



Joe D. Seger Grants

Donor Impact Packet



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\$22,500 Total
Awarded
to 9 Archaeological
Projects Since 2018

**2 Grants of
\$2,500 each
awarded in
2024**

Khaled Abu Jayyab

University of Toronto
Paths to Urban Growth in the Nineveh Plain



This ASOR grant supports the conducting of a systematic site survey and an exploratory step trench at the site of Tell ‘Arna/Gogjeli in northern Iraq. Tell ‘Arna is a medium sized possible Neolithic/Chalcolithic site (5800-3800 BC) located in the suburb of Gogjeli on the southeastern outskirts of the modern city of Mosul in the Ninawa Governate, Iraq.

An initial visit in 2023 prompted us to apply for a permit as part of the greater Paths to Urban Growth in the Nineveh Plain project (PUG) that aims to understand proto-urban developments and population aggregation that took place in the region during the Late Chalcolithic. The efforts of this project include exploring past assumptions about trajectories towards complexity through targeted excavations at Tepe Gawra and Tell ‘Arna, and carrying out a regional survey in collaboration with our partners at the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH).





For our first season at Tell 'Arna we aimed to establish an accurate periodization and understand the extent of the site during each period of occupation. We excavated a step trench along the southern slope of the mound. Materials recovered included ceramics, stone tools, clay objects, and biological remains. Organic samples from the various levels of occupation have been sent for radiometric dating. To address the settlement size for each period we carried out systematic surface collection of the site. Our approach consisted of combining remote sensing data with field walking to obtain a more complete picture on the cultural and physical surroundings of the site. Prior to our work in the field, we explored the landscape around the site using satellite imagery (Corona, Hexagon, and Landsat) for two main goals.



Asil Yaman

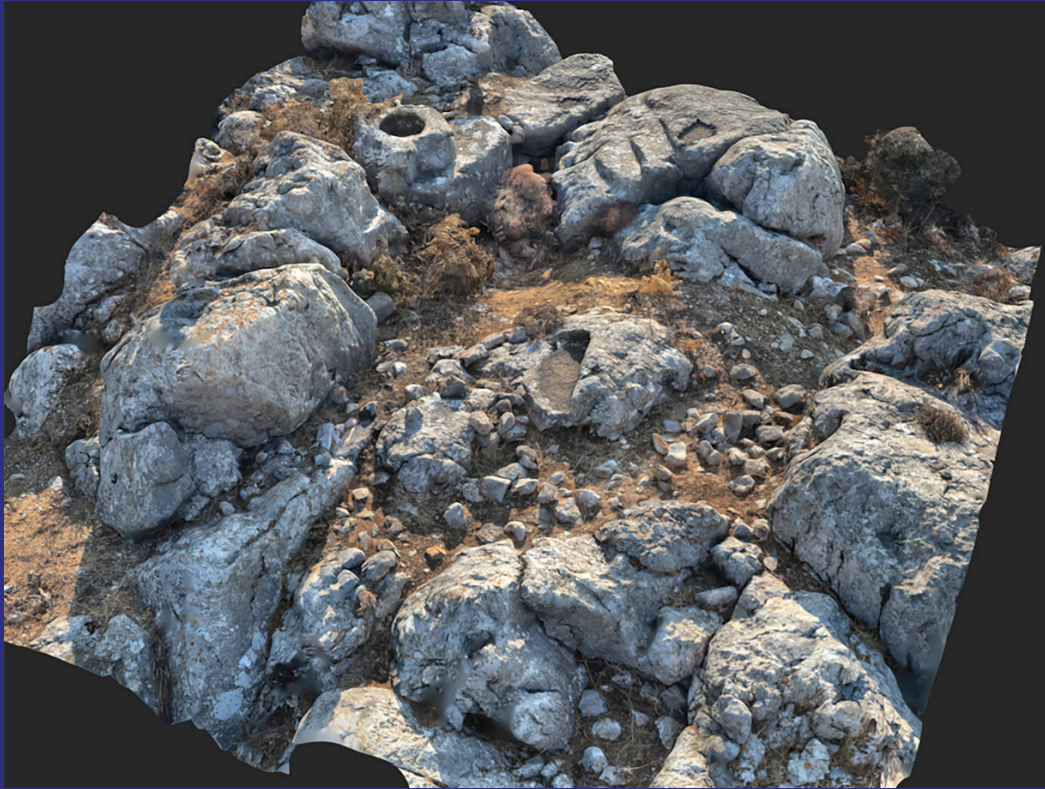
University of Pennsylvania

Phoenix Archaeological Project



The Phoenix Archaeological Project (PAP), established in 2021 under the direction of Dr. Asil Yaman, is an interdisciplinary research initiative with permits from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey. Based in Muğla province's Marmaris district, the project focuses on the archaeological survey of ancient Phoenix and neighboring sites such as Thysannous and Casara. Supported by the Joe D. Seger Project Grant, PAP aims to document the region's tangible and intangible cultural heritage while contributing to the preservation of its landscape. The project's diverse international team includes experts in archaeology and other disciplines.

The 2024 field season focused on documenting previously unexplored heritage in Phoenix's eastern and northern chora. The team uncovered in-situ farmsteads and olive oil workshops from the 4th century BCE, along with agricultural terraces, rock-cut cisterns, and stepped-base pyramidal tombs. PAP team also discovered ancient roads linking the farmsteads to Serçe Liman, Phoenix's commercial harbor, offering new insights into Hellenistic agricultural practices.



A major exploration took place in the northeastern chora, where the team identified a second acropolis surrounded by polygonal walls. Below it, we discovered a settlement enclosed by geländemauer-type walls and uncovered a rock-cut sacred space possibly dedicated to Cybele. Another settlement, with Cyclopean-walled dwellings, was also discovered, shedding light on Phoenix's Early Iron Age development, settlement patterns, and local cult practices.

The Phoenix Archaeological Project expresses its deep gratitude to ASOR and the Joe D. Seger Project Grant for their generous support. Special thanks go to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, the General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums, as well as the project's main sponsor, Söktaş A.Ş., Kayhan Family and the Historic Phoenix Archaeological Association (HPAA). The invaluable contributions of the entire team and interns were crucial to the success of the 2024 field season.

**Thank you for
your continued
support!**



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