



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Twenty years of excavations at Khirbet al-Batravy: rise and fall of an urban experience in the Early Bronze Age Jordan, an update

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Abstract

Two decades (2005-2024) of excavations at Khirbet al-Batravy, in north-central Jordan, led by «Sapienza» University of Rome under the aegis of the Department of Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, have uncovered a well fortified Early Bronze Age II-III city and the overlying Early Bronze Age IV rural village, providing valuable insights on an otherwise obscure period in the region's history.

In the EB III, particularly notable is the "Palace of the Copper Axes", a rare example of a public building preserved with its original furnishings and pottery repertoire. The city's multiple fortifications encapsulate the site's history, from its foundation at the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC (EB II, 3000-2700 BC), to its first destruction by a massive earthquake around 2700 BC. Following this, the city was rebuilt in the EB IIIA period (2700-2500 BC) yet suffered further destructions, until a devastating fire around 2300 BC (EB IIIB, 2500-2300 BC). Approximately a century later, in the EB IV (2300-2200 BC), the site's ruins were resettled and a rural village arose.

The paper will deal with the latest archaeological investigations and lab analysis and the new interpretative questions opened up on the history of Khirbet al-Batravy.

Keywords

Khirbet al-Batravy, Early Bronze Age, urbanism, trade, Intermediate Bronze Age

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation