



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Storage practices and food production and consumption at Tell Mardikh/Ebla during the Early Bronze III-IV: Ceramics in context

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Abstract

The site of Tell Mardikh/Ebla in North-Western Inland Syria, with its long occupation and rich stratified primary contexts and assemblages, offers the possibility to chart strategies of food production and consumption over the *longue durée*. This may shed light on changes in patterns of economic organization and societal behaviours during the Early Bronze III–IV. Looking at the evidence from Ebla throughout the mid-late third millennium BCE, on the one hand it is possible to identify long-term patterns of economic specialization and investment on crops. On the other hand, it is possible to observe trends towards functional specialization of the pottery repertoire, with a general reduction in the number of types and the introduction of new shapes fulfilling specific functions.

The aim of this paper is to discuss food production and consumption at Ebla diachronically as well as combining the contextual analysis of food-related facilities, ceramics finds, bio-archaeological remains, and written records. Comparisons with contemporary nearby sites will allow us to situate the local picture within a larger Levantine framework for the Early Bronze Age.

Keywords

Ebla (Syria), Early Bronze Age, Storage, Food, Pottery

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