



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Kunara (Iraqi Kurdistan): results of the 9th and 10th excavations campaigns (2023-2024)

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Abstract

Kunara, a small site located near Suleymaniye, has been excavated since 2012. In 2023 and 2024, four areas were opened. The main level of occupation dates from the end of the 3rd millennium BCE (Period V), but the presence of a significant Iron Age level (Period II) in the lower town has now been confirmed.

During the Period V, Kunara is characterised by a large number of public buildings in both the upper and lower towns, which seem to reflect a variety of activities: administration, ceremonies and food preparation among others. One building in particular bears witness to a ritual closure, with the breaking of richly decorated vessels and the deposit of numerous faunal remains.

The end of the level was marked by very violent fires that preserved the earthen architecture, but caused considerable damage to the material, in particular the cuneiform tablets and sealings that were discovered in the lower town.

The interdisciplinary work carried out by the various members of the mission has shown that Kunara was a site of regional importance at the end of the 3rd millennium.

Keywords

Iraqi Kurdistan, Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, monumental architecture, pottery

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation