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Indoor floors from Gien (8th - 10th c.)
building materials, use of space and formation processes

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to present results of a study of indoor floors and occupation layers from a site in Gien (Loiret, France). The site consists of an early medieval castrum and a later castle at the beginning of the 14th century. Analysis of thin sections of different occupation layers, reference material, and the use of X-ray and optical microscopy, etc., are used in order to study the building materials of the floors and understanding the use of space in this site during the Middle Ages.

Introduction

The site of Gien is an example of an early medieval castrum with a large rectangular fortification and a Romanesque church. During the 14th century, the site was transformed into a castle with a high-status occupation. The use of space and building materials from these layers provide important information on the history and social structure of the site.

Methodology

The methodological approach includes the use of thin sections, petrography, and X-ray microscopy to study the building materials and the use of space in the site. The results will help us understand the evolution of the site and the social structure of the inhabitants during the Middle Ages.

Results

1. The floors of the early medieval castrum are made of a mixture of mineral building materials and organic debris. The floors were closely packed and had a smooth surface.

2. The early medieval floors were not regularly thick, which suggests the use of different materials and techniques for the construction. The floors were often built over previous occupation layers, indicating an intense re-use of the site.

3. The castle floors were made of a more homogeneous material, indicating a higher status occupation. The floors were also thicker and more regularly thick.

Conclusion

The results of this study provide valuable information on the use of space and building materials in the site of Gien during the Middle Ages. The findings suggest that the site was an important center of activity and social interaction during this period.

Keywords: Gien, Early Middle Ages, Building materials, indoor floors, use of space, formation processes.