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Irrigation et drainage dans l'Antiquité : qanâts
et canalisations souterraines en Iran, en Égypte
et en Grèce, séminaire tenu au Collège de France,
sous la direction de Pierre Briant,

The collection and distribution of water was one of the central concerns of ancient Near Eastern states and societies, including the Achaemenid empire. A specific form of access to subterranean water was already known at that time, namely, qanâts.

The Hellenistic historian Polybius has left the only ancient description of qanâts. The discussion is now fueled by recent discoveries made by a French archaeological mission at the Egyptian oasis of Khargeh. In order to bring these questions up to date, Pierre Briant convened a seminar at the Collège de France. Researchers from different specialties adopted a truly interdisciplinary approach in bringing their points of view face to face, where the history of technology, social history, economic history and political history intersect and are enriched.