



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Lehmziegelmassiv of Tell Halaf: New perspectives on its function and development based on the results of the 2006-2010 excavations

SOLLEE A.^{1*}, KATZY E.², SIEVERTSEN U.²

¹ Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale), Germany

² Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin, Germany

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Tell Halaf, ancient *Guzana*, is famous for the buildings and sculptures from the period when the settlement represented the urban center of the Aramean principality *Bit Bahiani* that were uncovered there during Max Freiherr von Oppenheim's excavations in the early 20th century. The research conducted by the Syro-German team between 2006 and 2010 added important data on the town's development. Significantly, the new investigations showed that *Guzana* maintained its impressive appearance after it had become part of the empire. The excavations conducted at the southern end of the citadel, where the Oppenheim-expedition recorded a large mudbrick terrace commonly referred to as the "Lehmziegelmassiv", played a crucial part in this realization. As the paper will show, the 2006–2010 investigations in this area exposed the vestiges of a large residence from the Neo-Assyrian Period that yielded many stratified objects informing us of the occupants' social status. Furthermore, it can be shown that the building was also occupied in Post-Assyrian times, although its layout as well as the economic situation of its inhabitants changed. We will furthermore discuss how this discovery adds to our general understanding of the development, function, and layout of the southern part of the citadel of Tell Halaf.

Keywords

Tell Halaf, Iron Age, Neo-Hittite, Aramean States

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation