	
<b>Old Babylonian Pottery Analysis, Tell Halawa, Hamrin/Iraq</b>	<b>11</b>
• <i>Pottery Analysis</i>	11
• <i>Fabric Surface Colour" and Hardness</i>	12
• <i>Surface Treatment</i>	13
• <i>Fillers</i>	14
• <i>Apparent Porosity</i>	15
• <i>Chemical Analysis</i>	16
• <i>Refiring Tests</i>	17
• <i>Painted Decoration</i>	19
• <i>Soil and Mudbrick Samples</i>	20
• <i>Calcium Carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) Content (Soil Samples)</i>	20
• <i>Suitability of Soils for Pottery Making (Soil Samples)</i>	21
• <i>Mineral Constituents (Soil Samples)</i>	21
• <i>Chemical Analysis (Soil and Mudbrick Samples)</i>	22
• <i>Firing Tests (Soil Samples)</i>	23
• <i>Laboratory Tests and Analytical Tables</i>	25
• <i>Ceramic Material (LTAT: A)</i>	25
• <i>Soil and Mudbrick Samples (LTAT: B)</i>	25
<b>Chapter Three</b>	
<b>Cylinder Seals from Tell Halawa, Hamrin/ Iraq</b>	<b>119</b>
• <i>Early Dynastic</i>	119
• <i>Akkadian</i>	120
• <i>Ur III – Old Babylonian</i>	121

<b>Chapter Four</b>	
<b>Unpublished Terracotta Figurines in the Museum of Archaeology Department, Sana'a University, Yemen</b>	<b>133</b>
• <i>General Description of the Terracotta Figurines</i>	134
• <i>Seated female figurines in bent-knee position\</i>	136
• <i>Female figurines with scarves and hair bundles</i>	137
• <i>Seated female figurines on seats</i>	138
• <i>Seated female figurines with exaggerated buttocks</i>	139
• <i>Seated female figurines with extended lower limbs</i>	141
• <i>Standing male figurines</i>	141
• <i>Human heads and faces</i>	161
• <i>Artistic style and manufacture</i>	142
• <i>Discussion and comparisons</i>	145
<b>Chapter Five</b>	
<b>Terracotta Figurines from the National and Military Museums in Sana'a, Yemen</b>	<b>149</b>
• <i>Group A - Standing females</i>	150
• <i>Group B - Female heads and torsos</i>	151
• <i>Group C - Seated females</i>	152
• <i>Group D - Female human heads</i>	153
• <i>Group E - Male figurines</i>	153
• <i>The significance of the figurines</i>	154
<b>Index</b>	<b>175</b>