



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Pragmatic variability, anti-urbanism, or both? Ground stone tools of the Khirbet Kerak Ware and local villagers based on new findings from Tel Yaquash, Jordan Valley

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Abstract

During the Early Bronze Age III (EBA III, 2,900/2,850—2,600/2,500 BC), Khirbet Kerak Ware (KKW) communities inhabited the Jordan Valley alongside the local Levantine population; yet their material culture appears to reflect distinct lifeways. Recent studies show that, among many aspects, the south Levantine EBA urbanization impacted approaches in ground stone tool (GST) production and use, aiming to meet staple food demand of densely populated settlements. This shift was expressed through the increased unification of GST assemblages in the urbanized EBA settlements and emphasis on standardized food processing tools, while villages seem to display more variability in modes of food processing and tool types. Similarly to local rural assemblages, GST of KKW people also appear to show higher repertoire variability and degree of opportunism compared to their urbanized surroundings. Based on new findings coming from Tel Yaquash, the current paper seeks comparisons between GST of KKW and local communities within the rural only framework of the settlement. We discuss similarities and differences in the assemblage composition, tools' morphology, raw material selection, and use-contexts, in order to reflect on the status of the KKW people in the local social environment and their approach to the south Levantine EBA trends.

Keywords

KKW, Kura-Araxes, southern Levant, ground stone tools, macro-lithics

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