



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Finding the Sasanians: Challenges and approaches in Sasanian Archaeology in Georgia

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Abstract

This paper examines the complexities of identifying and studying Sasanian archaeology in Georgia, a region heavily influenced by the Sasanian Empire from the 3rd to 7th centuries CE. A key question is whether Sasanian archaeology exists in Georgia and how it is defined. While Sasanian archaeology generally refers to material culture and discoveries linked to the empire, in Georgia, the term is neither widely recognized nor frequently used. Various findings over the centuries, such as seals, coins, silverware, and architectural details, demonstrate Sasanian cultural and political influence, yet these are often categorized under Late Antique or Early Medieval Georgian archaeology. This classification aligns with Georgia's historical framework, which divides the 1st-4th centuries as Late Antiquity and the late 4th-8th centuries as the Early Medieval period. The conversion of Kartli (Eastern Georgia) to Christianity and related socio-political changes marked a significant shift in the region's material culture. Despite these transformations, Sasanian influence persisted, yet it remains understudied within a unified archaeological framework. This paper aims to illustrate how to advance the study of Sasanian archaeology in Georgia by examining the 3rd-7th centuries not only from both Georgian and Roman-Byzantine, but also from the Sasanian perspectives.

Keywords

Sasanian, Sasanian archaeology, Georgia, Caucasus, Archaeology of Georgia

Session

8. Islamic archaeology

Workshop

A16406AT - Advances in Sasanian Archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation