



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Excavations at Dedoplis Gora Palace in Caucasian Iberia (Georgia): Results of the 2017-2019 Seasons

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Abstract

Archaeological excavations revealed that the Dedoplis Gora Palace (Shida Kartli, Central Georgia) was built in the late 2nd c. BCE. It was probably the residence of a local vassal of the King of Kartli (Caucasian Iberia), who was responsible for administering the royal domain.

A severe earthquake followed by a conflagration destroyed the palace in the late 1st c. CE. The earthquake and the fire were so sudden and strong that the residents hardly managed to take anything with them. That is why the finds are so rich and diverse. During 2017-2019 archaeological campaigns five rooms (NN 23, 24, 25, 26, 27) of the palace were excavated. The finds are varied: furniture, weapons, household tools, vessels in many materials, ornaments, bone objects, jewelry, etc. Among the excavated rooms, the N26 room is particularly noteworthy, where the adobe structures were surprisingly well preserved. There are all indications that room N26 was a sanctuary.

Archaeological material from the palace of Dedoplis Gora give us a unique opportunity to look into the everyday life of an Iberian nobleman and trace the relationship of the kingdom of Kartli (Caucasian Iberia) with outside world – first of all with Hellenistic Kingdoms, Parthia and Roman Empire.

Keywords

Caucasian Iberia, Rome, Dedoplis Gora, Hellenistic period, archaeological excavations

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