



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Qalaat el-Hosn, a Settlement in the High Shouf Mountains, Lebanon

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Abstract

The surveys conducted at the site of Qalaat el-Hosn, within the Maasser el-Shouf Archaeological Project (MeSAP), brought to light a long archaeological sequence testifying to the existence of an extensive settlement dating from the Bronze Age to the Ottoman period. The location of the site within a protected natural reserve and the presence of other nearby ancient settlements allowed an in-depth study of the area, carried out since 2018 by the project team. The region is rich in natural resources such as water springs and raw materials suitable for construction. It occupies a strategic position, at the crossroads of an ancient road network. Some of these old pathways, connecting the Mediterranean coast to the Beqaa Valley, through the mountains of the High Shouf, are still in use today. The monumental structure found at the top of the Qalaat el-Hosn site is identified as a Roman temple. The additional building structures inside the temple area together with material culture discovered recently, show a change in use in the Fatimid and Crusader periods, when the temple was transformed into a fortress. Numerous protective measures were taken to preserve this rural cultural heritage and assure certain sustainability to the project.

Keywords

Survey, MeSAP, Roman temple, Cultural heritage, Protection and preservation

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