

Recycling the Valley. Preliminary report of the 2012 excavations at Tell Damiyah

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Recent archaeological and associated research has demonstrated intriguing short-term occupation activities in the Central Jordan Valley during the first millennium BC (e.g. Petit 2009a, and references therein). Being exceptional in Near Eastern-archaeology and even beyond, this remarkable pattern of sedentary occupation forces scientists to widen their geographical scope in order to understand how people in antiquity interacted with the surrounding areas. Inhabitants with a sedentary way of life were avowedly involved in a continuing process of migration and return migration to search for the most favourite areas. Due to a lack of research in the foothills and on the plateau directly east of the Central Jordan Valley, archaeologist can only guess where the migrating people went to in times of difficulties. The project Recycling the Valley, initiated by the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities, intends to investigate the ways in which the valley was recycled by inhabitants during the Iron Age II and Persian Periods (c. 950-330 BC). Furthermore, it will try to raise public awareness about the value of archaeological sites in vulnerable areas in modern Jordan. Recycling the valley was not solely a significant issue for inhabitants in antiquity, but is still relevant today.

(Start of an article in *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* - 2013)