



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Crude, but not Meaningless. The Spool-LAB 2024-2025: Investigating the Iron Age Clay Spool-Shaped Objects from Tille Hk, South-Eastern Anatolia

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Abstract

For a long time, the so-called clay spool-shaped objects have been among artifacts that did not receive any special attention from the archaeological scholarship. The reason for this lack of consideration is self-explanatory and mainly due to their modest appearance: they are small crudely handmade clay cylinders, typically crafted from unfired pastes, that usually crumble apart when touched. It was only in recent years that spools sparked renewed interest in scholars and they were particularly considered for chronological, socio-cultural and economic issues. Indeed, they copiously appear across the eastern Mediterranean basin towards the end of the 2nd millennium BC and, because of their contexts of discovery, are generally considered as objects for textile practices. A collaborative effort between the Italian National Research Council (CNR) and the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA) is currently conducting an interdisciplinary investigation of a quite representative collection of spools brought to light at Tille Höyük. The meticulous archival study of the contexts of discovery of more than 500 spools from the site will be followed by selective non-invasive archaeometrical analyses and digital techniques, aiming to provide new insights into the socio-economic dimensions pertaining to the production and use of these artifacts.

Keywords

Anatolia, Iron Age, Tille Hk, Textile Production, Spools

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