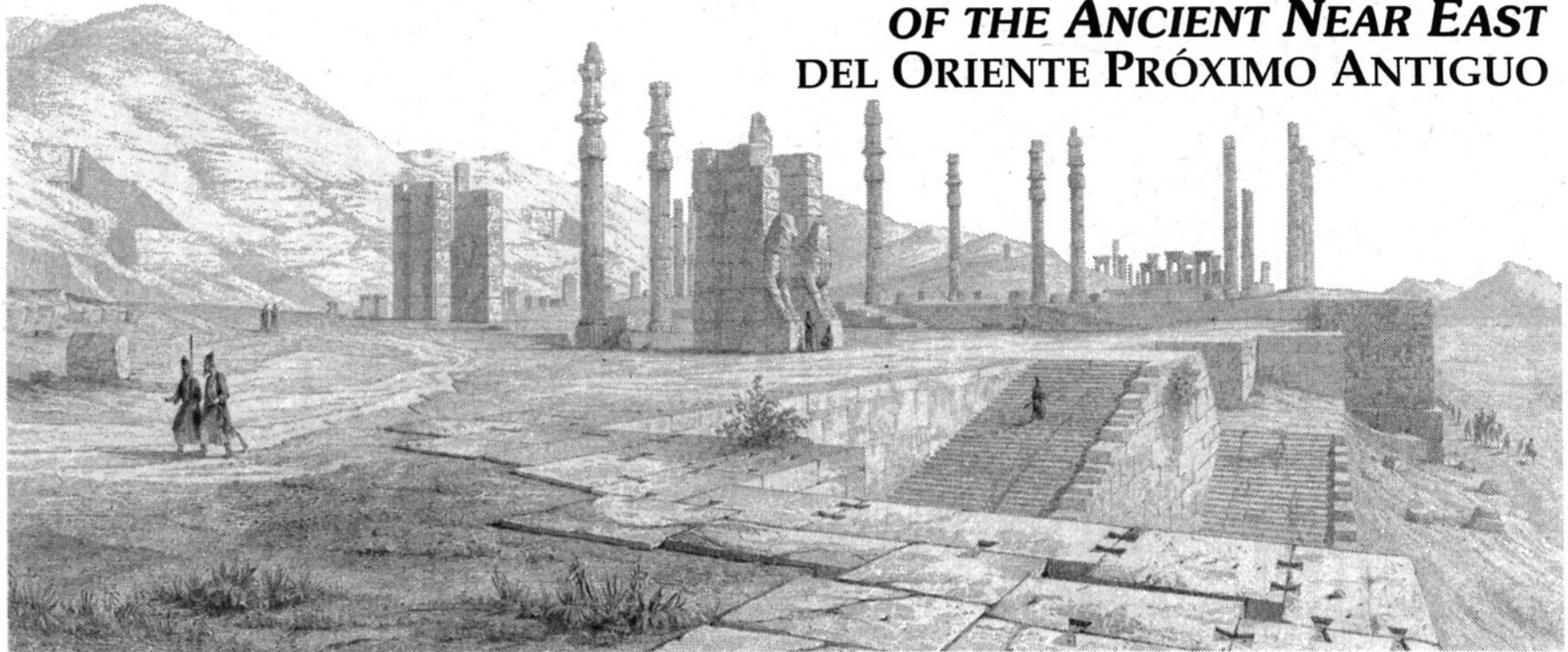


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DEL ORIENTE PRÓXIMO ANTIGUO



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ABSTRACTS

RESÚMENES

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The Natufian Occupations in the Dederiyeh Cave, Afrin, Northwest Syria

The Dederiyeh cave, located in the northern Levant, is well known for its Neanderthal fossils that were excavated from Middle Palaeolithic contexts during the 1990s. Since 2002, the excavation trenches have been enlarged to cover a much larger area; it led to the discovery of Palaeolithic levels other than the Middle Palaeolithic. This paper outlines the discovery of the late Epi-Palaeolithic or Natufian remains, with an emphasis on the architecture and lithic implements of that period. The Natufian occupations found in the Dederiyeh cave represent an interesting combination of the elements of both the Natufian “homeland” to the south and the inland Natufian on the upper Euphrates to the east. The architecture, which comprises structures that are composed of large limestone cobbles, is comparable to that of the southern Levant, while the material remains such as flaked stone artifacts, bone tools, and a variety of ornaments bear a greater resemblance to those of the upper Euphrates group. The series of radiocarbon dates indicates that the latest level of the Dederiyeh Natufian dates from ca. 11000 uncal. BP, the earliest stage of the Late Natufian period. Future studies on the details of the evidence from the Dederiyeh cave should contribute to the testing of the hypothesis of the Late Natufian expansion from the southern homeland toward the north.