Anatolians as Seen Through the Old Assyrian Texts

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The Assyrian texts found in Kültepe dating to the Assyrian Colony Period (2000-1750 BCE) have been studied time and again to better understand the lives of the Assyrian traders, while the indigenous people with whom they interacted are still relatively obscure.

Therefore, this dissertation aimed to gain a better understanding of and insight into native Anatolians as seen through the lens of Assyrian texts. It analyses several new archives of local businessmen in order to understand business dealings in Anatolian context and village life nearby Kanesh.

In addition, it examines Anatolian practices in terms of family legal laws. This study offers a unique insight into how local Anatolians interacted with Assyrian tradesmen and with each other and how this was different from the ways in which Assyrian tradesmen dealt with Anatolian businessmen. In particular, it focuses on loans for Anatolian businessmen and how these enabled local businessmen to deal with Assyrians.

The results also show that Anatolians’ social life, though inevitably affected by Assyrians immigrants in terms of family legal practices, was still keeping some of its own character.