



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Islamic rural world: new data from the Zeyd Archaeological Project

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Abstract

The Zeyd Archaeological Project is a research programme recently launched by the Ca' Foscari University of Venice in cooperation with the Dohuk Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage. Its aim is to explore settlement, land use, material culture, economy and society in the hinterland of the historical province of Mosul in the long Islamic period (7th-early 20th c.) focusing on a highly representative site of the area, Tell Zeyd.

This area played a strategic role in the supply of agricultural products, primarily cereals, for the Iraqi region in a long durée perspective, and Tell Zeyd constitutes an excellent example of this activity, confirmed by new evidence emerging from the excavations. Archaeology is offering a comprehensive picture of the village's economy and society: study of the botanical remains shows which crops were being cultivated or used; analysis of the archaeozoological remains provides data on farming and diet practices; study of the pottery finds makes it possible, for the first time, to establish a chrono-typology for a number of wares previously poorly understood in the area, reconstructing the material culture of the village, between locally made and imported products.

Keywords

Islamic northern Iraq, Islamic ruralscape, Islamic period crops, Islamic pottery, Ottoman period

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