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Kurgan of Fakhrabad, Meshkinshahr, Northwest Iran

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Abstract
Notwithstanding its cultural wealth, archaeologists have hitherto given little consideration to Meshkinshahr County of Iran's Ardabil Province. The region is remarkably rich in graves, as is evident from the various types of graves with simple inhumation, dolmen, rectangular stone-built, and Kurgan. In the spring of 2020, a rare example of Kurgan was investigated near the city of Fakhrabad. Unlike all other graves excavated in northwest Iran, its structure consisted of a combination of stones and mud bricks. This paper presents the preliminary results from the excavation of this Kurgan. While introducing the Kurgan, an assemblage of small artifacts and its structure were examined, and a relative chronology was then proposed. The Kurgan arguably occupies a special place in archaeology of Iran and South Caucasus given a combination of stones with mud bricks it has in its construction. Such Kurgan type still remains unreported from the region.

Keywords: Northwest Iran; Kurgan; Mudbrick; Iron Age.

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