

## Summary in English

Khirbat edh-Dharih was a small village oriented around the important religious complex functioning between the 1st and 4th centuries. It was located along the *via nova Traiana* (Kings Highway) on the eastern slope of Wādī La'bān, which is a southern branch of one of the largest wadi systems in Jordan, Wādī al-Hasā. In the Byzantine period, the *cella* of the former pagan temple was converted into a small church. Recent epigraphic discoveries prove that the church must have gone out of use before the end of the 7th century, when it was probably transformed into a dining room (*quadriclinium*) of the local Muslim elite. Ceramic records seem to suggest that permanent occupation at site was ended in the first half of the 9th century. Nevertheless, according to the excavators, numerous extremely makeshift constructions were established highly above the Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine, and Early Islamic remains. These constructions were related to the pottery assemblage which mainly consists of unpainted handmade ware. Basing on preliminary assumptions from past excavations, French archaeologists used to automatically classify crude handmade sherds as Mamluk/Ottoman. Nowadays, it seems obvious that a remarkable part of this evidence can be dated even for the period between the 10th and 11th century. To date, the existence of the Later Islamic occupation in Khirbat edh-Dharih has been only marginally mentioned in archaeological reports.

The purpose of this research is twofold. The first objective is to undertake a diachronic analysis of the spatial development of the site during the Middle and Late Islamic periods. This study is based on the assumption that in this time, the site was a place of only a temporal settlement. The second part the study is focused on examining the ceramic assemblage recovered from Khirbat edh-Dharih's last phase of occupation. The existence of well-stratified material examined by the French-Jordanian mission hints at a hope of establishing consistent and stratigraphically linked typologies of pottery records. Finally, an analysis of this pottery assemblage provides a starting point for broad studies on the phenomenon of the appearance of plain handmade ware in the Levant in the period between the 10th and 13th centuries. In my project, I intend to demonstrate that this category of ceramics was produced locally, mainly in rural areas struggling with an economic crisis. In my opinion, its spread can be associated with a process of dispersal and relocation of settlements and the intensification of nomadization stimulated by adverse environmental and socio-cultural conditions. The following work will be concentrated mainly on the assessment of ceramic material stored in the premises belonging to the Yarmouk University in Irbid and the field documentations from the *Maison d'Archéologie et d'Ethnologie, Réne Ginouvès* in Nanterre. Thanks to this evidence it is possible to comprehensively reconstruct the overall image of the spatial and socio-economical reconfiguration of the site during the Later Islamic periods.

Generally speaking, there are several reasons to consider the problem of Islamic reoccupation of Khirbat edh-Dharih. The first of all, it offers an opportunity to illustrate the long-term history of an important sacral site. Based on preserved structures and carefully collected field documentation, it is possible to visualize the cultural biography of ruins and the process of gradual transformation from a Nabataean Sanctuary into an Islamic domestic quarter. Undoubtedly, it will express significant value, due to fact that evidence of Islamic secular building still remains very modest. The project will attempt to study "architecture" not as an aim in itself, but rather as a study of "buildings" treated as a source of economic, social, and spatial history. Therefore, an assessment of Khirbat edh-Dharih evidence expresses a particular significance for a wider perspective of settlement processes in the Central and Southern Transjordan. Finally, the proposed project will be the first comprehensive study analyzing the rise of plain handmade ware as a broad socio-cultural phenomenon.