



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Tales from the North East. The Palaces of tell Shemshara.

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## Abstract

The site of Tell Shemshara, first observed by E. Herzfeld in 1916, was excavated by Danish and Iraqi teams in the late 1950s, as part of the Dokan Dam Salvage Project. The spectacular finds of Old Babylonian archives in the palace of Level V (18th cent. BCE) has made the site famous, but after the closure of the Dokan Dam the area remained inaccessible for decades. From 2012, however, a new project (directed by J. Eidem, Pisa) has resumed investigations at Tell Shemshara. In spite of substantial damages to the site caused by many years of intermittent flooding, much remains to be explored. This paper will focus on the Middle Bronze Age levels at the site. First the re-excavation and reconstruction of the palatial complex in Level V, excavated first in the 1950s, and the new portions investigated in the last season (2024). Second the paper will provide an update on the other important MBA complex in Level VIII of the site, intensively explored during the last few seasons. The presentation will conclude with an outline of the broader context for the new data.

## Keywords

Bronze age,, Shemshara,, palaces, ecvation, Iraqi Kursitan

## Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

## Type of paper

Oral presentation