



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Middle Bronze Pottery Industry and Cemeteries at Yavne East, Israel

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Abstract

During the Middle Bronze Age, Tel Yavneh emerged as a key city in the southwestern coastal region of the southern Levant. Despite its prominence, the main settlement on the tell mound remains unexcavated. The excavations discussed in this presentation focus on an area east of the tell, situated between the mound and the Nahal Sorek. Large-scale salvage excavations conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority over a 3500-square-meter area have uncovered extensive remains from the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, as well as the Iron Age. This presentation will highlight Bronze Age evidence, particularly a vast pottery production area and associated cemeteries. The pottery area is notable for its extraordinary 40 well-preserved kilns. After the kilns ceased operation, evidence of ritual decommissioning was found, including several donkey burials within the kiln remains. Following the kilns' decommissioning, cemeteries from the Middle and early Late Bronze Ages were established above or near the kilns, including burial grounds specifically for infants. This presentation will explore the implications of these findings for understanding the cultural and ritual practices of the time.

Keywords

pottery production, Bronze Age industry, pottery kilns, Middle Bronze Age cemeteries and burials, donkey burials

Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

Type of paper

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