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## RESULTS OF THE TEST SEASON OF THE IRAQI-RUSSIAN EXPEDITION AT TELL DEHAILA-1

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**Abstract:** *The settlement of Tell Dehaila-1 was a large Old Babylonian city, located in the southern margins of the Mesopotamian alluvium 30 km west of Ur, on the edge of the Arabian desert and on the east bank of the ancient Eridu River that connected to the Euphrates. As the river shifted to the east, the city expanded onto the meander scar. With time, the silting of the Eridu River forced the inhabitants to build a canal from the western branch of the Euphrates originating downstream of Tell Homor. Opposite the central part of the city, a crevasse splay emerged, creating a marsh, one of the sources of water for Ur. Tell Khaiber, a small but important Sealand period site, is situated to the north of this marsh. Among the surface and stratified potsherds from Dehaila’s riverside, probably a harbour, are forms comparable to the Sealand pottery from Tell Khaiber and to shapes from periods IIc (c.1800–1700 BCE) or IIIa (c.1650–1500 BCE) at Qala’at al-Bahrain (Dilmun). The resumption of trade between southern Mesopotamia and Dilmun in the Sealand period is also known from other sources. Otherwise, the Dehaila pottery collection so far shows typical Old Babylonian and Late Old Babylonian forms, with some Sealand and Early Kassite potential. After the end of urban life at Dehaila, part of the former settlement was used as a cemetery. A defensive trench, cutting into the edge of the former city, was built to the south to protect agricultural assets from nomads.*

**Keywords:** Old Babylonian period, Sealand Dynasty, Early Kassite period, Neo-Babylonian period, deurbanisation, Tell Dehaila, Qal’at al-Bahrain (Dilmun)

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В мае 2003 г., в трагическое для иракской археологии время, Генри Райт, Элизабет Стоун и Абдуламир Хамдани посетили разграбляемые телли Южного Ирака – какие смогли. Для каждого из них иракская археология была делом жизни. Рядом с ними были американские военные и журналисты. Благодаря возникшей общественной и военной поддержке,