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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Bronze Age Towers in the southern foothills of the Jebel Hajar region (Inland of Oman). A topographical and chronological study

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Abstract

The Bronze Age towers of South-Eastern Arabia, emblematic structures from the 3rd millennium BCE, document the emergence of monumental architecture in the region. While typically linked to the "Umm an-Nar" period (c. 2800-2000 BCE), some recent studies suggest that the earliest towers may date back to the Hafit period (c. 3100-2800 BCE), based on excavations conducted at the base of certain monuments. These towers, like other regional constructions, were used over long periods, with possible gaps in occupation. Though tens of them have been identified, mainly in Oman, only about one-third have been excavated. Their function-likely diverse-remains a subject of ongoing debate. In this poster, we wish to focus on the southern foothills of the Djebel Hajar in inland Oman. We will present through a critical analysis of published documentation and the creation of descriptive sheets a reasoned mapping using a GIS (QGIS). Our goal is to highlight: the various methods used to identify these monuments, the distinction between those excavated and those identified during surveys, their topographical location, and their history. By combining these approaches, we aim to give more or less weight to the different hypotheses proposed so far by the archeologists.

Keywords

Bronze Age, Towers, Arabian archeology, monumental architecture, Oman

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