
Canaanese Blade Knapping Waste Pit from Fazael 4, Israel

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Résumé

A recently excavated Early Bronze Age IB Canaanese blade knapping pit, located at Fazael 4, Israel, is presented. Following a detailed analysis of the waste characteristics we suggest a reconstruction of the chaîne opératoire of the Canaanese blade production at the site. We further discuss the evident variability within the regional Canaanese industry, in view of the technological conservatism found at the Fazael 4 site; the distribution trajectories and the nature of trade or exchange among Canaanese blade workshops and "consumer sites"; and the extent of independence versus elite control over specialized workshops during the Early Bronze Age. To date, studies of only a few sites containing Canaanese industry knapping waste have been published, emphasizing the importance of this site. The Fazael 4 waste pit analysis offers insights into the last highly complex and sophisticated flint technology of the southern Levant.

Mots-Clés: Canaanese blades technology, knapping pit, specialization and exchange, Early Bronze Age, southern Levant

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