



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Cross analyses of social hierarchy, burial types and skeletal remains at Tell Atchana (Alalakh) Turkey

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Abstract

The burials of Tell Atchana (ancient Alalakh) in southeastern Turkey, dating to Middle and Late Bronze Age (ca.2000-1200 BC), produced the remains of 299 individuals. The burials are represented by pit, cist, and a plastered tomb. Textual archives from the site provide insights into the social hierarchy, starting with the king and royalty, followed by the elite (maryanni), the craftsmen (ehelle), commoners (?upše) and foreigners (?abir?). This study attempts to correlate the archival text, grave types, and the skeletal remains; where the results tentatively suggest a connection. The wealthy and elite members of the society (maryanni) are proposed to be represented by the plastered tomb, where the skeletal remains indicate a diet rich in resources (DISH). The craftsmen (ehelle) are represented by pit and cist graves, with skeletal evidence showing a lack of physical labor and dental pathology patterns suggesting involvement in textile or leather making. The commoners (?upše) are associated with pit burials, where their remains indicate hard physical labor evidenced by compressed fractures on the hand and feet. The foreigners (?abir?), being at the bottom of society, the skeletal remains indicate a hard physical labor, the case of the "Well Lady".

Keywords

Tell Atchana , Alalakh, hierarchy, burial , skeletal

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