

KEYNOTE LECTURES

Ana Margarida Arruda

(Session V – Iberian Peninsula)

“Indigenous peoples and the others. Inter cultural contact in Far West, in the beginning of the 1st millennium b.c.e.: Through the Looking-Glass”

Abstract

The Iberian Peninsula has always been a scenario for intercultural contacts between native and exogenous groups, and particularly so since the late II millennium BCE. In several regions of the peninsula, such as Andalucía and Extremadura, in Spain, and Alentejo and Beiras, in Portugal, many archaeological sites revealed artefacts that evidence the inclusion of the European Southwest in the routes that interlinked vast areas of the Atlantic and Mediterranean during the Late Bronze Age. However, these exogenous realities do not seem to have a particularly important role in the daily lives of the indigenous groups or to provoke changes in the native social and cultural contexts. Those archaeological materials are very scarce, especially when the long period over which their importation took place is considered; on the other hand, the type of material (adornments, ceramics, weapons) clearly correspond to easily transposable materials, that could easily be absorbed in local contexts for they did not carry with them any particular ideological or symbolic overtones.

The reality that arises after the beginning of the Phoenician colonization, which apparently took place from the late ninth century onwards, with the installation of exogenous populations leading to an effective situation of intercultural contact. In the southern Iberian Peninsula, especially in eastern Andalucía, but also in the Southeast, Northeast and on the Atlantic coast, the arrival of Eastern Mediterranean groups, with the founding of colonial settlements, changed almost everything. Several indigenous coastal sites suffered a process of orientalization, incorporating not only new technologies but also other elements that certainly profoundly altered the pre-existing cultural models. The relative homogeneity which appears to be created by this process can be ascertained in the known settlements, either through an analysis of material culture or through the appreciation of the new burial practices, the new architectonic models, both domestic and defensive, with the adoption of new construction techniques. This should not, however, lead us to forget that this phenomenon must necessarily be studied taking into account the different social contexts in which the colonial situation arose.

Bibliographical Note

Ana Margarida Arruda is a Professor of Archaeology at the University of Lisbon, holding a PhD degree and a Habilitation from the same University and a researcher at UNIARQ (Centre for Archaeology of the University of Lisbon).

Her research focus primarily on Iron Age, namely on the themes of Phoenician and Greek colonization and their effects in the indigenous societies of the Iberian Peninsula.

In the Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon she teaches at the Graduate and Post-Graduate levels and is responsible for several curricular units related to her research. She directed over fifty master and doctoral thesis.

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She is the author of three books and over one hundred and fifty papers published in specialized journals, both Portuguese and international. She participated in nearly one hundred scientific reunions imparting conferences and presentations.

She is a member of several cultural and scientific associations, namely the *Associação dos Arqueólogos Portugueses*, *Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Cooperação da Arqueologia Peninsular* and the *Centro de Estudios Fenícios y Púnico*. She represents Portugal in the *Committee for Phoenician and Punic Studies* and in the Permanent Commission of the *Union Académique International* for the *Corpus des Antiquités Phéniciennes et Puniques*.

Marco Bettelli

(Session IV - Italy)

“Centuries of darkness? Italy and Aegean after the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces”

Abstract

The relationships between the Aegean world and the central Mediterranean started during the formation of the Mycenaean polities in Late Helladic I. Travels, exchanges of raw materials, goods, know-how and informations, lasted for centuries. As is known, one of the most important aspects is the transfer of ceramics technology from the Aegean to Italy, including the islands. This phenomenon of acculturation has enabled local communities to acquire new knowledge and technologies in their heritage, and gave rise to technological and stylistic traditions that in some cases came seamlessly to the Iron Age. It is important to stress that the intensity of this flow of information between the two areas is not diminished following the radical socio-political and socio-economic changes taking place in Greece after the fall of the Mycenaean palaces around 1200 BC. Indeed, it seems that the new ruling élites in the Mycenaean centers, at least in some cases, have developed and strengthened their interests westward, as evidenced by the presence of Italian style pottery especially in post-palatial levels at Tiryns, Dimini and, to some extent, Chania. On the other hand, the emerging social groups in the Italian peninsula during the Late and Final Bronze Age, promoted the development of the new ceramic technologies for purposes of social representation and for the greater efficiency of new economic practices in which they were involved. The latest evidences of contacts between Italy and the Aegean are preserved in the levels of the Final Bronze Age settlement at Rocavecchia in Apulia, and are dated between the Late Helladic IIIC late and the Submycenaean period. After this stage, apparently, there are not clear signs of stable relations between East and West until the very beginnings of the Iron Age, a period in which both Sardinia and some areas of the Tyrrhenian coasts were also involved in trade with western regions of the Mediterranean such as the Iberian Peninsula.

Bibliographical Note

Marco Bettelli is a protohistorian archaeologist. He deals particularly with the relationships between the Central Mediterranean and the Aegean world in the second millennium BC. In this area conducts research in southern Italy, both excavations and studies of new materials. He dealt with the Early Iron Age in Latium Vetus, with particular regard to Rome, especially in relation to the problem of timing and modes of formation of the city.

He holds the CNR project PC.P01.002.003 "Mediterranean Interrelations in the Bronze Age: the pre-classic civilizations of the Aegean and their relationships with the communities of the Central Mediterranean."

He is responsible for the CNR Operating Unit in the Project PRIN 2008 "Fortified centers in the Italian Protohistory. Organization and territorial control, power systems and exchanges between continental Europe and the Mediterranean. "

He has been teaching Palethnology and European Protohistory at the post-graduate School in Archaeology at the University of Basilicata (Matera) since 2003.

Karl Jansen-Winkel

(Session I - Aegean Region)

“North Africa and Egypt: cultural contacts, 1200-750 BC”

Abstract

The period between 1200 and 750 B.C. brought about far-reaching changes in almost every aspect of the political, social and cultural life in Egypt and North Africa. To illustrate this, a short survey of the situation in Egypt and North Africa at the beginning and at the end of the period in question will be given. The reasons behind these developments are not at all obvious from our sources. Nevertheless, an attempt to explain them will be put forward. A discussion of the effects of all these changes on the quality and quantity of our sources and our knowledge of the foreign relations and cultural contacts will follow. In the second part of the lecture, a survey of what can be said about the foreign relations and cultural contacts to Nubia, Cyprus, the Aegean Region, Asia and Libya will be presented in conclusion. The focus will and must be on Egypt and her relations and contacts because the political and cultural conditions in North Africa (west of Egypt) during the Early Iron Age are almost completely unknown. There is even very little information on the Libyan society and culture in Egypt during the Libyan Period.

Bibliographical Note

Karl Jansen-Winkel studied Egyptology, Semitic Languages and General Linguistics at the University of Bonn where he received his PhD in 1983. From 1983 to 1988 he worked as Research Associate at the Free University of Berlin. Between 1988 and 2000 he held various scholarships, as e. g. the Heisenbergstipendium of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. In 1990 he was appointed as University Lecturer (Habilitation) at the Free University of Berlin, before he became an Extraordinary Professor at the same university in 2001. As a Visiting Professor he was teaching at the universities of Basel, Mainz and Heidelberg. Since 2001 Karl Jansen-Winkel is the editor of the research project “Inscriptions of The Late Period”. His fields of interest are spanning from grammar and philology to the history of Ancient Egypt, especially in the Late Period (First Millennium BCE). He published 8 books on Egyptian philology and grammar and is the author of about 120 articles in scientific journals as well as of about 100 reviews and encyclopaedia entries.

Eleni Konstantinidi-Syvriti

(Session III - Aegean Region)

“Mycenaean recurrences in art and the circulation of people, crafts and ideas in the Aegean (1200-750 BC)”

Abstract

The end of the Mycenaean civilisation was marked by the emergence of small centres in the periphery of the Hellenic world, like Rhodes, or in regions of the Mainland that were not included in the sphere of Mycenaean influence, like Euboea. Those centres preserved the iconography and technology of the Mycenaean tradition, even though there was an obvious decline in both quality and quantity. Crete continued to play an important role as a commercial centre at the eve of the Iron Age, due to its proximity with Cyprus, the main supplier of bronze and iron in the wider area.

At the same time, tomb robbing and the subsequent re-use of precious metals and other materials, as well as circulation of “heirlooms”, a common habit throughout the Eastern Mediterranean during the Early Iron Age, resulted into the adoption or reproduction of various Bronze Age types of artifacts.

During the 11th and 10th centuries BC, commercial contacts within the Aegean and between the Aegean and Italy, Cyprus, Egypt and the Levant, are strongly reflected in the burial customs, pottery shapes and motifs, weapons, bronzes and jewellery. In the 9th and 8th centuries BC, the wealth and high quality of jewellery and other finds from the Toumba cemetery at Lefkandi and from the North cemetery at Knossos, indicate the mixture of ideas and traditions already existing, even before the appearance of the early Phoenician activity in the Aegean.

Bibliographical Note

Eleni Konstantinidi-Syvriti is a curator at the Collection of Prehistoric, Egyptian and Oriental Antiquities at the National Archaeological Museum, Athens. She graduated from the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Ioannina, Greece and received her Ph.D. at the University of Birmingham, UK, Department of Ancient History and Archaeology. Her thesis entitled “Jewellery in the burial context of the Greek Bronze Age” was published in 2001 (BAR 15).

Her research focuses on Late Bronze Age; the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean, with particular interest in Mycenaean jewellery and dress. She has given seminars on the history and technology of jewellery, in Greece and abroad and she is currently working on a project for the reconstruction and terminology of ancient jewellery techniques sponsored by INSTAP. She has participated in the edition of several books and written articles on Late Bronze Age issues. She has also published with late Yannis Sakellarakis the corpus of Mycenaean ivory combs from the National Archaeological Museum

Diamantis Panagiotopoulos

(Introductory Theoretical Talk)

“Adjusting the Compass. The Quest for Mediterranean Paradigms”

Abstract

At the turn of the 21st century, the Mediterranean as a cultural region and analytical tool has experienced a remarkable revival in social sciences. Interestingly, this field of enquiry – at least at a theoretical level – has been heavily dominated by the work of historians, to whom we owe the most important methodological advances on the subject. For that reason, the time seems right and proper for archaeologists to look at the past and future of Mediterranean research and discuss how archaeology can contribute to this ongoing interdisciplinary dialogue. The present paper discusses some influential Mediterranean paradigms which can provide a backbone for constructing a common theoretical ground and defining common objectives and concerns for future archaeological research. Its main objective is to examine the current value of these hermeneutical models as cases of applied theory.

Bibliographical Note

Diamantis Panagiotopoulos is Professor of Greek Archaeology at the University of Heidelberg. He has studied Archaeology, History, History of Art, Near Eastern Archaeology and Egyptology at the universities of Athens and Heidelberg. He holds a PhD from the University of Heidelberg and a Habilitation from the University of Salzburg. His research interests include the social structures of Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations (particularly social hierarchy, political organisation, economy and religion), the interconnections between the Aegean and the Near East in the second millennium BC, and ancient writing systems. He has published on Bronze Age Greece, Egypt and the Levant, combining material and textual evidence, and has been taking part in several archaeological excavations on Crete and the Aegean Islands

Susan Sherratt

(Session II – Cyprus and the Near East)

“Cyprus and the Near East: cultural contacts, 1200-750 BC”

Abstract

Not yet received

Bibliographical Note

Susan Sherratt is lecturer at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield since 2005. She is a member of various collaborative, interdisciplinary archaeological research projects such as the Sinop project and the Palaepaphos Urban Landscape Project.

The Sinop project aims at an investigation of long-term patterns of land use and settlement and communication networks in the Black Sea coastal region of Sinop, Turkey, from the inland valleys and mountains to the sea, by employing both extensive reconnaissance of its numerous ecological zones and intensive techniques of systematic survey and excavation in selected zones.

The Palaepaphos Urban Landscape Project aims to trace the long-term development and topography of the urban centre of Palaepaphos in south-west Cyprus in the 2nd -1st millennia BC. It is also concerned with the development of a framework of principles in which modern development and the preservation of archaeological landscapes can co-exist.

Finally, she is the director of the ArchAtlas project, a web based tool for research and teaching, which aims to provide a visual summary of spatial processes in prehistoric and early historic times.

From 2007-12 she was a collaborator of the Heidelberg Cluster of Excellence project: ‘Materiality and Practice: Cultural Entanglements between 2nd millennium BC East Mediterranean Societies’. There she explores how the processes of appropriation of new goods and ideas contributed to the transformation of societies and cultures in east and west.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Ann Brysbaert and Melissa Vettters

(Session III - Aegean Region)

“Mirroring the Mediterranean: Self-Image and Artisanal Networking in 12th Century BCE Tiryns”

Abstract

Within the broad scope of the Mediterranean Mirror conference, this paper presents a thin slice of time of an intra-site phenomenon, occurring at Tiryns in the East Argolid, Greece. Through an interdisciplinary methodology, comprising of an in-depth macroscopic, microscopic, scientific analytical and anthropological approach to stratified material, we contextualize a specific group of finds, dating to the Post-Palatial period, in order to find answers to the questions about potential continuity of object and practice appropriation which was noticed in specific workshop contexts of the later Palatial period. All areas studied are located in Tiryns Lower Citadel and Lower Town. The paper briefly touches upon evidence of object and practices appropriation in the Late Palatial period in order to set the scene. It subsequently presents the data from two specific contexts (Lower Citadel North and Lower Town North-East) which chronologically overlap partially and can thus be compared with and be related to earlier phases of workshop evidence in the same parts of the site. We touch on methodological issues of identifying workshop material in open spaces and on reconstructing activity areas on the bases of workshop refuse. We specifically focus on how these objects and potential practices may mirror spheres of interaction, intra-site and beyond Tiryns, and how potential contact zones, in which artisans at Tiryns were active players, may have shaped specific values and meanings of materials, leading to identity formation/negotiation/affirmation and rejection. These strongly intermingled interactions, instigated by both those based at Tiryns and those encouraged by people's mobility, formed the scenes that may have led to the break-down of the dichotomy of 'indigenous' versus 'foreigner's identities and may have emerged as a more connected form of presence/identity between people. The archaeological data will be compared to a contemporary example in order to illustrate the points made.

Ann Brysbaert's Bibliographical Note

- Lecturer and Programme Director (School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, since 2004)
- Honorary Lecturer (same School, since 2009)
- From 2008: Principle Investigator of 'Cross-Craft Interaction in the Cross-Cultural of the East Mediterranean' as sub-project of the 'Tracing Networks: Craft Traditions in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond', the latter which she co-initiated with Lin Foxhall
- Currently holds a Senior Fellowship from the A. von Humboldt Foundation (University of Heidelberg, 2010-2013)
- Research interests: material, technological, social and scientific aspects of East Mediterranean ancient technologies, their interconnectedness with social practices and social memory
- Technologies of painted plaster, architectural construction, multicraft workshop-related contexts, pyrotechnologies
- Major recent publications:

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- 2011(ed., author), *Tracing Prehistoric Social Networks through Technology: A Diachronic Perspective on the Aegean*. London: Routledge.
- *Power of Technology in the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean. The Case of the Painted Plaster*. London: Equinox.

Melissa Vetter's Bibliographical Note

Melissa Vettters studied Prehistoric, Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Heidelberg/Germany and participated in excavations in Egypt, Greece and Turkey. From 2002 to 2006 she worked as a research assistant for the Tiryns project of the German Archaeological Institute in Greece. Her PhD thesis on the terracotta-figurines of Late Bronze Age Tiryns concentrated on reconstructing ritual in the Mycenaean period by means of contextual analyses. Since October 2009 she is a research associate in the Tracing Network subproject "Cross-Craft Interaction in the cross-cultural context of the late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean" at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester/UK. The project focuses on identifying areas of craft production in Late Bronze Age Tiryns, investigating exchange of techniques and materials across a range of crafts and situating the craft persons within the larger social network of Mycenaean palatial and postpalatial societies.

Franco Campus

(Session IV - Italy)

“From Nuragici to Sardi: characters and dynamics of cultural development in Sardinia between 11th and 8th centuries B.C.”

Abstract

Not yet received

Bibliographical Note

Not yet received

Artemis Georgiou

(Session II - Cyprus and the Near East)

“The ‘Crisis Years’ in Cyprus Revisited”

Abstract

The end of the 13th and the beginning of the 12th century BC was marked by a series of roughly synchronous abandonment and/or destruction episodes which came upon many of the prosperous land-based Late Bronze Age polities of the eastern Mediterranean. Cyprus constitutes a particular case on a Mediterranean-wide level during these ‘Crisis Years’ since the island did not suffer a collapse of socio-political structures, such as that which fell upon the Mycenaean palaces and the Hittite rule. Continuity in the political and economic arrangements in the Late Cypriot settlements is evident by the uninterrupted use of the Cypro-Minoan script, and the continuation of copper processing and export.

Through a *longue durée* approach and by means of a holistic and contextual examination of the material remains from Cyprus, the presentation aims to provide an updated explication of the impact of the Mediterranean-wide ‘Crisis’ on the Late Cypriot polities. It urges the dismissal of a catch-all generic model of destructions in Cyprus, and highlights the divergent and regional settlement histories of the Cypriot centres following the collapse of the Late Bronze Age Mediterranean economy. The transformations of the material culture that are evident in the archaeological remains of the island are also presented, and our ability to identify migrating populations through the archaeological remains is further discussed. Ultimately, the paper discusses the economic, social and political processes that ensued in Cyprus after the 12th century BC and during the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age.

Bibliographical Note

I have just completed my D.Phil studies at the University of Oxford in March 2012, under the supervision of Professor Irene S. Lemos. During my graduate studies I held the Leventis Scholarship for Hellenic Studies at Merton College, the Craven Committee Fellowship and the Greek Archaeological Committee UK Scholarship. My thesis is entitled “Pyla-Kokkinokremos, Maa-Palaeokastro and the settlement histories of Cyprus in the twelfth century BC” and has been accepted to be published as a “Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology (SIMA)” volume.

I have worked extensively in archaeological projects in Greece and Cyprus. In the last year I have been working as a Late Bronze Age ceramics’ specialist for both Cypriot and Aegean pottery. I am currently a member of the “Palaepaphos Urban Landscape Project”, directed by Professor Maria Iacovou of the University of Cyprus. I am also a member of the excavation and publication team at Lefkandi - Xeropolis directed by Professor Lemos, and Pyla-Kokkinokremos directed by Professor Vassos Karageorghis.

Ayelet Gilboa

(Session II – Cyprus and the Near East)

“Cypro-Phoenician Interaction in the Iron Age”

Abstract

Contact between the Phoenician littoral and Cyprus in the early Iron Age has been gleaned mainly through the occurrence of Phoenician Bichrome ware in Cyprus. These vessels are usually considered the best proxy for the earliest Phoenician ventures westward, and perhaps even for Phoenician settlement/Colonization in Cyprus—instigated mainly by Tyre. This paper reassesses the significance of these and other Phoenician finds in Cyprus from a more nuanced chronological, geographical and stylistic perspective and attempts to place them in a wider context of Cypro-Phoenician contact. It also attempts to differentiate between networks of interaction, with different objectives, and meanings. Much of this information is gleaned from the analysis of the stratigraphic sequence excavated at Tel Dor, on Israel's Carmel coast. Currently, among Levantine sites, Dor produces the most ample evidence of cross Mediterranean 'commercial' contacts in this period.

Bibliographical Note

Ayelet Gilboa completed her PhD in 2001 and is currently teaching at the Department of Archaeology at the University of Haifa, Israel. Till recently she served as Chair of the department. She co-directs the Tel Dor Excavation and Publication Project in Israel, with Ilan Sharon of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, excavating remains from the Bronze Age to Roman times. Her main research interest is the Mediterranean Basin in the Iron Age: Phoenicians, "Sea People" and trade networks. With Sharon and Elisabetta Boaretto she initiated the Iron Age Dating Project in Israel (radiometric chronology). She is interested in the methodology of site reports and in the uses of style in archaeology. Her more recent projects include a multidisciplinary investigation of "East Greek" wares in the Levant under the Achaemenides, with Gunnar Lehmann, and a petrographic study of Iron Age commercial containers in the Levant and Cyprus, with Yuval Goren.

Francisco B. Gomes

(Session V – Iberian Peninsula)

“The West writes back. Cultural contact and identity constructs in southern Portuguese Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age”

Abstract

Recent research concerning the Phoenician colonization of the Iberian Peninsula and its impact on the cultural and ideological landscape of the indigenous Late Bronze Age populations has shifted from a paradigm where the active role was attributed almost exclusively to the Eastern Mediterranean colonists and merchants to another where it is thought that local elites appropriated the oriental elements as part of power discourses. Furthermore, intense research concerning certain contexts which are particularly meaningful from an ideological point of view, such as religious and funerary spaces, has further stressed the profound and rather ubiquitous influence of an “Orientalizing” discourse which, it can be argued, became deeply embedded in the very sense of identity of the local groups. Therefore, it can today be argued that more than passive spectators to a commerce whose terms were dictated by their oriental counterparts, considered as culturally superior, the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age of this portion of westernmost Europe were effective players in very dynamic networks of contact, commerce, influence and knowledge and actively inserted themselves in a geo-political Mediterranean network, asserting through the purposeful manipulation of what could otherwise be seen as foreign material culture their own specific social, political and cultural identity.

Bibliographical Note

Francisco B. Gomes is a researcher at UNIARQ – Centre for Archaeology of the University of Lisbon. He holds a Master in Archaeology by that same University, having presented a thesis about the oriental and orientalising sanctuaries of southern Portuguese Iron Age which was recently published by UNIARQ under the title ‘Aspectos do Sagrado na Colonização Fenícia’ (Sacred Aspects of the Phoenician Colonization). He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Lisbon, with a research project entitled ‘Transiting Identities: Cultural contact and identity discourses in southern Portuguese Orientalizing and Post-Orientalizing Iron Age’. His prime research interests include the Archaeology of Colonization, Phoenician Colonization, Ancient Mediterranean Archaeology, Gender Archaeology and Archaeological Heritage.

Claus Jurman

(Session I – Egypt and North Africa)

“Silver from the treasury of Harsaphes - Considering the origin and economic significance of silver in Egypt during the Third Intermediate Period”

Abstract

It has been noted that the percentage of silver objects found in many elite burials of the Third Intermediate Period is relatively high in relation to grave goods made of other precious or base metals, and stands out even in comparison to most elite burials of the New Kingdom. The most conspicuous find category is represented by the silver coffins from the royal necropolis of Tanis and the “princely” tomb of Pediese A at Memphis, but the phenomenon as such is not restricted to the royal families.

A major aim of this paper is to discuss the reasons for this seeming prominence of silver items in Third Intermediate Period assemblages. Among the potential factors considered are changed circumstances of preservation producing statistical biases, establishment of new supply routes from outside Egypt (trade exchange, tribute, booty etc.) or from within Egypt (i. e. recycling of ‘old silver’, especially from the Valley of the Kings). However, the status of silver during the Third Intermediate Period cannot be assessed by focussing only on Egyptian grave goods and metal statuary. Equally important is the evaluation of the wider economic and historical context, since around the beginning of the Iron Age, the economic exchange system of the entire Eastern Mediterranean becomes increasingly dependent on silver standards. It is also the time when Egyptian documentary sources start to mention specific silver standards connected to geographical regions, the ‘silver of the treasury of Harsaphes’ counting among the earliest and most prominent ones.

Bibliographical Note

Claus Jurman studied Egyptology and Classical Archaeology at the University of Vienna and earned a Master’s degree there in 2004. In 2005–2006 he completed Egyptological postgraduate studies at the University of Birmingham, UK, and has since been enrolled in a Ph.D programme at the University of Vienna which will be completed in 2012. Since 2008 he has been working as a researcher at the Commission for Egypt and the Levant at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. Since 2009 he has been teaching Egyptology courses at the Institute of Egyptology of the University of Vienna.

Eva Lange

(Session I – Egypt and North Africa)

“A Seat of Foreign Power. Bubastis and its role in the Mediterranean world from the end of the New Kingdom up to the end of the Libyan dominion”

Abstract

Not yet received

Bibliographical Note

Not yet received

Francisco J. Núñez Calvo

(Session II – Cyprus and the Near East)

“Ceramic change and interaction dynamics at the beginning of the Phoenician Early Iron Age”

Abstract

The transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age in the core of the Phoenician metropolis was not characterized by major breaks of the local ceramic traditions. Changes that affected certain typological, morphological and decorative aspects were promoted either by internal dynamics or external influences. However, their effects on the ceramic repertoire cannot be defined as traumatic, as in most instances they should be rendered as the update of former traditions. There are some examples that can illustrate this phenomenon, but our intervention will focus only on one of them: the spouted jugs, also known as ‘bier jugs’. This ceramic form represents, on the one hand, a typological renovation of artifacts formerly used to serve certain beverages, most probably wine, and, on the other, an authentic adaptation to the local ceramic repertoire of foreign models, in this case originated in the Mycenaean culture. Relevant in this context is the fact that, regardless of those direct or indirect influences, the base for this new ceramic form was a local jug type and also local were the patterns used to decorate them. Furthermore, it evolved following local parameters, leaving aside those models that inspired their creation. In our opinion, and as a conclusion, the impact of foreign influences on the initial stages of the Early Iron Age in Phoenicia should be revised. We can probably talk of changes, but not of traumatic ones neither in the typological or the decorative fields. In fact, the local ceramic repertoire preserved throughout the Early Iron Age the same basic parameters developed in the Late Bronze Age.

Bibliographical Note

Dr Francisco Jesús Núñez Calvo received his PhD in 2008 in at the Institute Universitari d’Història Vicens Vives, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain).

Since then he worked as trainee researcher at the Instituto de Estudios Islámicos y del Oriente Próximo of Saragossa (Spain). Nowadays he collaborates with the Laboratory of Archaeology of the Pompeu Fabra University of Barcelona, directed by Prof. María Eugenia Aubet.

His research interests cover Metropolitan Phoenician Archaeology and the chronology of the Iron Age especially for the Mediterranean. Since 1997 he is co-director of the Pompeu Fabra University archaeological expeditions in Tyre, Lebanon. He has taken part in excavations in Spain, Cyprus, Syria and Lebanon. In many articles he is dealing with the chronological and cultural aspects of eastern Mediterranean Iron Age cultures within a frame work of exchange and trade commodities.

He is member of the scientific committee of the Cuadernos de Arqueología Mediterránea. Laboratorio de Arqueología, Univesidad Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Spain) as well as of Carthage Studies. Department of Archaeology, Ghent University (Belgium).

Esther Rodríguez González

(Session V – Iberian Peninsula)

“Southwestern Iberian Peninsula Archaeology: latest developments in Final Bronze Age-Early Iron Age”

Abstract

Nowadays, Protohistoric Archaeology in the South-Western Iberian Peninsula is one of the most complex research and interpretation fields in the History of this place.

This is the reason of this brief communication, chronologically going from last decades of last Bronze Age to the first Iron Age, and presented following a South-North geographical axis –from the Strait of Gibraltar to the lands bathed by the Middle Guadiana River. Our aim is to give a few strokes of the brush to figure out a homogeneous view of an interesting culturally plural territory, where Phoenician and Greek colonization are crucial.

The approach to a general perspective of West Andalusia and South Extremadura, completed by the work exposed by our Portuguese colleagues, will be culminated by bringing both views together. These have been even considered to be complementary by Historiography, and we also think they take part in a dichotomy we deal with in the framework of a doctoral thesis.

Therefore, it is very interesting for us the arising of some ideas or “problems” to be analyzed from a joined point of view, showing this scientific community the innovations we currently work in, and starting the debate about them with the aim of creating a clear image of a period and a territory which awake great curiosity to identity and oral transmission research

Bibliographical Note

My training in the University of Seville, where I obtained my Bachelor’s Degree in History between 2005-2010 and my Master’s Degree in Archaeology (2010-2011), within the Specialization of Archaeology and Territory, drove me to focus my research line on Territory and its structure in the Ancient Period.

After carrying out and exposing in several communications, as well as in Spain as in other places of Europe, regarding some research about Protohistory in the Guadalquivir Valley, such as my Master’s Dissertation about ‘Beginning and development of urbanism during the Second Iron Age in Astigi Vetus,’ I currently work in my doctoral thesis project within the framework of the analysis done by the Territory Line of the Archaeology Institute of CSIC [Spanish National Research Council] in areas between the Middle Guadiana River and the Orientalizing phenomenon to try to understand in which way the centre and South of the region of Extremadura was also part of Tartessos periphery.

Vangelis Samaras

(Session - Aegean Region)

“Piracy in Aegean during the Post-palatial period and the Early Iron Age”

Abstract

In the archaeological literature of the Postpalatial and Early Iron Age Aegean there are numerous references to piracy, but these are almost always restricted to a few terse words and rarely carry out the reconstruction and analysis of the phenomenon. This is certainly due to the absence of written documentation, which could mention piracy in explicit terms or could be shown to refer implicitly to piratical activities, as well as to the fact that piracy is extremely difficult to be archaeologically discriminated. Nevertheless, even if identifying piracy in the archaeological record is proved to be hard, it is necessary to find out about this phenomenon, as it seems to have been a feature of crucial importance in the Postpalatial and Early Iron Age Aegean. During this period there were not leading centers, which would be in a position to offer general protection against piracy. It might therefore be suggested that the flourishing sea communications of the period and the consequent material prosperity favored the emergence and the efflorescence of a phenomenon like piracy. In this paper an attempt is made to confirm the existence of piracy through the available archaeological information, especially evidence of maritime activities, fortifications and iconography. Thus, it explores the conditions which allowed piracy to flourish in the Aegean between 1200 and 750 B.C. and examines the ways in which piracy was perceived, the social position and status of pirates, as well as the impact which pirates had on society.

Bibliographical Note

Vangelis Samaras was born in Athens (January 10, 1985) and grew up in Larissa, Greece. He studied History and Archaeology at the University of Athens, where he also completed his postgraduate studies in Prehistoric Archaeology. Currently, he is a Ph.D. student at the University of Athens under the supervision of Professor Nota Kourou, as scholar of the A.G. Leventis Foundation. His Ph.D. dissertation is entitled “Island settlements and sea routes in the south Aegean. The Cyclades and the southeast Aegean during the Postpalatial period and the Early Iron Age”. He has been involved in fieldwork in Greece since 2004, participating in excavations, field surveys and studies of pottery for a number of projects (Tenos, Salamina, Leonidio, Athens, Crete). His main research interests include Aegean archaeology of the Late Bronze Age (especially LH III C period) and the Early Iron Age, study of fortifications and island archaeology.

Andrea Schiappelli

(Session IV - Italy)

“Along the Routes of Pithoi in the Late Bronze Age, between Southern Italy and the Mediterranean-Aegean World”

Abstract

In the course of the late Bronze Age (ca. 13th century BC), a class of pottery that had until this time only been manufactured in the Aegean and central Mediterranean Seas made its first appearance in South Italy and would endure until the Early Iron Age. Dolia manufactured in both a fine-bodied clay and in "impasto" (hand-made) were partially formed on a potter's wheel and often decorated with "cordoni", relief decoration or impressed motifs. In the present contribution, the author delineates the state of research, issues connected to production and circulation, technological characteristics, a typology of the most common decorative motifs, the socio-economic implications of the existence of specialized storerooms for the conservation of foodstuff, the relationships with the Aegean world as well as the evidence for an Aegean-Oriental provenience of pithoi found in Italy.

Bibliographical Note

Andrea Schiappelli (Rome 1968) is a protohistorian archaeologist with a solid preparation for the classical period. He got his PhD in Prehistory in 2004, with a thesis on dolii "cordonati" of central and southern Italy in the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. He has been collaborating with the chair of Early European History at the University "La Sapienza" of Rome (Prof. Renato Peroni until 2009, and since then Prof. Andrea Cardarelli), and taking part in long-lasting excavation campaigns and research projects with the *Soprintendenze* of Rome, Latium, southern Etruria and Calabria.

Since 1995 he is a member of the team working at Broglio di Trebsacce in Calabria.

Since 2004 he is member of the board of the "Confederazione Italiana Archeologi" (CIA). Since 2007 he is the director of the Latium Department of CIA.

In 2006 he founded the company "Matrix96" specialised in high professional archaeological services. In 2008 he published the monograph "Sviluppo storico della Teverina nell'età del bronzo e nella prima età del ferro".

Main interests: production and typology of pithoi, settlement strategies in southern Etruria and northeastern Calabria.

Philipp W. Stockhammer

(Session III - Aegean Region)

“Levantine and Cypriot Pottery in Mycenaean Greece as Mirrors of Intercultural Contacts”

Abstract

So far, Levantine and Cypriot pottery as well as other foreign objects found in Mycenaean Greece have been collected and catalogued in order to demonstrate the intensity of Late Bronze Age networks. However, our scientific perception of the foreignness of these ceramic objects was taken for granted also for the past, thus ignoring the possible translations and transformations of the formerly foreign into local social worlds. In my paper I will not try to decipher the modes of interaction that brought them to the Greek Mainland, but I will present a contextual analysis of those findings. I will pay a special focus to the Mycenaean Argolid. In the settlements and tombs of this region, Canaanite transport amphorae have been found in considerable number and – especially in Tiryns – also some Cypro-Levantine-type lamps and a small amount of Cypriot pottery of different wares (White Slip II, White Shaved, Plain). I will show what the different contexts of finding may tell us about the appropriation of these foreign ceramic vessels, their possible integration into social practices and the shiftings of the vessels' functions and meanings in these processes of transcultural entanglement

Bibliographical Note

Philipp W. Stockhammer studied Prehistory and Early History, Classical Archaeology and Old History at the Universities of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Brussels and Tübingen, where he finished his Master in 2003 with a thesis on Urnfield metal-hilted swords. In 2008 he got his PhD at Heidelberg University with a dissertation on “Continuity and Change: The Pottery of the Post-Palatial Period from the North-eastern Lower Town of Tiryns”. Since 2008, he has been working as a Postdoctoral Researcher within the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” at Heidelberg University, first as a member of the project “Materiality and Practice: Cultural Entanglements of 2nd millennium BC East Mediterranean Societies” and since 2011 as the head of his ongoing project “Innovation Management – Bronze Age Entanglements between Asia and Europe”. His current research focuses on the European and Eastern Mediterranean Bronze Age as well as archaeological theory and methodology.

Jaime Vives-Ferrándiz

(Session V – Iberian Peninsula)

“Mediterranean networks and material connections: a view from Eastern Iberia and Balearics (12th-8th centuries BC)”

Abstract

My aim in this contribution is to explore how different contact situations are inscribed in material culture and to consider their social and economic significance in eastern Iberia and the Balearics between the 12th and the 8th centuries BC. I will review the evidence of contact situations and exchanges in this area with other areas of the Mediterranean since the Late Bronze Age and show that interaction intensified from the eighth century BC with the arrival of people of Phoenician origin. Through a comparative approach I will show that the historical processes that fall under the metaphor of contact situations are by no means similar between them and they may include different situations, e.g. travel, trade, migrations, colonisation...

Specifically, I will address when and to what extent foreign people, objects, practices and ideas had an impact on the host communities of the area under study (which we call under the homogenising label of indigenous) and, if so, what were their implications. Taking a number of selected cases studies I will compare and assess interactions and entanglements by looking at similarities and differences and long-term historical developments. In doing so I will also confront a typical pitfall of some recent approaches that only highlight fluidity, dynamism, trade and connectivity while fail to neglect stasis, little change and isolation.

Bibliographical Note

Jaime Vives-Ferrándiz Sánchez has been Curator at the Museum of Prehistory in Valencia (Spain) since 2004. His principal field of research focuses on the Western Mediterranean during the first millennium BC. He is especially interested in colonial situations, exchange relationships, movements of people and material culture in the Mediterranean, especially during the Bronze and Iron Ages. He has been member of the research and excavation project in Lixus (Larache, Morocco) since 1999. Currently he is field co-director of the research project in the Iberian settlement of La Bastida de les Alcusses (Moixent, Valencia, Spain)