



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Trkmen-Karahk: A New Bronze Age-Hellenistic Period Center in Southcentral Anatolia. Results of the First Excavation Season

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Abstract

The Türkmen-Karahöyük Archaeological Project (TKAP)'s inaugural excavation season took place in 2024. Türkmen-Karahöyük is a 30 ha, 35 m tall mound that dates from the Early Bronze Age through the late Hellenistic period. Its scale, plus the discovery of Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions, suggests that Türkmen-Karahöyük was the regional capital during the Late Bronze and Iron Ages. Türkiye's Ministry of Culture and Tourism granted the excavation license in 2024 to a team sponsored by Bilkent University and the University of Chicago. Field 1, located at the mound's summit, was selected due to large-scale architecture visible in magnetometry, while Field 2 was chosen as a window into Bronze Age levels of occupation. Field 3, located at the bottom of an erosional gully, is a methodological experiment to evaluate erosion of the site. Field 1 quickly discovered a heavily destroyed, very large building dating to the late Hellenistic period. Field 2 produced well-preserved mudbrick architecture from the late Middle Bronze Age to early Late Bronze Age with volumes of loom weights and cretulae that provide hints of administrative control of textile production. The TKAP excavations offer the first stratified archaeological deposits in southcentral Anatolia and open an entirely new region for archaeological research.

Keywords

Anatolia, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Hellenistic, Fieldwork

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation

