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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Stone Tools and Rural Life on the Desert's Edge: Insights into Early Islamic Agricultural Communities in the Southern Levant

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Israel Antiquities Authority

The rural agricultural lifestyle on the desert's edge during the early Islamic period, as reflected in stone tools, provides valuable insight into ancient daily life and adaptation strategies in marginal environments. This study examines three assemblages of stone artifacts, each comprising dozens of items, recovered from a farm in Beersheba region and two villages in Rahat area. These sites represent different aspects of rural settlement, shedding light on the socio-economic dynamics of the period.

The types of tools within these rural residential units include household implements, primarily used for food production and processing, as well as tools for crafting or maintaining simple objects. The diversity of raw materials and the varying degrees of investment in tool production reflect two principal strategies within the acquisition-production-use-repair-neglect continuum. One strategy involved a significant investment of time and effort, yielding durable tools intended for prolonged use, while the other relied on locally available raw materials for producing simple, expedient tools designed for occasional use. The selection of materials and the technological choices evident in the assemblages provide insights into economic constraints, availability of resources, and cultural preferences.

These assemblages shed light on economic and social aspects of life in the southern periphery of the Levant, illustrating the range of domestic activities practiced in these communities. Moreover, the study contributes to a broader understanding of early Islamic rural settlements and their technological traditions, offering new perspectives on adaptation and resilience in arid environments.

Tracing Monastic Landscapes in Northern Iraq: The Case of Deir Za‘faran from Late Antiquity to the Early Islamic Period and Beyond

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The study of Christianity in northern Iraq following the advent of Islam to the region, particularly in the context of monasticism, is crucial for understanding how monastic communities were shaped by the intersection of religious, cultural, and political dynamics. This paper focuses on Deir Za‘faran, also known as the Monastery of Rabban Apnimaran, located at the foot of Jebel Biḥair in Zakho province in Iraqi Kurdistan. The site has not been excavated or extensively investigated in the past. More recently, it was surveyed by Tübingen University (EHAS survey, 2013–2019), revealing a 24-hectare settlement dating from the 5th to the 13th centuries. The site includes different structures such as a monastery, citadel, domestic and utility structures, and city walls. Textual evidence suggests that the settlement and its monastery didn’t functioned only as a center for religious practices but also as an educational institution where monks were trained and sent to other cities and villages in the surrounding region.

This paper aims to present the current situation of the site and its structures and contribute to our understanding of how Christian communities, particularly monastic institutions, adapted and persisted in northern Iraq during the transition period from the Late Antiquity to the early Islamic period and beyond. The methodological approach combines archaeological survey data, architectural analysis, and the integration of historical textual sources.

Sudiyer valley: a case study for the rural early Islamic sites from Central Arabia

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The rural early Islamic (8th-10th AD) sites in Central Arabia (CA) can shed new light on the socio-political changes that took place with the rise of Islam in the region. The proto-urban settlement organization of late pre-Islamic period in Central and western Arabia is usually defined as fragmented fortified elite buildings, which reflects tribal system with no central government. For the centuries that follow, the rise of Islam in Arabia the focus moved to the settlements and stations on the pilgrimage routes, which seems to have different system than the local rural pattern.

Sudiyer region will be a case study to investigate the organization and distribution of the rural early Islamic sites in CA. Sudiyer is a valley located about 150km to the north from modern Riyadh city in Saudi Arabia. Four early Islamic sites are located along the valley within 15km. The sites were visited and recorded using Drone by the author during his Ph.D. study survey. The primary study allowed the classification of the sites into two types of fortifications: hilltop sites and single buildings at the bottom of the valley. Both class sites are situated on the edge of agricultural areas with access to ground water. The organization and distribution of Sudiyer sites show the continuity of tribal system in the rural areas into the Islamic period, suggesting no major change in the rural organization.

In the paper, I will discuss the chronology of the sites using archaeological material and historical sources and then present layouts of the recorded sites. Second, I will contextualize the relation of tribe elites with non-Bedouin power to confirm their status in the society comparing between late pre-Islamic period and the early Islamic period.

Christianity to Islam in Archaeology: A case study from the German-Portuguese Mértola Project

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Situated on the banks of Guadiana River in southern Portugal, Mértola was a vibrant economic center from the Roman Period to modern times. Being archaeologically investigated since the late 1970s, Mértola can serve as an example of well researched Islamic urban settlement, including a 9th century mosque (the oldest still standing mosque in Portugal), a Muslim cemetery and medieval neighbourhoods. Established in 2023, the German-Portuguese Mértola Project aims to further study the transition from Christianity to Islam in the Iberian Peninsula as well as aspects of the site's economic and daily life. Based on the extensive research of the Campo Arqueológico de Mértola, and with its collaboration, the Goethe University investigates the domestic architecture from the 7th to the 13th century near Mértola's castle, the region's installations (such as drainage channels and cesspits) and its small finds. In the given paper we will present recent archaeological discoveries from the 2025 season, its relation to already established patterns as well as plans for future campaigns. Reassessing the results of recent excavations is crucial in order to understand the transformations of urban architecture from a Late Antique city into the Islamic period and its consequences to the daily life of communities of Early Medieval Mértola.

Uncovering Middle to Late Islamic Evidence in the Northern Zagros: Insights into the Material Culture and Settlement Pattern in Soran Area – Iraqi Kurdistan

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The settlement pattern of the Islamic period in the northern Zagros Mountains (Soran, Iraqi Kurdistan) remains relatively understudied. This mountainous region extends from northwestern Iran to southeastern Turkey and northeastern Iraq, near the borders with Turkey and Iran, and the natural passes have constituted the circulation and settlement axes of human groups over time.

In this context, the Banahilk site has revealed significant evidence of occupation during the Middle to Late Islamic period, reflecting sociopolitical and economic transformations in the region. This study analyses the archaeological materials recovered from Islamic occupation layers, including ceramics, architecture, and other elements of material culture, to reconstruct settlement dynamics and their relationship with the commercial and administrative networks of the time.

This research, employing an interdisciplinary approach that combines stratigraphy, technology, and typological analysis, examines both local and external influences on the development of rural communities in high mountain areas. The results suggest a holistic exploitation of local resources and strategic access to key prestige goods in a pivotal crossroads of the Zagros, facilitating the development of both farmer and herder economies.

A Historical and Archaeological Perspective on the Evolution of Jeddah's Fortifications, Saudi Arabia

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As part of the ongoing archaeological research and urban development efforts led by the Jeddah Historic District (JHD) under the Saudi Ministry of Culture (MoC), archaeological excavations were carried out at several sites within the historic al-Balad district of Jeddah. These investigations focused, among other research targets, on the city's defensive infrastructure. Rescue excavations conducted between 2020 and 2025 in different parts of the city uncovered significant remains of the Late Islamic fortification system, including the northern gate, portions of the city wall, and fragments of a defensive moat that once encircled the city. Additionally, a previously unknown military structure was discovered in the heart of al-Balad. By drawing on historical sources and the recently obtained excavation data, this paper will present an overview of the development of Jeddah's defensive infrastructure and the relationship between the city's fluctuating fortunes and regional political events.

An early medieval rural mosque in the inland region of Málaga (Andalusia, Spain): recent archaeological research at the Cortijo de Las Mezquitas

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Recent archaeological investigations at the site of Cortijo de Las Mezquitas, located in the inland region of Málaga, have shed new light on the diachronic occupation of this rural settlement characterized by a mosque still partially standing as part of a rustic building. A global approach including field survey, excavation, archaeology of architecture and geological analysis of building materials have made it possible to reveal its sequence and to know its immediate surrounding. The earliest occupation of the area dates back to the Roman imperial period until the 6th century CE, when the site appears to have been abandoned. The place was reoccupied in the late 9th or early 10th century CE, when a rural monumental mosque was built there. Although the niche of the mihrab and minaret were not preserved—likely dismantled and their foundations partially removed by later interventions—the mosque's construction techniques and the architectural configuration suggest that early medieval chronology. No contemporary settlement associated with the mosque has yet been identified though.

Resilient cities: urban life in Jerash after the earthquake of AD 749

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The series of earthquakes that shook southern Syrian around 749 have traditionally been seen by scholars as marking the end of several urban settlements near the epicentre in northern Palestine, among these was Jerash in modern Jordan. Archaeological fieldwork in the 20th century saw a devastated cityscape marked by collapsed monuments and discontinued civic institutions, but new archaeological research carried out by two projects in Jerash's central and southwestern districts have begun to challenge this picture. Archaeological investigation in the urban centre reveals how Jerash's congregational mosque was rebuilt in its entirety along with a major administrative complex, shops, and residential units located west of the mosque. Excavations at Jerash's southwest hilltop has uncovered a residential quarter, which was maintained well beyond the earthquake in 749. This paper summarises the main results of our fieldwork concerning the continuation of urban life in Jerash. The paper will include data presented for the first time from our field season in April 2025.

Reshaping Fener's Sacred Landscape: Islamic Conversions and Urban Transformation in the Ottoman Capital

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This study examines the architectural and urban transformation of the Pammakaristos Monastery, a significant Byzantine religious complex in Constantinople, following its conversion into the an Ottoman Friday mosque named Fethiye in 1587 under Sultan Murad III. Originally built in the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries, the monastery later became the seat of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate after the Ottoman conquest. Its transformation into a Friday mosque marked a crucial shift in the urban and religious landscape of Fener and Balat between its Christian and Islamic heritages.

This study situates Pammakaristos within broader Ottoman practices of repurposing Byzantine churches, a process rooted in Islamic traditions of urban renewal and architectural sovereignty. It examines the legal and political motivations behind the conversion, the structural modifications made to align the monument with Islamic conventions—such as the addition of a mihrab, minbar, and minaret—and the demographic shifts that followed.

By employing textual sources and spatial analysis, including historical maps, this research traces the changing monumental experience of the local *dhimmi* population and the emergence of new Islamic constructions in the area. Engaging with Islamic architectural traditions and Ottoman urban planning, it contributes to the discourse on how Islamic art and architecture shaped cultural and religious transformations in the two neighborhoods (Fener and Balat) of early modern Constantinople, aligning with key themes in Islamic archaeology, including built environments, urban landscapes, and cultural interactions.

Landscape and Society in the Northwestern border of the Lleida District (8th–12th Centuries): An Archaeological Perspective

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This communication is part of an ongoing doctoral thesis that examines society and landscape in the Northwestern territory of the Lleida district between the 8th and 12th centuries. That entity was in the eastern site of the Upper Border of al-Andalus (*thaghr al-a'la*). This research follows the methodological framework of Landscape Archaeology and focused on the rural environment in this specific area. It integrates fieldwork, the analysis of written sources, toponymy, aerial photography and historical cartography.

The landscape of this district is characterised by its semi-aridity. The occupation and exploitation of this territory is feasible in small irrigated agricultural spaces. On the other hand, the rest of the territory is suitable for dry farming. Present-day towns with Andalusian chronology, such as *Tamarite de Litera*, *Castellonroi*, *Estopiñán del Castillo*, *Albelda* or *Peralta de Calasanz*, preserve small orchards with Andalusian chronology.

The exploitation of this territory is complemented by extensive livestock farming. It is seen in cisterns and roads. These roads connected Andalusian rural settlements and defensive spaces.

This communication will highlight the social and organizational role of Al-Andalus and how it is reflected in the rural landscape of this frontier territory. It will emphasize the distribution of resources, land use, and the connectivity between different spaces. This research will employ computational and spatial analysis using GIS to process collected data from this period, as well as algorithms applied to the region's topographic data like visibility, path and mobility analysis.

Sphero-Conical Vessels of the Early Islamic Period found in Tiberias. What can we learn about their production, use, and dating?

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Shulamit Miller (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Tiberias, or al-Tabariya, as it was called, became the capital of Jund al-Urdunn (Province of Jordan) during the Umayyad period, replacing Scythopolis-Bet She'an, which had been the provincial capital during the Byzantine period.

During the following centuries, under Islamic rule, Tiberias flourished greatly, undoubtedly because of its favorable position, allowing trade to and from the north and south as well as to and from the east.

The finds presented here are sphero-conical vessels, also called grenades or Greek Fire, that were unearthed during the excavations directed by the late Prof. Yizhar Hirschfeld in the heart of the Islamic city where the main mosque and a street with shops were situated. This presentation will discuss these vessel's find spots, typology, and use.

Sphero-conical vessels are well-known from later Medieval periods; they were found in Crusader, Ayyubid and Mamluk contexts and are well-researched. The importance of the sphero-conical vessels from Tiberias is their dating to the Fatimid period, which will also be discussed here. The plan of the city center, the shops with their various phases during this period, and their possible use will also be addressed.

Water supply network and sanitary hygienic installation in the medieval town Gabala (Northwestern part of Azerbaijan)

Jeyhun Eminli (Phd, Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, The National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. Head of Gabala Archaeological expedition during Antiquity and Middle Ages)

The paper discusses the territory of Salbir, part of the ancient and medieval town of Gabala. Salbir and to the south of it Gala, occupying 25 hectares, are located on a high plateau between two rivers. At the end of the 11th century, Salbir and Gala were divided into two areas by the 350m long ditch. Due to unknown reasons, to the north from the ditch the part of town called Salbir began to decline in the end of 11th and beginning of 12th century. Between the 9th and 11th centuries the city developed and many houses were built from burnt and mud bricks. The water supply of the town is of particular importance. Despite the large number of rivers and springs in the vicinity of the settlement, attention was given to the drinking water system. During the archaeological investigations in the Salbir site, water lines made from ceramic tubes have been found. The water lines were distributed in different directions within settlement. The water lines were sometimes run under the dwellings, but sometimes pass through the courtyards of the houses. It was clear that, in the sections running through courtyards, the pipes are run through open trenches. One of the main water lines of Salbir was run along the eastern edge of the settlement through the tunnels. The same system has been identified within the settlement. Although the ceramic pipes are almost the same in size, they differ in ornamentation, which can be thought of as different production workshops or orders. At the same time, the town's improvement in terms of sanitary and hygienic facilities was developed. The structures were prepared with closed channels made of burnt bricks or stone slabs, and deep pits were dug. The paper examines the water supply and sewerage system of the settlement, as well as some changes in the construction in the period near the end of life in Salbir.

A Forgotten Treasure: Evidence of a Hidden Hoard in 12th-Century al-Uxbuna

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Virgilio Enamorado (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Ricardo Ávila (Neoépica)

Paulo Rebelo (Neoépica)

Archaeological investigations within the medieval medina of Lisbon (*al-Uxbuna*) have revealed an unprecedented discovery in the context of *Garb al-Andalus*: a concealed treasure, likely abandoned in the wake of political and social upheavals of the 12th century. The assemblage, found carefully hidden within a domestic context, suggests a deliberate act of concealment, possibly by a household that was forced to flee, leaving behind valuables with the intention of later retrieval—a return that seemingly never occurred.

The material composition of the hoard, which includes ceramics, high-value metal pieces, and other personal artifacts, provides a rare glimpse into the socio-economic status of its owners, as well as the broader mercantile and cultural networks operating in *al-Uxbuna* prior to its incorporation into the Christian kingdom in 1147. Stratigraphic analysis and artifact typologies indicate a secure chronological framework, supporting the hypothesis that this deposit is linked to the period of transition following the Christian conquest of Lisbon.

This study examines the implications of such a discovery within the context of urban Islamic archaeology in *Garb al-Andalus*, comparing it to similar yet distinct hoarding behaviors observed in other medieval Islamic villages. The absence of analogous finds in the region underscores the uniqueness of this case, raising new questions about crisis behavior, wealth management, and the personal strategies of urban elites in moments of socio-political rupture. By integrating archaeological, historical, and epigraphic evidence, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of *al-Uxbuna*'s inhabitants at a pivotal moment in Iberian history.

Tabriz, Iran: The Great Tower of the fortress on the Rab'-e Rashidi site – an architectural import?

Dr. Christian Fuchs (Winterfuchs and German Archaeological Institute)

One of the focal points of a joint Irano-German research project conducted was the history and evolution of a Safavid fortification on the the Rab'-e Rashidi site in Tabriz in Northwestern Iran.

The fortification was built under Shah 'Abbas immediately after Iranian forces drove the Ottoman military out of Tabriz. The Ottoman had had occupied the city for roughly 15 years and the construction of the fortress was an immediate attempt to enforce the regional defensive capacities.

The fortification was built in several phases and also integrated previously existing structures, some of which presumably even of Ilkhanid origin. Yet, the so called Great Tower projecting from the defensive structure turned out to be the most enigmatic element of the fortification. Its dimensions of roughly 26 m in diameter and 12 m in height are enormous; the building type as a whole is entirely foreign to Iranian fortified architecture. The conducted research enabled us to understand the tower as clearly inspired by contemporary Ottoman and European military architecture. The paper is intended to highlight the results of the archaeology and the building archaeology and their correlation with contemporary written sources of the time.

Springs, castles, settlements – Preliminary Results of a survey at the Abu Jir springs in the Western Desert of Iraq

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Martina Müller-Wiener (Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin)

The Abu Jir lineament of some 210 springs lies on the north-eastern edge of the Arabian Desert in central Iraq, coinciding with the boundary between the fertile Mesopotamian floodplain and the Arabian Desert plateau. The archaeology and settlement chronology of the Abu Jir springs is poorly understood. A few sites have been recorded, such as Qusair South, Atshan and Ayn Tamr, but only brief documentation of the sites has been produced.

The paper presents the first results of an interdisciplinary project that deals with the archaeology of this in-between area, combining landscape archaeology, with its long-term perspective on the geomorphological characteristics of the sites, and Islamic archaeology, with its focus on settlement history. Traces of fortified structures and settlements indicate that the water supply from the springs has allowed human habitation for a long time, right up to the present day, especially during the period of transformations between the Sasanian and early Islamic periods. They also provide evidence that, depending on the historical-political context, the specific environmental conditions made this marginal zone a line of division, transition or connection.

Tracing the Lost Souk of al-Uxbun

José Pedro Henriques (Cota 80.86 and Instituto de Paleociências e Arqueologia, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa)

Tiago Pereira (Cota 80.86)

Catarina Parreira (Cota 80.86)

Vanessa Filipe (Cota 80.86 and Instituto de Paleociências e Arqueologia, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa)

Recent archaeological excavations near São Jorge Castle in Lisbon have uncovered compelling evidence that may point to the remains of the city's medieval souk (*al-Uxbuna*). The spatial organization of features, the high density of storage pits, and the associated material culture suggest a once-thriving marketplace that was abandoned in the 12th century. The artifacts recovered, including ceramics and trade-related items, align with the historical transition period of Lisbon's urban fabric. This study examines the stratigraphic context and material evidence to reassess the role of this sector in the city's medieval commercial landscape, shedding new light on the economic and social dynamics of *al-Uxbuna* before its decline.

The Archaeology of the Syrian Hajj in Central Jordan: New Evidence from Khirbat al-Balu'a

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New York University

Khirbat al-Balu'a is a multiperiod site on the northern Karak Plateau in central Jordan with an occupation spanning the Early Bronze Age through the Ottoman period. Since 2022, the Balu'a Regional Archaeology Project (BRAP) Islamic Village Excavations have investigated the large (ca. 3.5 ha) Middle-Late Islamic period village in the southwestern portion of the site. The first season of excavations focused on a large, square building (ca. 40 x 40 m) with a central courtyard, which we identify as a medieval khan/road inn. These excavations revealed early Ottoman period (ca. 16th-17th century AD) remodeling and reuse of the structure for storage, interpreted as evidence of agricultural intensification as the hajj route was moved eastward from the Karak Plateau into the desert. The second season of excavations has continued work in the Khan to reveal earlier phases of use and construction and has expanded excavations into a nearby domestic structure. This paper uses data from these excavations to clarify our understanding of the Khan's construction, identification, and functions, to explore the ways in which the village facilitated movement through the Karak Plateau, particularly in the context of the Mamluk period hajj, and to evaluate socioeconomic shifts in the village of Khirbat al-Balu'a between the 13th and 17th centuries AD, notably its changing relationship to travel on the nearby King's Highway.

A preliminary look at the Islamic ceramics of the Nahla Valley, Northern Iraq / Iraqi-Kurdistan

Johannes Köhler

(Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin)

In 2023 and 2024 as part of the Nahla Valley Archaeological Project, a pedestrian survey was conducted in the Nahla Valley in the Kurdish Autonomous Region of Northern Iraq by the Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań. This valley is part of the Zagros foothills and lies north of the Erbil plain and close to the Turkish-Iraqi border. Although remote and limited in accessibility, the valley appears to have been inhabited in the Middle and Late Islamic and Ottoman periods. A variety of site types from villages, caves to graveyards attest to the presence and final rest of people there and these were documented during fieldwork. In addition, ceramics were collected on the sites during both seasons as part of a representative site inventory documentation of ceramic assemblages, small finds, and other site objects. Among the collected ceramics, a range of common ware, cooking pots and glazed wares, in mostly local or regional styles seemingly dominate. These were variously constructed as wheel-thrown or 'handmade' containers. Some of the more distinct decoration and glazing techniques are reminiscent of broader technical developments in West Asia and help in a preliminary dating of the presence they attest in the valley. This paper will present a first preliminary look at some of the results from this survey and specifically the documented ceramics.

The latest dating of Christian sacral architecture in Iraqi Kurdistan – results of radiocarbon research

Xenia Kolińska

Project NAHLA, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań/Present and Past Foundation

For the first time in the Middle East, the radiocarbon method was used to date mortars from previously unknown religious buildings located in the Nahla Valley in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Twenty-three dates from four churches located in Nahla and five similar objects from the neighboring Akre district were obtained as part of the Nahla Archaeological Project implemented in 2023–2025.

The obtained dates range from the 6th century AD to the Ottoman period; some of them refer to the restoration or reconstruction of earlier buildings. Thanks to these results, it is possible to put the sacral architecture of the region, previously known from the cursory notes collected by J. M. Fiey in *Assyrie chrétienne*, in a historical sequence. New data on these monuments allows us to effectively seek answers to the following questions: When did the Christianization of the valley occur? When were the religious buildings documented during the Nahla project built and how did this architecture develop? And in a broader perspective: How did Christians manage the new space not only ideologically but also economically?

Medieval and post-Medieval cultural landscapes in Nahla Valley (Northern Iraq)

Rafał Koliński

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Since 2023 the Nahla Valley, located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is being investigated by an international team in the framework of the research project 2022/45/B/HS3/03501 awarded by the National Science Centre. Medieval and post-Medieval settlement in the area is one of two focal points of the project.

The fieldwork, carried out during two field seasons (2023-2024) has been planned on the basis of published information, analysis of available satellite imagery and complemented by interviews in modern villages. The field activities revealed a multi-dimensional and complex settlement system, composed of at least 35 historic villages, most of which were subsequently documented. The settlement was based on garden agriculture that was possible due to ample local water resources (springs) enhanced by irrigation network as well as animal husbandry. Settlements, among houses and household structures, revealed presence of public structures (first of all churches, but mosques and *khans* as well) and are accompanied by numerous industrial structures (especially water mills) and cemeteries. Collected pottery and radiocarbon dates based on charcoal encapsulated in calcium mortar used to erect stone-built churches reveal, that some of villages may have been founded even in the pre-Islamic era. However most of the registered evidence is pertinent to the Middle and Late Islamic/Ottoman period.

The Umayyad palace garden at Medina Azahara

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Despite the paucity of remains, the landscape design of the agricultural orchard of the Umayyad city of Medina Azahara, built in the mid-10th century CE by the Umayyad dynasty as the seat of the Córdoba Caliphate, can be reasonably reconstructed. The existence of sufficient evidence about the palace itself, but above all enough remains of the planting holes and irrigation channels, makes it possible to at least grasp the structure of the garden. The garden is presumably composed of fruit trees and other lower shrubs, and its structure is similar to that of some gardens in Morocco today. The garden's layout is characterised by an extensive grid-like configuration, demarcated by the customary high wall that constitutes the garden's perimeter.

The existence of gateways and the presence of caesuras can be deduced, as can the relationship of the agricultural complex that directly surrounded the palace, within which a further, actual decorative garden can be assumed. The elevated site above the Guadalquivir river also allows the palace and garden to be reconstructed in their landscape context. The juxtaposition of the undulating topography and the meticulously grid-like planting is indicative of a high degree of economisation in the planning, while simultaneously, the overall design manifests a remarkable level of aesthetic quality. The project was executed in close collaboration with the Madrid department of the German Archaeological Institute.

Tracing Culinary Practices in al-Andalus: Organic Residue Analysis of 10th- Century Ceramics from Tózar (Granada)

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This paper presents the first organic residue analysis (ORA) of ceramic assemblages from the 10th-century rural site of Tózar (Granada, southern Iberia), associated with the Christian communities living under Islamic rule. The study forms part of a wider effort to understand the culinary transformations during the so-called "Islamic Green Revolution", which introduced new crops, techniques, and dietary habits into the western Mediterranean.

Through high-resolution ORA, this research explores the use of cooking wares to reconstruct patterns of food preparation and consumption. The vessels analysed include diverse forms and fabrics, revealing differential use and resource allocation. The chemical identification of lipids has yielded evidence for primary animal fats, dairy processing, and a variety of plant-derived ingredients, some potentially linked to new agricultural introductions of the Islamic period.

These findings not only shed light on the daily practices of Christian rural communities in al-Andalus, but also allow us to explore broader processes of cultural interaction and ecological adaptation. We emphasize the potential of ORA to reveal subtle aspects of culinary identity and cultural hybridity at a micro-scale. The methodological framework developed here also draws on comparative material from other Islamic contexts, including Sicily, highlighting parallels and divergences in foodways across the Mediterranean.

By integrating chemical, archaeological, and historical data, this paper contributes to the understanding of Islamic-period material culture and offers a new perspective on the intersection of daily life, agriculture, and identity in medieval Iberia.

Defining the Early Islamic strata at Musti (El-Krib), northern Tunisia: an attempt at high-resolution archaeology

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Chokri el-Touihri (Institut National du Patrimoine)

Monika Badura (University of Gdańsk – Faculty of Biology)

Urszula Iwaszczuk (Polish Academy of Science - Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures)

Magdalena Moskal-del Hoyo (Polish Academy of Science – Institute of Botany)

Karin Apolinarska (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań - Depositional Systems Research Unit)

Jamel Hajji (Institut National du Patrimoine)

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Between the mid-7th and early 9th centuries, North Africa's urban centers underwent profound structural transformations. A key aspect of this shift was the reconfiguration of commercial spaces, which traditionally lined the principal streets of cities. However, this process remains relatively obscure, as Early Islamic layers were long overlooked in archaeological research.

The excavations in sector L2 B3 at Musti (northern Tunisia) provide crucial insights into this transformation, benefiting from undisturbed stratigraphy securely dated by a reliable radiocarbon sequence. The evidence suggests that during the Early Islamic period, the area formerly occupied by Late Antique shops was repurposed as a refuse dump linked to agro- pastoral activities. This indicates a shift in urban organization, where earlier functional divisions were disregarded in favor of pragmatic adaptations by Musti' inhabitants.

The well-defined ceramic assemblage from the site offers an uninterrupted chronological sequence spanning from the Roman period to at least the 12th century. This sequence serves as a valuable foundation for studying both the little-understood local coarse wares and the terminal phases of regional African Red Slip Ware production. Particularly noteworthy is the identification of 8th-century layers—an exceptionally rare and underexplored context in Tunisian archaeology.

This study also integrates ceramic analysis with a broad range of environmental studies, including carpological, anthracological, malacological, and faunal evidence, offering a holistic perspective on the site's economic and ecological history.

Networks and Ceramic Production between the 9th and 11th Centuries: A Comparative Study in the Kūra of Ilbīra (Southeast Iberian Peninsula)

Cristina Martínez-Álvarez

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Over the last decades, various approaches and methods have been developed to determine the local or imported origin of ceramics found in different settlements of the Andalusí territory. These studies have demonstrated that a comprehensive and multidisciplinary analysis of ceramics provides valuable insights into trade networks and production traditions.

This paper presents the results of recent archaeometric analyses carried out on six ceramic assemblages from both rural and urban sites in the Kūra of Ilbīra. The characterization of unglazed ceramics was conducted through petrographic analysis of thin sections, while the chemical composition of pastes and glazes was determined using a scanning electron microscope equipped with an energy dispersive spectrometer (SEM-EDS).

The primary aim is to examine the characteristics of these productions by confronting technological traditions with the emergence of new cultural patterns. This will enhance our understanding of ceramic technology in the Kūra of Ilbīra between the 9th and 11th centuries, identifying potential production workshops and their distribution networks. Additionally, this study seeks to determine the level of involvement of rural and urban settlements in different commercial circuits during the Early Andalusí period.

On the relationship between mosques and khan's(caravanserais): A new perspective to understanding settlement in Palestine's rural areas and the periphery during the Medieval Islamic period.

Abd el -razeq Matani

ATIQ for antiquities and heritage

This research explores the relationship between mosques and Khan (caravanserais) in Palestine during the medieval Islamic period, offering a new perspective on understanding settlement patterns and development in rural and peripheral areas of Palestine by examining the relationship between Muslim religious sites and Khan.

Palestine experienced a significant urban revival during the Mamluk era, which included the construction of Khan's and markets; Khan was used as lodging for Muslim visitors, travelers, and merchants. A network of Khan was established in Palestine early in the Mamluk period, following the Mamluks' defeat of the Crusaders, and soon evolved into important economic-cultural centers.

Research on Khan often focuses on the functional and architectural aspects of the buildings. However, an in-depth study of Khan and their relationship to religious buildings, such as mosques built within or near Khan, could provide valuable insights into historical, political, and social aspects during the study period and contribute to understanding settlement development in the region.

The study will investigate a selection of Khan to identify the reasons for differences in their architectural features and their relationship with the surrounding environment.

We will attempt to understand why specific locations were chosen for building Khan outside cities and whether these choices were based solely on traveler's needs or other factors. Additionally, the study will explore how these choices affected the development of rural life.

This research will rely on field surveys of Khan and their immediate surroundings and extensive readings of waqf records and contemporary historical sources.

The water of the Alhambra and the hydraulic lifting system of the almunias of the Dehesa del Generalife (Granada, Spain)

Luca Mattei (Universidad de Granada, Spain)

Luis José García-Pulido (Escuela de Estudios Árabes (EEA, LAAC), Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Granada, Spain)

Water has been and remains an intrinsic part of the Cultural Landscape of the Alhambra palace, connected to the Darro River valley as a permanent source of water supply. This was made possible by Muhammad I, who built the Royal Canal and a network of other water distribution canals alongside highly complex hydraulic structures.

The Nasrid monarch Muhammad V built the almunias of Dar al-'Arusa and Qasr al-Disar. To ensure irrigation for these royal estates, built at a higher level than the Royal Canal, a sophisticated water-lifting system was developed consisting of two linked wells approximately 60 m deep that accessed long underground galleries. Using a system similar to an inverse qanat, they allowed water to be pumped up from the royal irrigation ditch located 130 meters below and stored in a large pool of water located at the highest point of the Dehesa del Generalife. From here, through a complex system of underground pipelines, the water reached the two aforementioned almunias.

This work presents a wealth of archaeological data available to date from excavations and prospecting, as well as the hypotheses that can be formulated regarding the functioning of this hydraulic system. It is surely the most daring, largest, and most technically difficult of those built in al-Andalus.

The Landscape of Marivan in the Islamic period

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Marivan has had several political ups and downs, transformations, and upheavals, frequently brought on by the presence of the local rulers and nomads or by political disputes between the great emperors and their governments. According to Islamic sources, the Baban and Ardalan rulers used Marivan Castle as one of their governmental locations for three centuries. Before the completion of further investigations in 2021, our understanding of the cultural landscape of the Islamic period in Marivan County was primarily derived from the excavation of the Imam Castle site. Numerous sites from the prehistoric to the late Islamic eras were discovered during two seasons of archaeological surveys carried out in Marivan County in 2021 and 2023. Of these, 129 sites—including a large number of mounds, cemeteries, and fortresses—were ascribed to the early to late Islamic eras. The identification of sites from the Islamic period was based on pottery findings and inscribed tombstones. This article's primary goal is to examine the region's historical geography and provide insight into its political, cultural, and religious developments. The cultural discoveries pertaining to Marivan County's Islamic era are then presented. Lastly, the study looks at how human-made and environmental elements affect the patterns of settlement dispersal in space. The findings suggest that a unique kind of regional pottery exists in the area in addition to the characteristic Islamic pottery, which should be considered in upcoming regional research. Additionally, the spatial distribution of settlements shows that human-made features, such as roadways, were important in determining settlement sites in addition to environmental variables,

including the region's physical structure and proximity to water sources. Furthermore, the large number of castles from the area's Islamic era indicates political activities that have occurred there.

The Sasanian incantation bowls and their early Islamic contexts

Hagit Nol

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

Incantation bowls from around Iraq have been studied since the mid-19th century, chiefly by Jewish studies scholars. Most of the published or known specimens (circa 900 examples by the end of the 20th century) derive from other methods than stratigraphic excavations and can be found in museums and collections in the region or in Europe. The texts are written with black ink in Aramaic/Hebrew, Syriac, Mandaic, Pahlavi or Arabic. The incantations are private, produced for a person or a household, with a message to the demons. The limited published excavations show that most objects were found inside structures or in cemeteries, deposited either upside down or in pairs. Historians of incantation texts date them between the 4th and the 7th or the 5th and the 8th century. These dates, however, stand in strong contrast to archaeological contexts of excavated bowls which distinctly point to the 7th or 8th century, never to an earlier date. The Sasanian origin of the bowls, therefore, seems to originate in an early assumption and to its repetition. This talk will present the archaeological data from published excavations, their archaeological dating, their possible use and production process, and their relation to the Islamicate world.

Morphology of the Early to Middle Islamic-Period Agricultural Settlements in Iraqi Kurdistan: new results

Karel Nováček

Palacký University Olomouc

The architecture and spatial organization of villages are among the long-stagnated topics of Islamic archaeology in Mesopotamia. However, in the last five years, more than a dozen cases of deserted agricultural settlements of the early and middle Islamic period have been collected, the structure and built environment of which can be reconstructed fairly well using surface mapping and geophysical prospection. The sites are located in the plains and mountains of the Erbil Governorate. The results of their investigation show a remarkable variety of atomized and nucleated settlements in terms of size, internal organization, architecture, spatial connection to identifiable economic areas and water management.

Despite the significant limitations given by the absence of precisely documented excavated situations and the difficulties in comparing surface and subsurface preserved structural relics, the study of these and other examples can bring new dynamics to the research of the rural social environment, livelihoods and economy in the late pre-Islamic period and the first centuries of Islam.

The Abbasid North Atlantic? Repositioning Ireland and Britain in their global context, c.750–1000 CE

Dr Russell Ó Ríagáin

School of History, University of St Andrews

This paper explores the impact that the Abbasid Revolution and what might be termed the Abbasid–Samanid consumer boom had on the North Atlantic, c.750–1000CE.

It will begin with the mid-eighth-century-CE fall-off of certain forms of pottery from the eastern Mediterranean, northern Africa and Aquitaine in archaeological contexts in Ireland and western Britain is so sharp that it serves as a higher-resolution chronological marker than radiocarbon when found in Insular contexts. The causes of this decline have not received due attention, despite signifying the final decline of the late antique Atlantic Arc Network, involving the movement of material-culture, raw materials, people and ideas through direct and indirect chains of interaction. The Umayyad expansion into Iberia, and subsequent confinement of their power base to the western Mediterranean during the high-point of Abbasid power represent obvious but under-explored explanations.

The paper will then move to a second network, involving flows of silver, slaves and luxury goods indicated mainly by the appearance/disappearance *darāhim* in archaeological contexts in Ireland, Britain, Iceland and Norway, c.800–1000, demonstrating on how Central-/West-Asian socio-political events and processes shaped the phasing of the so-called Insular ‘Viking Age’.

Plant remains from Islamic sites in Spain: new crops, new tastes

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The present paper focuses on the recent archaeobotanical research carried out in several Islamic sites across the Iberian Peninsula, which forms part of a larger ERC project (MEDAPP: Medieval Appetites: food plants in multicultural Iberia, 500-1100 CE). The aim of the present study is to discuss the range of crops cultivated in Iberia, identifying novelties and continuities, and therefore discussing agriculture and plant diet. The archaeobotanical analysis reveals that Islamic farmers cultivated a diverse array of cereals, legumes, vegetables, and fruits. Some of these, including wheat, barley, and legumes, had been cultivated in the preceding Roman period and continued to be so. However, from the 11th century CE onwards, the archaeobotanical record, as evidenced by data from diverse contexts, beginning, commences to document the emergence of novel crops such as rice, pearl millet, apricot, aubergine, and citrus fruits. While some of these had previously been documented by A. Watson in his seminal work, *The Arab Agricultural Revolution*, others remained uncharted. Of particular interest is represented by a particular type of context: the cliff granaries. These are artificial caves excavated at high altitude cliffs and used as storage places by Islamic communities in different regions in Iberia. Plant material in these granaries is preserved by desiccation providing exciting results, and the possibility of identifying new plant species hitherto unknown in Iberia.

Excavations in the Old City of Mosul- the Masafi Mosque and Minaret

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This presentation will discuss recent archaeological excavations carried out in the centre of the Old City of Mosul. The excavations were carried out as part of a programme of conservation and rebuilding programme funded by ALIPH as part of the Mosul Mosaic Initiative. The Masafi mosque is located on a high point overlooking the Tigris in an area which was largely destroyed during the ISIS occupation and subsequent battles to regain the city. The excavations had two main purposes, firstly to investigate the structure of the building to provide information relevant to its reconstruction and secondly to provide information on its history as it is locally believed to be the oldest mosque in Mosul. The first excavation was carried out in the courtyard of the mosque revealing traces of an earlier structure as well as a large pit. The second area excavation was carried out around the minaret which is located at a distance of over 100 metres from the mosque itself. The excavations revealed several construction phases which indicate that the minaret was added to an earlier building. In addition burials discovered at both sites give a unique insight into the urban history of Mosul.

Living in Late Antique rural Sicily, between Byzantium and Islam: Preliminary results of the first season of excavation at Terravecchia di Caltavuturo (Palermo, Italy)

Dr. Nicolò Pini

Université libre de Bruxelles - CReA-Patrimoine/Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS

The archaeological site of Terravecchia di Caltavuturo is a fortified settlement occupying the summit of the hill (ca. 703 m a.s.l.) dominating the modern town of Caltavuturo (Palermo, Italy), on the south-westernmost limit of the Madonie region. The site appears to have been a particularly important stronghold during the Islamic period, probably re-occupying a preexisting Byzantine site, and is a privileged case study to investigate the transitional Byzantine-Islamic period in rural Sicily. In the light of its long occupation, the site is also relevant to study later periods, notably the Norman and Swabian.

In fact, Terravecchia di Caltavuturo – whose size is still uncertain but has visible ruins in an area of around 10 ha – was inhabited continuously from the 10th (probably even earlier) until the 15th century, when a gradual decline began, leading to its definitive abandonment in the 18th century. The site is mentioned in several Arab historical sources, but only limited archaeological fieldwork has been conducted, in particular in respect to its Islamic phases of occupation.

Thanks to a major grant from the Barakat Trust, an archaeological project specifically addressing the Islamic occupation of Caltavuturo was launched by the Université libre de Bruxelles in collaboration with the Soprintendenza per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali di Palermo, the local administration of Caltavuturo and the archaeological service Arkeos.

The paper intends to illustrate the preliminary results of the first investigations, which will also be the basis for a broader archaeological project covering the hinterland of the site.

Date presses of Al Zubarah

Ferhan Sakal

Qatar Museums Authority, Doha, Qatar

Located NW coast of Qatar, Al Zubarah is the largest archaeological site in the country. The fortified settlement houses mosques, palaces, courtyard houses, streets, cemeteries, a canal, and a marketplace (suq). The latter was subject to excavations first time during the 1980s by a Qatari mission led by Al Khulaifi which was only partly published. The area contained beside storage rooms from the later occupation of the town also over 30 date presses (sing. madbasa, pl. madabis) directly under the storage rooms dating to the mid-18th century, the main occupation of Al Zubarah. Later excavations by the Qatar Islamic Archaeology and Heritage (QIAH) Project found a further 20 date presses south of the Al Khulafi excavations, increasing the total to over 50. While Al Khulaifi excavations were never restudied and never fully understood, QIAH Project excavations presented a well-organized commercial area with date presses built mirrored along a main street.

Recent small-scale excavations in the area excavated by Al Khulaifi yield enlightening information about the organization and design of the date presses and the suq. This paper will present the results of these excavations and compare different reconstructions of Al Zubarah Suq with the current archaeological data.

Domestic architecture, water installations and architectural decoration in the Andalusi neighbourhood of Almería (Spain)

Elena Salinas, School of Arabic Studies, The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Granada, Spain,

Belén Alemán (Yacimiento Arqueológico Barrio Andalusí, Almería Council, Almería, Spain)

At the end of the 11th or beginning of the 12th century, the urban development of the madina of al-Mariyya (Almería, south-east of Spain) changed. A new residential quarter was created at the foot of the citadel and within the city walls. This block of houses was built on a vacant lot that had previously been used as a storage area with silos and water wells. This expansion coincided with one of the medieval city's greatest periods of economic activity, when Almería exported its products, mainly silk fabrics, to the Mediterranean, sub-Saharan Africa and the southern Atlantic.

The urban design of this new neighbourhood included the construction of new streets and water and sewerage systems in an area with a semi-desert climate and low rainfall. The houses are semi-detached and staggered to adapt to the terrain. They also have the peculiarity of having some rooms dug into the rock (cave houses). The layout of the house is typical Andalusi (courtyard house), around which the rest of the rooms are distributed, mainly bedrooms, living room and latrine. In addition, these houses are richly decorated architecturally, with elements of marble, stucco and plasterwork.

This, together with the richness of the material culture found, indicates a high level of consumption by the inhabitants of this part of the city.

Red Sea Trade and Islamic Port Cities: Archaeological Evidence from Aylah (Aqaba) and Quseir al-Qadim

Sirajuddin Shaikh

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Through the Red Sea Islamic civilization established crucial trade links connecting the Islamic regions with western Africa while maintaining commercial ties with India and the entire Indian Ocean trading zone. The author analyze historical records from Islamic-period trading hubs Aylah (present-day Aqaba in Jordan) and Quseir al-Qadim in Egypt to understand their maritime trade functions from the 7th to the 13th centuries CE. The study implements material culture analysis to examine excavated ceramic objects along with amphorae and glassware and numismatic artifacts for understanding trade operations and economic establishment in addition to merchant processes. The research investigates goods transportation and cultural exchange through serial excavation reports, secondary pottery laboratory testing and analysis and the study of the Geniza documents. Early research results show Aylah maintained its position as an important junction for Levant-Hijaz merchandise transfers during the same period when Quseir al-Qadim operated as an entry point for Indian Ocean commercial goods. The Abbasid and Fatimid political dominance resulted in variations both in luxury imports along with changes to the ceramic pottery assemblages. The research unifies archaeological with evidentiary texts to produce a wider perception of maritime trade systems during the Islamic era as well as the developmental elements that sustained ocean routes. Results from this study demonstrate how early Islamic commercial landscapes depended on Red Sea port activation as it reveals new perspectives on global economic relationships for the period.

Early Islamic Coins, Weights, and Brass on Sumatra's West Coast

Tori Nuariza Sutanto, Muhammad Sidiq Hidayah Ma'ruf, Abu Bakar, Muhammad Faizurrahman

Sultanate Institute

The west coast of Sumatra was a crucial hub for maritime trade linking the Islamic world, South Asia, and East Asia between the 7th and 10th centuries AD. Recent excavations at the Bongal site, a significant port along these trade routes, have uncovered a collection of Islamic coins, weights, and brass artifacts, offering critical insights into the region's role in early Islamic economic networks.

Key discoveries include coins from the Umayyad and Abbasid periods, confirming direct economic exchanges with the Islamic world. These coins not only served as trade currency but also indicate the adoption of Islamic monetary systems, reflecting broader commercial integration. Their dating aligns with carbon-dated organic materials and other archaeological evidence, confirming the site's active use during this period.

Islamic weights and measurement tools reveal a structured trade system, highlighting standardized practices that ensured fair transactions. The presence of these regulated systems illustrates the influence of Islamic economic principles in regional commerce, fostering trust in long-distance trade.

Furthermore, Islamic brass objects recovered from the Bongal site reflect the flow of luxury and utilitarian goods from the Islamic heartlands to regions beyond. Their presence underscores the cultural and economic interconnectedness that facilitated the spread of Islamic material culture across the Indian Ocean.

This research combines archaeological findings with historical sources to analyze the contributions of Islamic coins, weights, and brass to Sumatra's early economic landscape. By contextualizing these discoveries within the broader Indian Ocean trade network, the study highlights the pivotal role of Sumatra's west coast as a key node in trans-regional maritime commerce and the dissemination of Islamic economic practices during the early medieval period.

Byzantine – Islamic Transition at Nessana, Negev: First Fieldwork Results

Yana Tchekhanovets

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The ancient site of Nessana is located in the south-western Negev, on the Israeli–Egyptian border. Established during the Hellenistic period, Nessana became a Late Roman garrison site, and reached its peak in the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods (fifth–seventh centuries CE), when it served as a main caravan hub on the way of Christian pilgrims traveling from the Holy Land to Mount Sinai. Two archaeological expeditions worked at the site during the 20th c., exposing numerous public and private structures, and two precious archives of papyri, dated to the 6th – 7th cc.

New project, started in 2022, focuses on problematics of the archaeology of pilgrimage, and concentrates in previously unexcavated areas of the site. First fieldwork results will be presented, with a special attention on the Umayyad period remains.

Mamluk glassmaker's furnace and glass bracelets from 14th century Cairo

Dr Tanja Tolar (Independent scholar), Prof Stephane Pradines (Aga Khan University, London)

In 1998, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture decided to create a huge panoramic park in the heart of Islamic Cairo. During the landscaping phase, in 1999, the discovery of the 12th-century historic City Wall built by Salah ed-Din presented an opportunity for AKTC to set up a scientific cooperation in 2000 with the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology and the Ministry of Egyptian Antiquities to study the Ayyubid wall. Directed by Stéphane Pradines, the archaeological mission's first aim was to establish a history of Cairo's fortifications. The project was a rescue or salvage excavation, and it was an opportunity to study all the urban medieval fabric in Cairo spanning a period of almost 1,000 years including Fatimid mud bricks fortifications, Mamluk workshops, domestic architecture, hydraulic systems, Mamluk funerary remains.

The excavation yielded numerous artifacts, including glassware and evidence of glass production, with the discovery of a 14th-century glassmaker's kiln. In total, 550 glass fragments were uncovered, displaying a variety of shapes and sizes, the majority of which date to the Mamluk period (1250–1517). Among these fragments, 68 pieces were confidently identified as parts of glass bracelets. Additionally, a smaller collection of fragments likely represents by-products from the on-site production of these bracelets. The discovery of glass bangles, ingots, and slag glass associated with the kiln is significant, as it allows for the precise dating of a glass factory located in the heart of Mamluk Cairo.

**Arab-Byzantine and Umayyad Coins from the Marea / Philoxenite, Egypt.
State of Research for 2022-2025**

Barbara Zając

National Museum in Kraków

Archaeological research at Marea / Philoxenite near Alexandria in Egypt, has been carried out since 2000 by the Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology, the University of Warsaw and the Archaeological Museum in Kraków. For now, more than 9,000 coins have been discovered at the site, including a small number of Ptolemaic and Roman issues, Late Roman minimi and Byzantine coins. The finds also include a group of Arab-Byzantine coins struck after the Arab conquest of Egypt in AD 640, as well as Umayyad coins that were in circulation after the monetary reform of 'Abd al-Malik ibn Marwān in AD 696/7. The presentation will outline the state of research for 2022-2025 on the Marea / Philoxenite Arabic coin finds.

DCAA archaeological survey works Hatta (Dubai, UAE), The Discovery of Late Islamic Periods Sites

Hassan Zein, Mansour Boraik, Bader Al Ali
Dubai Culture & Arts Authority

Since the last 4 years, DCAA begun a program to survey Hatta mountains. The survey works were conducted in the western area of Hatta where many archaeological sites have been found. The sites are scattered in the valleys between El-Hajer Mountain. Most of the surveyed sites are independent villages date back to the late Islamic Periods (17-19 Century AD). Each village comprises of houses, courtyards, and animal barns, some of these villages have water. graveyard and agriculture terraces. The houses have one or two bedrooms called "Kheda," constructed with shipped stones and partially dug into the ground to control temperature, accessed by staircases. Additionally, the agricultural terraces were constructed using stones from the nearby area, and some of these terraces feature a complex irrigation canal system. The DCAA conducted survey operations extending into the protected area located to the west of Hatta. This area features many stone buildings, terraced fields, and a graveyard with forty small graves from the late Islamic Era. The survey work in this area identified several stone boulders that contain rock art. The petroglyphs on these boulders have different kinds of inscriptions. The preliminary study of this boulder art showed that most of them date back to the Bronze and Iron Ages. Different types of pottery sherds were collected during the survey, most of them date back to late Islamic period. The Hatta survey enhanced our understanding of Hatta's ancient history and the Emirate of Dubai.

