



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Funerary architectural remains in the Bekaa valley Lebanon: Hypogea structures from the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine era

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Abstract

This paper presents the results of a survey conducted in the central and southern Bekaa Valley during 2004 and 2005, which serves as the initial phase of a Master's degree study. This research continued in 2023 for further exploration and publication. During the survey, 69 hypogea (underground tombs) from the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods were identified. These tombs were classified according to their entrances into three types: tombs with slab entrances, tombs with swing entrances, and tombs with portcullis doors. The interior layout of these hypogea displays a variety of styles such as loculi, arcosolia and alcoves. In this poster, we will present these entrance types and their relationship to the internal architecture of the hypogea—a topic that has received insufficient attention in the field of Lebanese funerary archaeology.

The Bekaa Valley is notable for its strategic geographical location and fertile land; however, its archaeological importance, especially concerning funerary structures, has not been extensively explored. This research is crucial for understanding a significant historical period in Lebanon, characterized by cultural and social changes from the era of Alexander to the Arab conquest.

Additionally, these underground sites represent a crucial part of Lebanon's archaeological heritage, and it is essential to bring them to light

Keywords

Lebanese archaeology, Bekaa valley, funerary architecture, Hypogea, classical period.

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