



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The 2017 Church Excavation at Yajuz, Central Jordan

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Abstract

In autumn 2017, the Department of Antiquities carried out a rescue excavation in Areas A and D at the northern edge of Yajuz district in Shafa Badran region north of Amman. The goal of the excavation was to reveal entirely the architectural elements partly visible above the top soil in an attempt to identify the nature of the excavation area and its settlement patterns. This article aims to highlight the results of the excavation, in particular, the discovery of small church at the site. Architectural remains of domestic nature have been also unearthed in its vicinity. The authors drew a special attention to this ecclesiastical monument. We have analyzed the ground plan of the chapel and the surrounding dwellings, their architectural elements and features, and the accompanied material culture. We have also conducted comparisons to similar chapels found elsewhere in terms of the general ground plan, material of construction and the mosaic patterns. The date of the construction of the chapel was concluded relying on two aspects: architecturally and the material culture. The ceramic analysis and other material culture as well as the architectural similarities suggest the sixth century AD as an approximate date for the construction of Yajuz church.

Keywords

Byzantine chapel, Byzantine architecture, Jordan, Yajuz, rescue excavation

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation