



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Architectural Polychromies at Achaemenid Persepolis and Susa: New Investigations and Results (2023-2024)

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Abstract

In 2023-2024, several collections with architectural fragments from Persepolis and Susa in Iran were scientifically examined to document and investigate traces of ancient polychromy. Our paper will introduce the results of investigations on the surface of stone fragments in museum collections in Washington D.C., New York City, Edinburgh, and the National Museum of Iran. Providing new evidence for the surface treatment, our presentation will focus on the capitals from the Hall of Hundred Columns, the Apadana, the Tripylon, two more palaces on the south of Persepolis, and fragments from the Apadana palace in Susa, updating an important study on Achaemenid polychromies published by Leon Stodulski, Eugen Farrell and Richard Newman in 1984. Investigating aspects of the original polychromy on the Persepolitan Apadana's facades, we provide new technical information about the blue background of the building's north facade. Evidence for blue on the surface of lion protomes from a columned court by the Tripylon allows for the first-time specific ideas on this particular structure. Finally, we will share results from investigations on technical details and the surface polychromy of a fragmented head of a Lamasu from a column in the Tripylon in the National Museum of Iran in Tehran.

Keywords

Ancient Polychromy, Polychromy surfaces, Achaemenid period, Persepolis, Susa

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