



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Recent archaeological discoveries in the city and castle of Masyaf, capitale of the Isma'ilis Nizaris state in Syria.

HASAN H.^{1*}

¹ Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums in Syria, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

*Corresponding author

Abstract

A Syrian archaeological mission, under my direction, carried out several seasons of excavations and archaeological studies in the castle of Maʿyāf, the capital of the Nizārī Ismāʿīlī state in Syria, during the period between 2001-2012, which became famous in Western sources during the period of the Crusades in the 12th and 13th centuries AD as the Assassins. This work ceased in 2012 due to the war that broke out in Syria in 2011. Through the work carried out in the castle, we were able to identify the basic features of the military architecture and the social lifestyle practiced by the inhabitants of the castle during its prosperity during the period of the Crusades. This research highlights the latest results extracted from the work of the archaeological materials, such as pottery materials, coins and inscriptions that are still preserved in the warehouses of the archaeological mission that circumstances allowed us to carry out personally in the castle, and to study the results of the emergency excavations that took place, in 2024, in one of the ongoing construction workshops in the old town, which led to the discovery of archaeological remains of walls and archaeological finds dating back to the Mamluk period.

Keywords

Nizari isma'ili, Syria, excavation, citadel, Masyaf

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