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MÉMOIRES ET TRAVAUX - ARCHÉOLOGIE ET SCIENCES DE L'ANTIQUITÉ ET DU MOYEN ÂGE

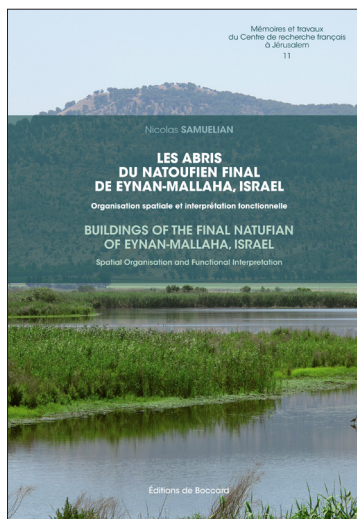
Nicolas Samuelian, *Les abris du Natoufien final de Mallaha-Eynan, Israël*

Organisation spatiale et interprétation fonctionnelle

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The new excavations at Eynan-Mallaha (Israel), which began in 1996 under the supervision of F. R. Valla and H. Khalaily, focused on the Final Natufian, the last level of occupation of the site. This cultural phase was then generally understood as corresponding to a return to a more mobile lifeway. The excavations put in evidence several stone constructions linked to domestic structures, along with large quantities of material and burials similar to those seen in previous periods. The stone constructions that were uncovered might have differed in function. Some were possibly used as houses, whereas others might have had another function that remains to be identified. The study presented here examines two similar and well-preserved structures that probably functioned as houses. In order



to discover possible contrasts in terms of internal and external organization, material from a sample of the surrounding layer (stony layer) was examined. A detailed spatial analysis of all of the materials (flint, basalt, fauna, etc.), including the smallest fragments associated with these explicit features contribute to a dynamic approach of living floors that is reminiscent of the tradition of prehistoric technology. This approach allowed for the identification of work stations and helps in understanding the organization of space within these buildings. This work led to the identification of flintknapping stations, as well as areas associated with grinding activities or the processing of animal carcasses, etc. Outside of the dwelling structures activities were less performed and space not structured.

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