



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Pottery and Settlement Dynamics in the Central Bekaa, Lebanon: Insights from the Chalcolithic to the Islamic Period

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Abstract

The 2021–2022 survey conducted in the Central Bekaa as part of the 'Mission archéologique de la Bekaa Centrale' project investigated pottery assemblages to analyze settlement dynamics and occupation patterns across historical periods, from the Chalcolithic to the Islamic period. Pottery, as a crucial element of material culture, provides valuable insights into the political, socio-cultural, and economic factors shaping the region's development. This study addresses a significant research gap in Bekaa Valley pottery studies, historically constrained by limited excavations. The findings highlight the valley's strategic importance in ancient trade networks and its enduring cultural and economic relevance. GIS-based mapping of archaeological sites was employed to spatially contextualize findings, which were cross-referenced with regional survey collections for accurate chronological assessments. The analysis incorporates pottery studies from various periods in the central Bekaa Valley, spanning the Chalcolithic to the Roman periods, revealing shifts in ceramic production, trade connections, and local adaptations over time. Notably, pottery from Majdal Anjar, including imported Sigillata such as ESA, indicates settlement activity from the mid-2nd century BCE to the 7th century CE. These results contribute to understanding the historical and archaeological significance of the Central Bekaa by elucidating ancient settlement patterns and trade networks in the Near East.

Keywords

Bekaa Valley, Pottery, Bronze and Iron age, Roman, Sigillata, Eastern Sigillata A

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