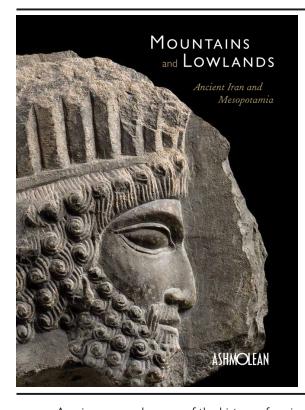


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## Mountains and Lowlands Ancient Iran and Mesopotamia Paul Collins

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- A unique general survey of the history of ancient Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) and Iran from 6000 BC-AD 650, told through objects
- New photography of objects in the Ashmolean Museum's collection is included, along with six specially commissioned maps

Ancient Mesopotamia and Iran are usually treated separately or as part of a much broader 'Ancient Near East'. However, the developments that lie at the root of our own world – farming, cities, writing, organized religion, warfare – were forged in the tensions and relations between the inhabitants of lowland Mesopotamia (ancient Iraq) and the highlands of Iran.

Mountains and Lowlands explores this relationship providing a detailed but accessible account covering the period 6000 BC AD 650, from the development of the first agricultural communities to the coming of Islam. The story is told through the superlative Ancient Near Eastern collections in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, supplemented by images of photographs of archeological sites and of iconic pieces in other collections including the Louvre, Paris. The discussion is further supported by six maps commissioned especially for this publication.

**Dr Paul Collins** is the Jaleh Hearn Curator for the Ancient Near East in the Antiquities Department of the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford. He is also a Fellow of Jesus College and Wolfson College, Oxford as well as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, London, and a Member of the Council of the British Institute for the Study of Iraq.







