



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From Layers to Layout: Byblos's Urban Design in the Middle Bronze Age

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Abstract

Few archaeological sites have provided as much data on the urban planning of Near Eastern cities during the Middle Bronze Age as Byblos. Yet, our understanding of its urbanism remains limited, which is surprising given that the Middle Bronze Age produced the most prestigious monuments and votive deposits of the pre-Classical period, primarily from excavations of temples and the Royal Necropolis Tombs. Moreover, the excavation methods employed involved systematically removing horizontal layers of 20 cm in thickness, neglecting stratigraphic considerations and severing connections between different archaeological contexts. The aim of this presentation is to demonstrate how the city of Byblos in the Middle Bronze Age, and particularly its acropolis, was structured and how its environment was remodelled. By highlighting its sophisticated layout and planning, the presentation seeks to offer new insights into the urbanism of Byblos. It will show the intricacies of the city's design, emphasizing how the urban planning reflected the social, political, and religious dynamics of the time.

Keywords

Byblos, Bronze Age, Urbanism, Religion, Architecture

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