ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Assessing the Archaeological Potential of Magna : Preliminary Results

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Abstract

Magna is located in the eastern coast of the Gulf of Aqaba, former Midian, now part of the NEOM territory. This locality is mentioned as Macna in the Geography of Ptolemy in the 2nd century CE. It has often been regarded as a potential port whose past is still unknown. Little is known about the Nabataean period of this site, which became part of the Roman province of Arabia/Arabia Petraea in the early 2nd century CE, and how the site evolved over time, in particular, its significance during the Islamic period. In winter 2024 a program of surveys and six excavations test trenches was launched by NEOM, and carried out by the Éveha International team. The aim of the project was to determine the various occupations of the site, establish an initial chronology, and understand the role of the port and the city of Magna in the regional trade routes. This contribution present results of the pedestrian and geophysical surveys carried out over the 92-hectare area, as well as the presentation of its various features, material culture, and spatial distribution. Observations from excavations will be presented with results of specialized studies to the understanding of dietary, domestic and funeral practices.

Keywords

Survey, Excavations, Coastal settlement, Pre-Islamic period, Islamic period

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