



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Unveiling the Funerary Cairns of Jabal Khuraybah: Bronze Age Discoveries on the Heights of Dadan (AIUla).

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Abstract

Apart from a handful of sites, north-western Arabia has long been unexplored, but since 2019 it has been the focus of numerous archaeological surveys and excavations. Aerial surveys have revealed the presence of tens of thousands of funerary structures in north-western Arabia. Recent pedestrian surveys carried out in the Jabal al-Khuraybah as part of the Dadan Archaeological Project (CNRS/AFALULA/RCU) have yielded new and unprecedented insights into the occupation of this sandstone massif. Located in the AIUla valley, Jabal al-Khuraybah overlooks the ancient city of Dadan, which was settled from the 3rd millennium BCE to the early 1st millennium CE. Several Bronze Age funerary ensembles have been discovered there, with an abundant ceramic material found on the surface. The in-depth study of this ceramic material has revealed the significant coexistence of imported 'Qurayyah Painted Ware' and local Bronze Age production. Following our survey, the highest cairn overlooking the site of Dadan was excavated. These initial promising results have provided us with important and valuable information about funerary architecture. This presentation will attempt to give an exhaustive overview of the evidence gathered from these cairns, including archaeobiological data, ceramic study and a spatial analysis of the distribution of these cemeteries.

Keywords

Cairn, Ancient north-west Arabia, Dadan, Qurayyah Painted Ware, AIUla

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