

AEGEUS SOCIETY OF AEGEAN PREHISTORY

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1. NEW BOOKS



MESOHELLADIKA – ΜΕΣΟΕΛΛΑΔΙΚΑ. La Grèce continentale au Bronze Moyen – Η ηπειρωτική Ελλάδα στη Μέση Εποχή του Χαλκού – The Greek Mainland in the Middle Bronze Age Edited by Anna Philippa-Touchais, Gilles Touchais, Sofia Voutsaki & James Wright

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Actes du colloque international organisé par l'École française d'Athènes, en collaboration avec l'American School of Classical Studies at Athens et le Netherlands Institute in Athènes, Athènes, 8-12 mars 2006.

Abstract

During the first half of the 2nd millennium BC, as the first palaces appear in Crete and the Minoan civilisation is flourishing, the Greek mainland goes through what is considered a period of stagnation, if not decline and social regression: the Middle Helladic period. The Middle Bronze Age in the Greek mainland has received very little attention, perhaps because of the relative austerity of the material culture and the absence of overt social differentiation. However, a wealth of research over the past several decades, that derives from both recent discoveries and the re-examination of older data, requires us to revise this picture. In fact, it is nowadays suggested that the Middle Helladic period witnessed profound cultural, social and political transformations which laid the basis for the emergence of the Mycenaean civilisation. It was therefore deemed necessary to reassess developments during the period by organising the first international conference dedicated exclusively to the Middle Helladic period. The Proceedings of the conference, which brings together about one hundred contributions on different aspects of Middle Helladic culture is the first publication to throw light on an obscure and neglected period of Aegean prehistory.

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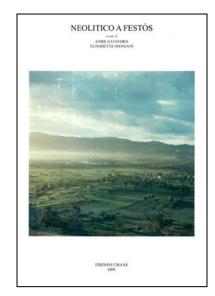
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Neolitico a Festòs

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Abstract (in Italian, from the introduction)

Il neolitico di Festòs è stato pubblicato, nel tempo, da diversi autori in riviste e volumi, tuttavia riteniamo opportuno riprodurre le più importanti edizioni, oggi difficilmente reperibili, relative agli scavi diretti da Luigi Pernier su tutta l'area palaziale e a quelli condotti da Doro Levi limitatamente al cortile 40 e al corridoio 7 del Palazzo di Festòs. La ragione di quest'ultima particolare scelta è data dal fatto che gli scavi di queste due aree sono stati controllati direttamente da Enrica Fiandra, durante i lavori di rifinitura dei saggi scavati, di rilevamento grafico e fotografico nel cortile 40 e di scavo e rilievo in occasione del restauro delle lastre di gesso alabastrino del pavimento nel corridoio 7, effettuato nel 1957.

Questa presentazione ha lo scopo di formare un compendio archeologico-topografico omogeneo ed esauriente delle ricerche edite, integrate dall'aggiunta di notizie e illustrazioni originali e inedite, a beneficio di chi desidera avere riunite e a portata di mano le principali informazioni sull'argomento. Il resoconto degli scavi e le osservazioni qui presentati riguarderanno occasionalmente anche i periodi successivi al neolitico: Haghios Onouphrios, PM e MM, in quanto le costruzioni di Festòs, in ogni periodo a partire dall'epoca neolitica, si sovrappongono, con il risultato di creare rimescolamenti nella ceramica. A questo proposito si deve sottolineare che frammenti di ceramica neolitica sono stati ritrovati sotto tutte le costruzioni minoiche. Si tratta dunque di una presenza estesa e assai consistente e, a giudicare dalla qualità della ceramica, molto evoluta. In pratica il territorio occupato dalle abitazioni in epoca neolitica era esteso per lo meno quanto le superfici coperte dai due palazzi di Festòs.

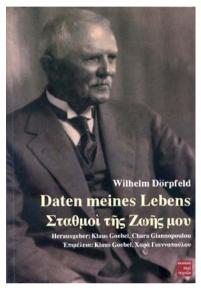
Il riesame delle aree qui prese in considerazione e l'aggiunta di nuovi dati hanno permesso di mettere in evidenza, tra l'altro, alcune inedite osservazioni che confermano la datazione e la sequenza dei periodi struttivi del I Palazzo MM.

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Wilhelm Dörpfeld: Daten meines Lebens - Σταθμοί της Ζωής μου

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Abstract

Wilhelm Dörpfeld was born in 1853 in Barmen (now Wuppertal). He died in 1940 on Lefkada, where he was buried. He earned an international reputation because of his excavations at Troy and ancient Greek cities, especially Olympia, Athens, Pergamum, Tiryns and Mycenae.

Heinrich Schliemann invited Dörpfeld as a collaborator of his Trojan excavations. In Asia Minor Dörpfeld evolved the method of stratigraphy and he continued Schliemann's excavations after the death of the latter. From 1887 until 1912 he was the director of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens.

This autobiographical manuscript, which is published for the first time, records the life of Dörpfeld chronologically. The archaeologist began to record his life in 1916, and he continued shortly before his death. The original manuscript is the property of Emeritus Professor of the Technical University of Dortmund Mr. Klaus Goebel. The publication is in German and Greek.

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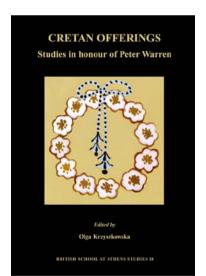
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Cretan Offerings: Studies in Honour of Peter Warren

Edited by Olga Krzyszkowska

City & year: London 2010 (December) **Publisher:** British School at Athens

Series: BSA Studies 18

Description: Hardback, xl & 400 p., 221 figs., including 20 in colour, 4

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Aegean Library: -

Abstract

In recognition of the outstanding contribution made by Peter Warren to Aegean archaeology — and in particular to Cretan studies — this volume offers a collection of 36 papers reflecting his wide-ranging research interests. Among the topics addressed are material culture and iconography, including frescoes, pottery, seals and stone

vases; chronology, inter-site relationships, overseas connections and religion; Knossos and the legacy of Sir Arthur Evans; and the natural world, Minoan and modern. While some papers present unpublished material for the first time, others reflect on broader themes, offering important new insights into perennial problems of Minoan archaeology. Thus, as a whole, the volume serves as an important overview of current research into Bronze Age Crete and its wider relations, both spatially and temporally.

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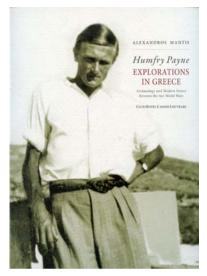
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Aegean Library: 2359

Humfry Payne. A Description of Greece. Archaeology and Modern Greece between the two World Wars (translated by Norman Russell)

Alexandros Mantis

City & year: Athens 2009

Publisher: Ekdoseis tou Phoinika

Series: -

Description: Paperback, 175 p., 95 b/w ill., 11 colour ill, 31x24 cm

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Price: Not for sale

Abstract

Humfry Gilbert Garth Payne (1902-1936) was a British archaeologist. He was born in Wendover, in the county of Buckinghamshire, on 19 February 1902. He was the only son of Edward John Payne (1844-1904), an anthropologist and historian of the New World, while one of his ancestors was Sir Richard Payne-Knight, a famous collector of antiquities and opponent of Lord Elgin. Payne's early education was at Westminster School. He went on from there to Christ Church College, Oxford, with an open classical scholarship. Among his teachers was a legendary figure in British archaeology, John Beazley. In 1926 he married the journalist Dilys Powell. During the years 1927-1929 Payne spent summer archaeological excavation seasons on Crete. In June 1929 he excavated at Eleutherna (on Crete). From the autumn of 1929 until his death in 1936 he was the director of the British School at Athens. During these years he excavated at Perachora, near Corinth, where he discovered the sanctuaries of Hera Akraia and Limenia. His career came to an early end when at the age of 34 he died from an infection of staphylococcus in the Evangelismos Hospital in Athens, near the British School at Athens. He is buried in the cemetery of Agios Georgios at Mycenae.

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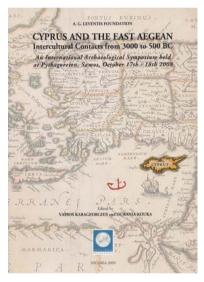
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Cyprus and the East Aegean. Intercultural Contacts from 3000 to 500 BC. An International Archaeological Symposium held at Pythagoreion, Samos, October 17th – 18th 2008

Edited by Vassos Karageorghis & Ourania Kouka

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Aegean Library: -

Abstract

The study of the archaeology and history of a country is not confined within the narrow boundaries of its physical borders, but it expands much further, to include its relations with the neighbouring countries and the outside world in general. The more so when this country is a small island, like Cyprus, whose survival presupposes continuous overseas contacts. The Mediterranean has been uniquely blessed and is a good example of the phenomenon of a sea which unites and does not separate the countries which it borders. This elongated sea, with a number of islands scattered from one end to the other, has made communications possible, even in prehistoric times, when the means of navigation were primitive.

From a very early period the Cypriots established contacts with their neighbours, the Syro-Palestinian coast, Asia Minor and Egypt. The copper trade broadened these horizons to include the Aegean and even further, the islands of the Central Mediterranean, Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. The cultural contacts between Cyprus and the East Aegean started in the 3rd mill. BC, when the island of copper adapted the know-how of tin bronze from the south-east and the southern coasts of Anatolia. The contacts became more intensive in the 2nd mill. BC, when Cyprus was dominant in the Mediterranean as the most important supplier of copper and welcomed colonists from Mycenaean Greece. This relationship reached its peak in the Iron Age under the supervision of new

political entities, the Cypriote Kingdoms. The contacts between these geographical regions differed through the ages with regard to their direction and purpose, as well as to their quality and quantity.

Several international symposia have already dealt with the relations between Cyprus, Crete and Mainland Greece; the results have been published. The aim of the international symposium *Cyprus and the East Aegean. Intercultural Contacts from 3000 to 500 BC* organized on the island of Samos is the research in the relations between Cyprus and the Eastern Aegean, a part of the Aegean world which was of pivotal cultural importance, because it served as the stepping stone which led to the peoples of Anatolia and the Persian Empire, via the western coast of Asia Minor. Furthermore, the Eastern Aegean lies half-way between Cyprus and continental Greece, and the rules of early navigation necessitated the following of such a passage, especially through the south-eastern Aegean.

The present symposium has been organized by the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the German Archaeological institute, the excavations of which at Samos and Miletus, as well as its scholarly publications, have placed research on the civilizations of the Eastern Aegean on a very high pedestal.

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Raum und Ritus. Zur Rekonstruktion minoischer Kultpraxis Mara Zatti

City & year: Oxford 2009 Publisher: Archaeopress

Series: BAR International Series 1957 (Freiburg Dissertations in

Aegean Archaeology)

Description: Paperback, 145 pages, 116 b/w plates, 6 figures,

29,7x21 cm ISBN: 9781407304403 Price: £ 34 (ca. € 40)

Aegean Library: -

Abstract

In this study of Minoan cult practice, the author looks beyond the many vivid images from Cretan prehistory, focussing on the stratigraphy of the artefacts and buildings. She lists all the known cultural rooms in a database and divides them into "primary" and "secondary" rooms, according to their cultural objects and architectural situation. The former were selected for their good state of preservation, with their artefacts found in situ. These rooms were characterised by objects which were recognised as "cultural" by archaeology, present in other ancient religions better known from written sources (Egyptian, Hittite, Greek). Using this data it became clear that the same objects appeared in different contexts and their impact was only intelligible in combination with other findings belonging to the same surrounding architecture. Four groups of cultic activities were thus identified: Small offerings; Animal sacrifices; Ceremonial events; Purification rites.

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2. NEW ARTICLES

2.1. 'Mineralogical analysis and provenancing of ancient ceramics using automated SEM-EDS analysis (QEMSCAN®): a pilot study on LB I pottery from Akrotiri, Thera'

C. Knappett, D. Pirrie, M.R. Power, I. Nikolakopoulou, J. Hilditch & G.K. Rollinson Journal of Archaeological Science 38.2 (February 2011): 219-232. Aegean Library: -

Abstract

A wide range of existing mineralogical and geochemical methodologies such as optical microscopy, X-ray diffraction, manual scanning electron microscopy, ICP-MS and INAA have been utilised in the analysis of ancient ceramics, in attempts to elucidate patterns of regional trade and interaction. However, advances in automated scanning electron microscopy with linked energy dispersive spectrometers (SEM-EDS) have created the potential to offer a seamless combination of textural and mineralogical data based on the acquisition of energy dispersive spectra that has so far been unattainable with existing techniques. In this pilot study on pottery from the Cycladic Bronze Age site of Akrotiri (Thera), we have quantified the mineralogy of the ceramics based on automated SEM-EDS using QEMSCAN® technology and imaged the textures of the ceramics through compositional mapping. Thirteen samples were analysed and, based upon the automated analysis, four groups of ceramic compositions are defined. These data are consistent with, but also refine, previous traditional petrographic examination of the ceramic samples, and enable the likely provenance of the raw materials used in the ceramic manufacture to be identified. This technique allows the acquisition of fully quantitative data, not only for the larger inclusions within the ceramics but also for the typically finer-grained groundmass/matrix, whilst also providing the overall texture of the ceramic.

2.2. 'Three-dimensional visibility analysis of architectural spaces: iconography and visibility of the wall paintings of Xeste 3 (Late Bronze Age Akrotiri)'

Eleftheria Paliou, David Wheatley & Graeme Earl Journal of Archaeological Science 38.2 (February 2011): 375-386. Aegean Library: -

Abstract

In recent years various methods of visibility analysis have been applied to investigate human engagement, experience and socialisation within historic and prehistoric 'natural' and built environments. On many occasions these approaches appear to be either extremely limited or wholly inadequate for the interpretation of complex built structures and building interiors because they do not fully model the three-dimensional geometry of such spaces. This paper briefly reviews computational approaches to visual analysis that have been previously applied in archaeological research, and then goes on to introduce a new analytical technique that uses fully 3D reconstructions of past environments. This method integrates common functionalities of 3D modelling software and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), essentially permitting viewshed analysis to be performed upon objects of any form and shape modelled in 3D. We argue that the proposed methodology can generate new data and encourage fresh lines of enquiry in the study of extant and partially preserved historic and prehistoric built structures in a variety of contexts, ranging from building interiors and townscapes to landscapes. The potential of the method is illustrated by applying the suggested analysis to explore visual perception issues associated with the urban remains of Late Bronze Age Akrotiri (Thera, Greece).

2.3. 'A comparison of chemical and petrographic analyses of Neolithic pottery from South-eastern Europe'

Michela Spataro

Journal of Archaeological Science 38.2 (February 2011): 255-269.

Aeaean Library: -

Abstract

This paper deals with the importance of chemical analyses in characterising prehistoric pottery fabrics. Two three-year projects focussed on the minero-petrographic and SEM/EDS analyses of the oldest pottery from south-east Europe (ca. 6000 cal BC). Whereas in the Impressed Ware culture of the Adriatic region, optical microscopy was sufficient to identify provenance, the more uniform geological background of the central Balkans required chemical analyses to be able to differentiate between different raw materials. Multiple bulk analyses of each sherd were obtained to gauge the variability in composition within each vessel. The limiting factor in determining provenance in this area appears to be the similarity of clay sources, not the inhomogeneity of the coarse pottery. This is shown here using results from four of the sites, including three where petrographic analyses could not establish provenance.

2.4. 'The use of SEM-EDS, PIXE and EDXRF for obsidian provenance studies in the Near East: a case study from Neolithic Çatalhöyük (central Anatolia)'

Gérard Poupeau, François-Xavier Le Bourdonnec, Tristan Carter, Sarah Delerue, M. Steven Shackley, Jean-Alix Barrat, Stéphan Dubernet, Philippe Moretto, Thomas Calligaro, Marina Milić, Katsuji Kobayashi

Journal of Archaeological Science 37.11 (November 2010): 2705-2720. Aegean Library: -

Abstract

In this paper we evaluate the relative analytical capabilities of SEM-EDS, PIXE and EDXRF for characterizing archaeologically significant Anatolian obsidians on the basis of their elemental compositions. The study involves 54 geological samples from various sources, together with an archaeological case study involving 100 artifacts from Neolithic Çatalhöyük (central Anatolia). With each technique the artifacts formed two compositional groups that correlated with the East Göllü Dağ and Nenezi Dağ sources. The non-destructive capabilities of these methods are emphasized (albeit with certain analytical limitations in the case of SEM-EDS), suggesting important new techniques for Near Eastern obsidian provenance studies.

2.5. 'Archaeobotanical inference of Bronze Age land use and land cover in the eastern Mediterranean'

JoAnna Klinge & Patricia Fall

Journal of Archaeological Science 37.10 (October 2010): 2622-2629. Aegean Library: -

Abstract

Charcoal and charred seeds at five Bronze Age archaeological sites discern ancient land use in the eastern Mediterranean. Seed frequencies of orchard crops, annual cereals and pulses, and wild or weedy plants are used to characterize plant utilization at different archaeological sites on the island of Cyprus, in the Rift Valley of Jordan, and in the Jabbul Plain and along the upper Euphrates River valley in Syria. Seed to charcoal ratios provide proxies to determine the relative usage of dung versus wood for fuel across the ancient Mediterranean landscape. Greater charcoal and lower charred seed values are interpreted to represent a wooded environment, while higher amounts of charred seeds and minimal wood charcoal suggest a much great use of dung as a fuel source. Interestingly, Politiko-*Troullia* (Cyprus, Cypriot

archaeological sites are, by convention, named for the nearest modern village (Politiko), followed by an italicized toponym (*Troullia*) referring to the plot of land that incorporates the site) has the lowest seed to charcoal ratio, suggesting its residents primarily burned wood and that the landscape surrounding *Troullia* remained relatively wooded during the Bronze Age. In contrast, villagers at Tell el-Hayyat (Jordan) utilized a mixture of wood and dung, in contrast to Tell Abu en-Ni'aj (Jordan), and especially Umm el-Marra and Tell es-Sweyhat (Syria), where inhabitants relied solely on dung fuel. Comparative analysis and interpretation of seed and charcoal evidence thus illustrates the variety of fuel use strategies necessitated by the dynamic and diverse Bronze Age landscapes of the Eastern Mediterranean.

2.6. 'Lead pigments and related tools at Akrotiri, Thera, Greece. Provenance and application techniques'

S. Sotiropoulou, V. Perdikatsis, Ch. Apostolaki, A.G. Karydas, A. Devetzi & K. Birtacha Journal of Archaeological Science 37.8 (August 2010): 1830-1840. Aegean Library: Dig. Sotiropoulou et al. 2010

Abstract

This paper refers to an investigation of finds that are associated with the raw materials and tools for the preparation or use of lead pigments at Akrotiri on Thera, Greece, during the Early, Middle and Late Cycladic Bronze Age (c. 3000–1600 BC). For the detection and the preliminary characterisation of remains of pigments that were found on stone tools, the *in situ* application of X-Ray Fluorescence spectroscopy proved to be invaluable. In order to identify the chemical composition of the pigments and to investigate their provenance from a geological perspective, quantitative X-Ray Diffraction analysis was conducted. A thorough visual macro and microscopic examination of the morphology of the materials permitted the determination of physical features (colour, homogeneity, grain size) as indicators of their nature or degree of processing. Based on the results of these analyses, the traces of lead oxides that were detected on the stone tools are associated with specific collections of litharge items discovered at the settlement of Akrotiri, and probably provide evidence of their earliest use in preparing pigments.

2.7. 'Tell formation processes as indicated from geoarchaeological and geochemical investigations at Xeropolis, Euboea, Greece'

Donald A. Davidson, Clare A. Wilson, Irene S. Lemos & S.P. Theocharopoulos Journal of Archaeological Science 37.7 (July 2010): 1564-1571. Aegean Library: -

Abstract

Xeropolis is a tell site on the island of Euboea, Greece just to the east of the village of Lefkandi, and was occupied from the Early Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. Excavations in recent years have provided an opportunity to investigate site formation processes using geoarchaeological and geochemical techniques. Sediments derived from the tell on the southern side have been lost by coastal erosion whilst those on the north mantle the flanking slope. Of particular interest is a homogeneous and unstratified deposit of over 2 m which overlies the archaeology near the southern perimeter of the summit area. The soil structure as evident in thin sections indicates a high degree of bioturbation, probably stimulated by recent manuring and cultivation. The implication is that tillage erosion has had a major impact on the morphology as well as on the surface soils of the tell. Despite such reworking and redeposition of near surface materials, it is still possible from multi-element analysis to identify the geochemical distinctiveness of six archaeological contexts (pit, house, plaster floor, alley, road and yard); pits and floors have high loadings of all elements except Pb; in contrast pits and floors have the lowest elemental concentrations.

2.8. 'Strofilas (Andros Island, Greece): New evidence for the Cycladic Final Neolithic period through novel dating methods using luminescence and obsidian hydration'

Ioannis Liritzis

Journal of Archaeological Science 37.6 (June 2010): 1367-1377.

Aegean Library: -

Abstract

The recently excavated coastal prehistoric settlement of Strofilas on Andros Island (Cyclades, Greece) in the Aegean sheds new light on the transitional phase from the Final Neolithic to Early Cycladic period regarding masonry, fortification, and richly engraved rock art. The fortification possesses early evidence of preserved defensive architecture, as evidenced from the plethora of scattered finds from within and around the settlement. Important features are carvings on rock walls which mainly depict ships, animals, and fish. Initial archaeometric dating via the application of luminescence dating of two samples from the fortified wall bearing engraved ships, and by obsidian hydration of two blades employing the new SIMS-SS method (secondary ion mass spectrometry via surface saturation), has been undertaken to determine the site's chronology. The former yields an average date of 3520 (±540) BC and the latter an average date of 3400 (±200) years BC, both of which, within overlapping errors, suggest the main settlement occurred during the Final Neolithic.

2.9. 'Arsenic accumulation on the bones in the Early Bronze Age İkiztepe population, Turkey'

Kameray Özdemir, Yılmaz Selim Erdal & Şahinde Demirci Journal of Archaeological Science 37.5 (May 2010): 1033-1041. Aegean Library: -

Abstract

In this study, arsenic, copper and lead content of a group of human and animal bones recovered from the Early Bronze Age İkiztepe site have been analyzed using ICP-MS method. Average arsenic value of 90 femur bones of a human was found to be 15.0 ± 5.79 ppm which was varied among age and sex groups, and among species. Origin of arsenic accumulation in bones was diagenetic because overall the groups were highly variable. The distribution of metallic items among the burials had a big affect on the arsenic uptake of the bones. Copper and lead values supported the diagenetic arsenic accumulation in the bones as well. Their values on the bones were not as high as those for the individuals involved in metal working activities in the ancient world. Judging from these data, it is concluded that İkiztepe people did not produce the manufactured metallic items using arsenical copper but might have been imported from the other sites.

2.10. 'Keeping an eye on your pots: the provenance of Neolithic ceramics from the Cave of the Cyclops, Youra, Greece'

Patrick Quinn, Peter Day, Vassilis Kilikoglou, Edward Faber, Stella Katsarou-Tzeveleki & Adamantios Sampson

Journal of Archaeological Science 37.5 (May 2010): 1042-1052. Aegean Library: -

Abstract

Combined petrographic and chemical analysis of MN and LN ceramics from the Cave of the Cyclops on the island of Youra, Greece, has revealed a compositionally diverse assemblage with a range of different local and off-island sources. Ceramics deposited in Neolithic times on this barren, rocky outpost of the Sporades chain may have originated from a surprising number of possible origins, including from the Plain of Thessaly, Euboea and the volcanic northeast Aegean islands. This picture challenges traditional assumptions

about Neolithic pottery production and indicates that significant movement of ceramics was already taking place within the northern Aegean as early as the beginning of the sixth millennium BC. The discovery of a persistent local pottery tradition, that is also found on the neighbouring island of Kyra-Panagia, indicates significant continuity in ceramic technology over some 1500 years.

2.11. 'Palaeogeographical reconstructions of Lake Maliq (Korça Basin, Albania) between 14,000 BP and 2000 BP'

Eric Fouache, Stéphane Desruelles, Michel Magny, Amandine Bordon, Cécile Oberweiler, Céline Coussot, Gilles Touchais, Petrika Lera, Anne-Marie Lézine, Lionel Fadin & Rébecca Roger Journal of Archaeological Science 37.3 (March 2010): 525-535.

Aegean Library: -

Abstract

Since the early 1990s, excavations of a protohistoric lakeside settlement in the Korça basin carried out by a French–Albanian archaeological team have induced geomorphological and palynological studies about the sedimentary records of Lake Maliq. These studies allow us to distinguish a series of centennial-scale high and low lake level events between 4200 and 4000 cal BP (2899–2637 BC/2843–2416 BC) and 2600 cal BP (822–671 BC), probably due to large-scale climate changes (in the Mediterranean basin). In addition, the sediment sequence also gives evidence of a millennial-scale trend of lake level rise. It appears to be an interplay between lake level rises and falls against tectonic subsidence of the basin allowing accommodation space for sediment deposition.

The variations of the lake's level and the lake's surface area influenced the development and the abandonment of the nearby lakeside settlements (like the tell of Sovjan). In order to prepare an archaeological survey around the now dried up lake, we made a 3D model of the Holocene deposit from the lake including these lake level results, geomorphological mapping, excavation data, numerous core logs, AMS 14 C dating and SRTM DEM data. The GIS model allowed us to propose four palaeogeographical reconstructions of the extension of Lake Maliq: around 14,000 BP, during the Mesolithic (around 9000 BP – 8781–8542 BC), the Early/Middle Bronze Age transition (around 3800 BP – 2310–2042 BC) and the Iron Age (2600 BP – 822–671 BC). A map of the thickness of the sediments above potential archaeological layers is also proposed.

2.12. 'How reliable are our published archaeometric analyses? Effects of analytical techniques through time on the elemental analysis of obsidians'

R.G.V. Hancock & Tristan Carter

Journal of Archaeological Science 37.2 (February 2010): 243-250.

Aegean Library: -

Abstract

To assess the analytical accuracies and precisions of archaeometric elemental analyses by different techniques, a relatively homogeneous material such as obsidian must be studied. An assessment of published elemental concentration data from two Anatolian obsidian sources shows that while in most cases analytical accuracy is as high as is commonly expected, in some cases it is not. It also shows that the dispersions of elemental concentration data (indicators of analytical precisions) coming from modern analytical procedures are akin to the estimated homogeneity of the obsidian. Based on this latter observation, if one has element dispersion data from a single analytical technique, with a single source of obsidian as a control, data sets that contain multiple, but similar sources of obsidian may be differentiated.

2.13. 'The manipulation of death: a burial area at the Neolithic Settlement of Avgi, NW Greece'

Georgia Stratouli, Sevi Triantaphyllou, Tasos Bekiaris & Nikos Katsikaridis Documenta Praehistorica XXXVII (2010): 95-104.

Aegean Library: Dig. Stratouli et al. 2010

Abstract

In the Neolithic of Northern Greece the disposal of the deceased is strongly related to the community of the living, and in most cases to the built environment. Burials often occur in close proximity to, or underneath 'domestic' structures. The constant association of dead ancestors with the living social environment may indicate a particular desire by Neolithic people to negotiate their past by incorporating it into their own present. This paper addresses such issues, based on new evidence from the Neolithic settlement of Avgi, NW Greece. A group of cremations were recently located inside ten small pots buried in an open space in the Neolithic village. The burials consisted of tiny amounts of heavily burnt human bones and, in two cases, were accompanied by carbonized seeds. This paper will discuss the occurrence of the burial pots and the associated cremations as tokens of memory and of special links to the past represented by the dead ancestors.

2.14. 'Neolithic anthropocentrism: the principles of imagery and symbolic manifestation of corporeality in the Balkans'

Goce Naumov

Documenta Praehistorica XXXVII (2010): 227-238.

Aegean Library: -

Abstract

The body in the Neolithic was used as adequate symbolic medium which on the one hand strengthened the crucial features of individuals, while on the other was capable to explicate the essential function of particular objects and constructions. As result to this also the concept of imagery hybridism was deployed which incorporate human body within more complex segments of visual culture and symbolic communication. Considering the variety of human representations it can be deduced that anthropocentrism was one of the main visual principles in the Neolithic Balkans which established corporality as major cognitive reference in explication of human agency and its role in understanding the fundamental symbolic processes.

2.15. 'The Neolithic-Chalcolithic sequence in the SW Anatolian Lakes Region'

Laurens Thissen

Documenta Praehistorica XXXVII (2010): 269-284.

Aegean Library: -

Abstract

This paper reviews the radiocarbon, stratigraphic and pottery evidence from five early pottery sites in SW Turkey. A comparison of the results with data from Ulucak in West Turkey indicates no significant time lag between these areas. The onset of Neolithic sites early in the 7th millennium cal BC makes it difficult to link their emergence to the collapse theories applied to SE Anatolian societies at the end of the PPNB period. The chronology proposed is not compatible with allegedly contemporary developments in SE Europe.

2.16. 'The representation of phalli in Neolithic Thessaly, Greece'

Stratos Nanoglou

Documenta Praehistorica XXXVII (2010): 215-226.

Aegean Library: -

Abstract

This paper is an attempt to elucidate a rather understudied aspect of Neolithic imagery from Thessaly, Greece, objects representing phalli, and at the same time to consider the possibility that gender was not a prominent structuring principle in the past, allowing for the fact that phalli did not elicit a pervasive binary categorization of bodies, but instead were invoked in specific circumstances with particular objectives.

2.17. 'The earlier Neolithic in Cyprus: recognition and dating of a Pre-Pottery Neolithic A occupation'

Sturt W. Manning, Carole McCartney, Bernd Kromer & Sarah T. Stewart

Antiquity 84 (September 2010): 693-706.

Aegean Library: 2361 & Dig. Manning et al. 2010

Abstract

Intensive survey and initial excavations have succeeded in pushing back the Neolithic human occupation of Cyprus to the earlier ninth millennium cal BC. Contemporary with PPNA in the Levant, and with signs of belonging to the same intellectual community, these were not marginalised foragers, but participants in the developing Neolithic project, which was therefore effectively networked over the sea.

2.18. 'Salomon Reinach and the religious interpretation of Palaeolithic art'

Eduardo Palacio-Pérez

Antiquity 84 (September 2010): 853–863

Aegean Library: 2361 & Dig. Palacio-Pérez 2010

Abstract

When did upper Palaeolithic cave art come to be thought of as religious? The author shows an origin rooted in the intellectual movements of the later nineteenth century, and in particular in the personage and thought of Salomon Reinach.

2.19. 'A source in Bulgaria for Early Neolithic 'Balkan flint"

P. Biagi & E. Starnini

Antiquity 84 (September 2010): webpage.

Aegean Library: 2361 & Dig. Biagi & Starnini 2010

Abstract

During a study trip in the Lower Danube Valley in the summer of 2009, we crossed the western part of the Moesian Platform, along a route partly following the Iskar River Valley, which brought us to the Danube throughout Pleven and Nikopol. Here, along the road that runs parallel to the Zass'idere torrent, close to its confluence with the Danube at the southern outskirts of Nikopol, we noticed that the cutting of the earth road along the slopes of Ali Kach Baba hill had exposed a white chalk formation (Upper Cretaceous) with several embedded seams of flint nodules. Many cores, flakes and by-products of blade debitage also lay on the surface of a pathway that led to a shrine of the Turkish period. The importance of the discovery was immediately evident, because the raw material is, without doubt, the well-known, yellow-honey coloured, white spotted, waxy, 'Balkan Flint', which is common to the assemblages of the Early Neolithic sites of the Balkans. Furthermore, there was evidence of flint exploitation and reduction on the spot.

Read the article

3. RECENT BOOK REVIEWS

3.1. Rougemont, F., 2009. Review of S. Deger-Jalkotzy & O. Panagl (eds), *Die neuen Linear B-Texte aus Theben, Ihr Aufschlusswert für die mykenische Sprache und Kultur, Akten des internationalen Forschungskolloquiums an der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 5.-6. Dezember 2002 (Vienne 2006), <i>Revue Archéologique* (fascicule 2): 345-348.

Aegean Library: BR. Rougemont 2009

3.2. Rougier-Blanc, S., 2009. Review of R. Westgate, N. Fisher & J. Withley (eds), *Building Communities: House, Settlement and Society in the Aegean and Beyond, Proceedings of a Conference held at Cardiff University, 17-21 April 2001* (London 2007), *Revue Archéologique* (fascicule 2): 357-363.

Aegean Library: BR. Rougier-Blanc 2009

3.3. Hermary, A., 2009. Review of V. Karageorghis, Aspects of Everyday Life in Ancient Cyprus. Iconographic Representations (Nicosia 2006), Revue Archéologique (fascicule 2): 350-351.

Aegean Library: BR. Hermary 2009

3.4. Guilaine, J., 2009. Review of B. Knapp, *Prehistoric and Protohistoric Cyprus, Identity, Insularity, and Connectivity* (Oxford 2008), *Revue Archéologique* (fascicule 2): 348-350.

Aegean Library: BR. Guilaine 2009

3.5. Carpentier, F., 2010. Review of C. Renfrew (ed.), *Excavations at Phylakopi in Melos 1974-1977* (London 2007), *Revue Archéologique* (fascicule 1): 67-69.

Aegean Library: BR. Carpentier 2010

3.6. Sørensen, L.W., 2010. Review of A. Hermary (ed.), Hommage à Annie Caubet, Actes du colloque international "Chypre et la côte du Levant aux II^e et I^{er} millénaires", Paris 14-16 juin 2007 (Paris 2007), Revue Archéologique (fascicule 1): 71-73.

Aegean Library: BR. Sørensen 2010

3.7. Lefèvre-Novaro, D., 2010. Review of S. Privitera, *Case e rituali a Creta nel periodo neopalaziale* (Athens 2008), *Revue Archéologique* (fascicule 1): 73-74.

Aegean Library: BR. Lefèvre-Novaro 2010

3.8. Blantin, B., 2010. Review of N.J. Coldstream, *Greek Geometric Pottery. A Survey of ten Local Styles and their Chronology* (Exeter 2008), *Revue Archéologique* (fascicule 1): 75-76.

Aegean Library: BR. Blantin 2010

3.9. Le Roy, C., 2010. Review of B. Lion & C. Michel (ed.), *Histoires de déchiffrements. Les écritures du Proche-Orient à l'Égée* (Paris 2009), *Revue Archéologique* (fascicule 1): 126-127.

Aegean Library: BR. Le Roy 2010

3.10. Shapland, A., 2011. Review of the website *DBAS: Data Bases about Aegean Subjects, Internet Archaeology*, issue 29 (January).

Read the review

Aegean Library: BR. Dig. Shapland 2011

4. FREE DIGITAL BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

4.1. Evans, A.J., 1906. The Prehistoric Tombs of Knossos. I. The Cemetery of Zafer Papoura. II. The Royal Tomb of Isopata (from Archaeologia LIX), London: B. Quaritch.

Press here

For another copy

4.2. Πρακτικά ΙΒ΄ Επιστημονικής Συνάντησης ΝΑ Αττικής. Παλλήνη, 30 Νοεμβρίου-3 Δεκεμβρίου 2006 (Proceedings of the 12th Scientific Meeting of Southeast Attica), Kalyvia Thorikou: EMENA, 2008.

Press here

4.3. Marett, R.R. (ed.), 1908. Anthropology and the Classics. Six Lectures Delivered before the University of Oxford, Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Press here

4.4. Lolling, H.G., Bohn, R., Furtwängler, A. & Köhler, U., 1880. *Das Kuppelgrab bei Menidi. Herausgeben vom Deutschen Archaeologischen Institute in Athen*, Athen: K. Wilberg.

Press here

4.5. Normand, C., 1892. La troie d'Homére: Exploration artistique et archéologique, Paris.

Press here

4.6. Tsountas, C. & Manatt, J.I., 1897. *The Mycenaean Age. A Study of the Monuments and Culture of Pre-Homeric Greece*, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

Press here

For another copy

5. USEFUL WEBSITES

ARACHNE - Corpus of the Minoan and Mycenaean Seals

ARACHNE is the central object-database of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI). In 2004 the DAI and the Research Archive for Ancient Sculpture at the University of Cologne (FA) joined the effort to support Arachne as a tool for free internet-based research.

The Corpus of the Minoan and Mycenaean Seals (CMS) has been published exclusively in a printed version since being established in 1958. The project's aim is the scholarly publication of every preserved seal and clay cast from the Aegean Bronze Age.

Visit the website

DBAS: Data Bases about Aegean Subjects

The DBAS project, the acronym of "Data Bases about Aegean Subjects", starts in 2005 as a complex research tool for the study of specific themes, regarding the Aegean and the East Mediterranean areas in the pre-classical period, from the idea that a complete statistical analysis of the data of interest could be highly beneficial. Promoted by the University of Florence, this project has contributions by historians, philologists, archaeologists computer scientists, both from the University of Florence and other Institutions. DBAS is a new kind of on-line consultation tool, a scientific portal organized in three main sections: Data bases for advanced research on specific topics, Bibliographic data bases, Tools and other implements for general research and for educational purposes.

Visit the website

6. AEGEUS'S NEWS

The Institute of Classical Studies is now a member of Aegeus

It is our great honour and pleasure, that the Institute of Classical Studies of the University of London is a member of *Aegeus* since the 20th of January 2011. The renowned foundation with its substantial and consistent contribution to Aegean prehistoric research and in particular Mycenaean archaeology, is the first institution to become a member of *Aegeus*. Moreover, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Institute of Classical Studies for donating 150 Euros towards the activities of the Society, as well as to Professor Olga Krzyszkowska for supporting and believing in the work of *Aegeus*.

Dissertations

Domestic Architecture, Spatial Organisation and the Use of Space in the Early Iron Age in Island Greece

Anastasia Christophilopoulou University of Cambridge 2008

This thesis examines evidence of domestic architecture and household activities in Greece between the end of the Bronze Age and the Archaic period (from the 12th to the 7th century B.C.) by putting forward an analysis of non-religious architectural structures in the Aegean, and demonstrating how settlement evidence can indicate social organisations and interactions. The focus of the study is the archaeological material of Island Greece rather than the mainland, and the chronological framework is the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age.

Read more

Past Conferences

6th International Congress of Boeotian Studies

Levadia, 10-12 September 2010

The 6th International Congress of Boeotian Studies was organized by the Society of Boeotian Studies on 10-12 September 2010. The Congress took place at the Conference Center 'Krya' of the Municipality of Levadia. More than 100 papers were given, covering the following thematic units: 1) Prehistory and Antiquity, 2) Byzantine - Modern Times, and 3) Contemporary Boeotia.

Read more



7. LECTURES OF THE MONTH

To see all the lectures of the month <u>press here</u>.

8. CALL FOR PAPERS

Silent Participants: Terracottas as Ritual Objects

Colloquium Session, 113th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (Philadelphia, January 5-8, 2012)

Deadline: 01 March 2011

The Coroplastic Studies Interest Group is pleased to announce its organization of a panel for the 113th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (Philadelphia, January 5-8, 2012). Building on the foundation laid by a 2009 panel addressing current trends in coroplastic studies, this session focuses on one specific issue within the field: the interpretation of terracotta figurines from ritual contexts.

read more

The Aegean Bronze Age from the "other's" perspective

Colloquium for Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting 2012, to be held in Philadelphia, PA 5th-8th January 2012

Deadline: 05 March 2011

This colloquium wishes to shift the focus onto women in the Aegean and investigate the role and contribution of women not only in the everyday life of Aegean communities, but also their direct or indirect participation in articulating social networks and structures and in affecting long term history processes.

read more

UK Archaeological Sciences Conference 2011

University of Reading, 15-18 September 2011

Deadline: 01 May 2011

The Department of Archaeology is proud to host the UK Archaeological Sciences 2011 meeting. UKAS is a biannual international conference which aims to bring together archaeological scientists from all areas of the field.

read more

Official Ceremonies and Processions in the Mycenaean World

17th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, 14-18 September 2011 Oslo, Norway Deadline: 30 April 2011

Processions formed an important part of official ceremonies in the Mycenaean period. This is evident from the iconograpical material, chiefly the palatial wall paintings and gold rings, and from the Linear B tablets. This session aims to explore the political, social, and symbolic functions of official ceremonies and processions in the Mycenaean world from a variety of perspectives.

read more

History, Technology and Conservation of Ancient Metals, Glasses and Enamels

Athens, 16-19 November Deadline: 20 June 2011

The N.C.S.R. "Demokritos", The National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and The National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF) organizes an International Symposium on "History, Technology and Conservation of Ancient Metal, Glasses and Enamels", to be held in Athens, 16-19 November 2011.

read more

9. GRANTS/BURSARIES & JOB VACANCIES

Προκήρυξη οχτώ (8) θέσεων Leonardo Da Vinci

Deadline: 21 February 2011

Προκήρυξη οχτώ (8) θέσεων απόκτησης εργασιακής εμπειρίας σε χώρες της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης στο πλαίσιο του ευρωπαϊκού προγράμματος Leonardo Da Vinci.

read more

Προκήρυξη διαγωνισμού για τη χορήγηση τριών (3) υποτροφιών

Deadline: 21 February 2011

Η Ακαδημία Αθηνών, ανακοίνωσε την προκήρυξη διαγωνισμού για τη χορήγηση μιας (1) υποτροφίας για μεταπτυχιακές σπουδές στον κλάδο της Προϊστορικής Αρχαιολογίας και δύο (2) υποτροφιών για μεταπτυχιακές σπουδές στον κλάδο της Κλασσικής Αρχαιολογίας.

read more

PhD position on the Adolescence, Migration and Health in Medieval England Research project

Deadline: 07 March 2011

Applications are welcomed for a 3-year PhD studentship in biological anthropology funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The candidate will join a team of researchers examining the life course of children and young adults (10-15 years) during the early and later medieval period, especially in regard to employment and migration.

read more

Application and development of computational intelligence methodologies in analyzing archaeological data

Deadline: 20 March 2011

The main scope of the research project is to investigate, design, implement and use intelligent algorithms to facilitate archaeological research and archaeometry, in analyzing, classifying and making sense out of large quantities of structured and semi-structured data.

read more

New Round of Newton International Fellowships

Deadline: 04 April 2011

The Newton International Fellowships are funded by the British Academy and the Royal Society and aim to attract the most promising early-career post-doctoral researchers from overseas in the fields of the humanities, the natural, physical and social sciences.

read more

10. MISCELLANEA

Petition for the immediate appointment of all the elected Faculty Members of Greek Universities

More than 650 Faculty Members of Greek Universities, elected since 2009, are stuck in an unprecedented state of professional limbo and research stagnation. The Greek Government delays arbitrarily the appointment of academic staff elected according to all rightful and legal procedures, while the Ministry of Education does not even publish the list of successful candidates. All the above-mentioned Faculty Members are awaiting their long overdue appointment without any chance of reimbursement due to state obstructionism. We demand the immediate appointment of all elected Faculty Members.

Sign the petition



The archaeological site of Akrotiri opens in 2011

Santorini Weblog

By 31 December 2010, the shelter of prehistoric Akrotiri site would be restored, while the May 31, 2011 the project will be complete delivered to archaeologists in order to organize the space to be opened to the public. The episode of the fall of a roofs section, which among others killed a man will be considered closed. However, it has since passed (23 September 2005) much longer than necessary to restore the damage, caused by defects in materials, static failure, manufacturing process etc. The consequences of this delay also measured in many ways regarding to both tourism and science, as the prehistoric settlement of Akrotiri remained locked and inaccessible to visitors and scientist.

Read more

John V. Luce passed away

John V. Luce passed away on 12 February at the age of 90. He will be remembered in the world of Aegean archaeology for his *End of Atlantis* (1976), which sold more than half a million copies, where he argued for the identification of Crete with Plato's Atlantis. An advocate of the reality of Homeric topography, he was an unwavering believer that the veracity of Homer's landscapes in Troy and Ithaca have been vindicated by archaeology (Homer's Landscapes, 1998).

In the 1980s he put forward the idea of the foundation of an Irish Institute at Athens, which came to fruition ten years later. He was made a patron of the IIHSA, continued to be a supporter, and recently co-edited the IIHSA volume *The Lure of Greece, Irish involvement in Greek culture, literature, history and politics* (2007).



Αυτά είναι τα πλοία των Μυκηναίων

M. Thermou, *Το Βήμα*, 30/01/2011

Τώρα ξέρουμε πώς ήταν τα πλοία του μυκηναϊκού στόλου. Η αρχαιολόγος και συντηρήτρια δρ Χαρίκλεια Μπρεκουλάκη κατάφερε, ανασυνθέτοντας τοιχογραφίες από το ανάκτορο της Πύλου, να ζωντανέψει και πάλι την επί χιλιετίες «χαμένη» εικόνα τους αποκαλύπτοντας το σχήμα, το μέγεθος, τη διακόσμηση των πλοίων της εποχής της μεγάλης ακμής του Μυκηναϊκού πολιτισμού, τον 13ο αιώνα π.Χ. Ακόμη και το χρώμα της θάλασσας που ο Ομηρος «χρωματίζει» κόκκινη με τους χαρακτηρισμούς «οίνοψ», «ιώδειος», «πορφύρειος» αποδεικνύεται αληθινό, αφού οι τοιχογραφίες εικονογραφούν ακριβώς τους στίχους του.

Read more

Grapes domesticated 8,000 years ago

Dan Vergano, *USA TODAY*, 19/01/2011

In wine there is truth, in vino veritas, as the ancient Romans put it. And the truth is that people first cultivated grapes for vino about 8,000 years ago, finds a genetics study. In the current Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a team led by Sean Myles of Cornell, looked at "1,000 samples of the domesticated grape, Vitis vinifera subsp. vinifera, and its wild relative, V. vinifera subsp. sylvestris." Comparing the gene maps across the grapes, the team concludes that humanity has only begun to explore the genetic diversity of the humble grape. "Grapes are one of the world's most economically important fruit crops, and this study shows not only the potential for developing new approaches for improving existing varieties, but also the genetic relationships between many common varieties", said Edward Knipling, of the Agriculture Department, which sponsored the research, in a statement.

Read more



Construction of a new museum at the archaeological site of Eleutherna

Approval has been given for the construction of a museum at the archaeological site of Eleutherna, Rethymnon, by the Directorate of Museums, Exhibitions and Educational Programmes of the Ministry of Culture after a study by archaeologist Professor Nikolaos Stampolidis. The very first museum on an archaelogical site in Crete may be implemented within 20 months if there are no bureaucratic delays from the Cretan prefecture, which is to give the final approval and hire contractors for the plan with a 3 million Euro grant from NSRF.

Read more:

http://livingincrete-carolina.blogspot.com

Read also the following Greek articles:

http://www.ethnos.gr http://culture.ana-mpa.gr http://www.tovima.gr

Τέχνη με αισθήματα 3.600 ετών

M. Adamopoulou, $T\alpha N \epsilon \alpha$, 25/01/2011

Φόβος, αγωνία, απόγνωση, απελπισία, ευφορία και απόλαυση είναι μερικά μόνο από τα αισθήματα και τις αισθήσεις που κρύβονται στις μινωικές και μυκηναϊκές τοιχογραφίες της 2ης χιλιετίας π.Χ. Αρχοντική, ώριμη δέσποινα – όχι επειδή «γεννήθηκε»πριν από 34 αιώνες, αλλά επειδή έχει διπλοσάγονο και μεστό στήθος – φορά φούστα με βολάν, διαφανές πουκάμισο και πλούσια κοσμήματα. Εκείνο όμως που την κάνει να ξεχωρίζει είναι το μειδίαμαπου χαράσσεται στα χείλη της. Είναι η περίφημη «Μυκηναία» – μία απότις πιο διάσημες τοιχογραφίες που βρέθηκαν πολύχρυσες Μυκήνες –και η οποία αποκαλύπτει πως το μειδίαμα δεν εμφανίστηκε στις κόρες καιτους κούρους του 6ου αι. π.Χ., αλλά ότι οι καλλιτέχνες του μινωικού και του μυκηναϊκού κόσμου εξέφραζαν αισθήματα και αισθήσεις στα έργα τους ήδη από τη 2η χιλιετία π.Χ.

Read more



Με το ιστίο του Αίαντα

N. Kontrarou-Rassia, Ελευθεροτυπία, 27/01/2011

Ένα μικρό καράβι, σαν εκείνα του μυκηναϊκού στόλου που άνοιξαν τα πανιά τους από το αρχαίο λιμάνι της Κύνου στη Λοκρίδα για τον Τρωικό Πόλεμο, θα θυμίζει το στέγαστρο που θα κατασκευαστεί πάνω από τα αρχαία οικιστικά κατάλοιπα της παραλίας Λιβανατών στη Φθιώτιδα.

Read more

See also: http://www.tanea.gr



Nestor

The January 2011 issue of *Nestor* (38.1) is available for download.

January 2011 (38.1)

Stone tools discovered in Arabia force archaeologists to rethink human history

lan Sample, Guardian, 27/01/2011

A spectacular haul of stone tools discovered beneath a collapsed rock shelter in southern Arabia has forced a major rethink of the story of human migration out of Africa. The collection of hand axes and other tools shaped to cut, pierce and scrape bear the hallmarks of early human workmanship, but date from 125,000 years ago, around 55,000 years before our ancestors were thought to have left the continent. The artefacts, uncovered in the United Arab Emirates, point to a much earlier dispersal of ancient humans, who probably cut across from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian peninsula via a shallow channel in the Red Sea that became passable at the end of an ice age. Once established, these early pioneers may have pushed on across the Persian Gulf, perhaps reaching as far as India, Indonesia and eventually Australia.

Read more:

http://www.guardian.co.uk http://www.irishtimes.com http://www.sciencedaily.com http://www.sciencemag.org



Επισκέψιμο θα γίνει το σπήλαιο Φράγχθι

M. Thermou, *Το Βήμα*, 14/01/2011

Την ανάδειξη του σπηλαίου Φράγχθι στην Αργολίδα, ενός από τα σημαντικότερα του ελληνικού χώρου, αφού θεωρείται πιθανό ότι έχει κατοικηθεί από τον άνθρωπο του Νεάντερταλ κατά την Μουστιαία περίοδο (40.000 χρόνια από σήμερα) αλλά σίγουρα από τον Homo Sapiens (30.000 χρόνια από σήμερα) αποφάσισε το υπουργείο Πολιτισμού προκειμένου να γίνει ευκολότερη η πρόσβαση των επισκεπτών και η ενημέρωσή τους.

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Σιάτιστα: Ανάδειξη της παλαιοντολογικής συλλογής

Ναυτεμπορική, 31/01/2011

Μια ενδιαφέρουσα προβολή της παλαιοντολονικής Σιάτιστας αναπτύσσει ομάδα συλλονής παλαιοντολόγων από το Τμήμα Γεωλογίας του Αριστοτελείου Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης, υπό την επίβλεψη της Αναπληρώτριας Καθηγήτριας Ευαγγελίας Τσουκαλά και του Ντικ Μολ, συνεργάτη του Μουσείου Φυσικής Ιστορίας του Ρότερνταμ. Η απολιθωμάτων συλλονή αποτελείται από προβοσκιδωτά, όπως μαστόδοντες, μαμούθ και ελέφαντες, τα οποία έχουν εξαφανιστεί σήμερα και θα είναι σύντομα διαθέσιμη για το κοινό σε έναν από τους χώρους του ανακαινισμένου Τραμπάντζειου Γυμνάσιου. Ένα μεγάλο μέρος των μοντέλων των προβοσκιδωτών σε κλίμακα 1: 10 έχει ήδη φτάσει στη Σιάτιστα από το προηγούμενο έτος και την περασμένη εβδομάδα το κεντρικό έκθεμα της έκθεσης, ένα υπό κλίμακα μοντέλο 1:3 εγκαταστάθηκε στο χώρο.

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Τη συντήρηση του πρωτομινωικού οικισμού του Μύρτου στο Λασίθι αποφάσισε το ΚΑΣ

In.gr, 04/02/2011

Την ομόφωνη απόφαση να εγκρίνει τη μελέτη στερέωσης και συντήρησης των αρχιτεκτονικών καταλοίπων του προϊστορικού οικισμού του Μύρτου, στη θέση «Φούρνου Κορυφή» Λασιθίου, έλαβε το Κεντρικό Αρχαιολογικό Συμβούλιο (ΚΑΣ), κατά την τελευταία του συνεδρίαση. πρωτομινωικός αυτός οικισμός, που βρίσκεται 3,5 χιλιόμετρα από το χωριό Μύρτο της Ιεράπετρας, πάνω σε λόφο 66 μέτρων, ήκμασε την περίοδο 2800-2200 π.Χ. Είναι από τους πρώτους οικισμούς που ιδρύθηκαν στην Κρήτη και από τους λίγους που δεν έχουν καταστραφεί από μεταγενέστερες οικιστικές φάσεις.

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Σπεσιαλιτέ 4.000 ετών

M. Adamopoulou, $T\alpha N \dot{\epsilon} \alpha$, 04/02/2011

Το πρώτο πιάτο περιλαμβάνει πίτα και μια εξέχουσα λιχουδιά, χοχλιούς. Για δεύτερο σερβίρεται σουβλάκι κατσικίσιο ή νίδα βραστή, ενώ νια απεριτίφ προτείνεται χυμός από εξωτικό ρόδι ή σταφύλι. Το μενού δεν είναι έμπνευση ενός ακόμη master chef από εκείνους που έχουν κατακλύσει την τηλεοπτική οθόνη, αλλά οι αγαπημένες γεύσεις των κατοίκων που έζησαν τη 2η χιλιετία π.Χ. στην προϊστορική Θήρα. Φαγητά, υλικά και σκεύη (από σουβλάκια έως χύτρες) που «πάγωσαν» κάτω από την ηφαιστειακή λάβα και κατάφεραν να αντέξουν ώς τις μέρες μας για να αποκαλυφθούν από τη σκαπάνη του Χρίστου Ντούμα σ' έναν από τους σημαντικότερους οικισμούς τού προϊστορικού Αιναίου, Ακρωτηρίου. Και τα οποία παρουσίασε σε διάλεξη που έδωσε χθες στο Μέναρο Μουσικής Αθηνών στο πλαίσιο του συνεδρίου του IMIC, με θέμα «Από την ανάγκη στην απόλαυση. Οι διατροφικές συνήθειες στο Ακρωτήρι της Εποχής του Χαλκού».

Read more & www.enet.gr



Neanderthal faces were not adapted to cold

Lin Edwards, PhysOrg, 17/01/2011

New research into Neanderthal skulls suggests that facial features believed for over a century to be adaptations to extreme cold are unlikely to have evolved in response to glacial periods after all. Neanderthal faces had prominent cheekbones and wide noses previously thought to have developed in extremely cold periods because large sinuses were needed to warm air as it was inhaled. One problem with this theory is that modern people such as the Inuits, and other mammals living in Arctic regions have not developed large sinuses, and their sinuses are often smaller, and another problem is that it has never been proven that Neanderthal sinuses were larger.

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Suspension of scholarships by the Hellenic State Scholarships Foundation (IKY)

Due to the financial crisis of Greece, the Hellenic State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) decided to suspend for the academic year: (1) the post-doc sholarships in Greece and (2) the PhD sholarships in Greece. For the rest of the scholarships, IKY will give a new announcement in due time.

http://www.iky.gr



NON à la suppression des bourses de recherche et de post doc en Grèce

Dans le cadre du plan d'austérité dicté par le FMI le Conseil d'administration de de la Fondation des Bourses d'Etat grec, en accord avec la Ministre de l'Education, décide à la date du 11/01/2011 d'arrêter. pour l'année 2011-2012, le financement des études doctorales et post doctorales en Grèce. En ce qui concerne les autres prog/mes de financement et notamment celui des doctorantes/s grecques/cs inscrites/s à des universités de l'Etranger, la Fondation se réserve de prendre une décision sur la procédure d'élection et du financement de ces derniers ultérieurement. Il est bien connu que le montant dont il s'agit, très bas d'ailleurs comparé à tous les autres pays européens, est minime et ne pourrait en aucun cas justifier une décision pareille. Nous, chercheures/s et citoyennes/s contestons fortement cette ligne de conduite et demandons au Ministre de l'Education Mme Diamantopoulou de renoncer immédiatement à cette décision injuste et inefficace qui met en péril la recherche scientifique de la Grèce.

Signer cette pétition: http://www.petitionpublique.fr

Μαγειρεύοντας Μινωικά στη Παχειά Άμμο του 2011

104fm.gr, 23/11/2011

Η πρόσκληση από φίλους αρχαιολόγους, ήταν αρχικά, μη καταληπτή. Έλα μου είπαν στην Παχειά Άμμο το μεσημέρι της Κυριακής (23/1), για να μαγειρέψουμε όπως οι αρχαίοι ημών πρόγονοι. Η περιέργεια μεγάλη, οπότε η ευκαιρία δεν αφέθηκε να χαθεί παρά τη βροχή και λίγο μετά το μεσημέρι, βρέθηκα έξω από ρακάδικο «Ραχάτι», όπου τα κάρβουνα πάνω στον άμμο, πάνω στο πεζοδρόμιο ήταν ήδη αναμμένα, μαζί δε με τα σύγχρονα μαγειρικά σκεύη, κάποια πήλινα μέσα στα οποία ήδη κάτι ψηνόταν.

Read more



Lost tribe discovered in the Amazon

PaleBluDot, 31 May 2008

The Brazilian Government has released photos of Amazon Indians who have never had contact with todays outside world. The reason behind the airing of the photos is to give the World an appreciation of the threats that these people face due to logging and encroachment on their way of life. Anthropologists have known of these people for 20 years, however have now decided to call attention to the threat these people face of extinction. "We put the photos out because if things continue the way they are going, these people are going to disappear," said Jose Carlos Meirelles, who coordinates government efforts to protect four "uncontacted" tribes for Brazil's National Indian Foundation." The images were shot back in late April and Early May. The photos show about 12 Indians who were mostly naked and painted red and black and wielding bows and arrows in a show of defense of their six grassthatched huts.

Read more:

http://www.palebludot.com http://www.guardian.co.uk

Οι επιστήμονες "άνοιξαν" παράθυρο για να διαβαστεί ο δίσκος της Φαιστού!

CretaLive, 30/01/2011

Πανελλήνια "πρώτη" του ντοκιμαντέρ για τον δίσκο της Φαιστού στο National Geographic στις 30 Ιανουαρίου στους Βώρους, παρουσία πλήθους κόσμου, επιστημόνων κι εκπροσώπων φορέων. Ξεπέρασε κάθε προσδοκία το ενδιαφέρον και η συμμετοχή του κόσμου στην εξαιρετικά επιτυχημένη παρουσίαση - σε πρώτη πανελλήνια προβολή- του ντοκιμαντέρ για το δίσκο της Φαιστού που γυρίστηκε για λογαριασμό του αμερικανικού National Geographic κι έγινε χθες στους Βώρους του Δήμου Φαιστού. Η εκδήλωση πραγματοποιήθηκε υπό την αιγίδα του δήμου Φαιστού. Συνδιοργανωτές της εκδήλωσης ήταν το Μουσείο Κρητικής Λαογραφίας και ο Πολιτιστικός Σύλλογος Μεσαράς.

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See also the following articles:

http://www.ethnos.gr http://www.express.gr http://www.rethnea.gr



Neanderthals and early modern humans had same lifespan

Past Horizons, 12/01/2011

A new study by a Washington University in St. Louis suggests life expectancy was probably the same for early modern and late archaic humans and did not factor in the extinction of Neanderthals. Our species, Homo sapiens, is the only surviving lineage of the genus Homo. Still, there once were many others, all of whom could also be called human. One puzzle was the lack of elderly individuals. It was therefore suggested that early hominins might have had a shorter life expectancy than early modern humans, with our lineage ultimately outnumbering Neanderthals, contributing to their demise.

Read more:

http://www.pasthorizons.com http://news.discovery.com

Your last chance to see Tutankhamun's tomb

Mike Pitts, Guardian, 17/01/2011

Visitors are causing so much damage to the tomb of Tutankhamun that Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities wants to close it and open a replica instead. What excites us about the past is being there: feeling the heat as we climb a Mexican pyramid; adjusting our eyes to the light in the Pantheon; watching the paint peel off the walls of Tutankhamun's tomb. *Peeling paint?* If, in the brief, crushed tour of the Egyptian boy-king's rooms at Luxor we don't actually see it happen, we can certainly return later and note the damaging spread of holes and spots.

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Ο πολιτισμός του Αιναίου

C. Doumas, Kykladesnews, 25/01/2011

Η σχετικά πρόσφατη (δεκαετία του 1960) θεμελιώδης σύλληψη της τεκτονικής των πλακών αποτέλεσε σταθμό στην ιστορία της γεωλογικής επιστήμης. Χάρη σ΄ αυτήν οι μεταβολές που συντελούνται στον φλοιό της γης έγιναν πιο κατανοητές και μπόρεσαν να δώσουν πειστικές εξηγήσεις σε πολλά τεκτονικά φαινόμενα.

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Jason and the argot: land where Greek's ancient language survives

Steve Connor, Independent, 03/01/2011

An isolated community near the Black Sea coast in a remote part of north-eastern Turkey has been found to speak a Greek dialect that is remarkably close to the extinct language of ancient Greece. As few as 5,000 people speak the dialect but linguists believe that it is the closest, living language to ancient Greek and could provide an unprecedented insight into the language of Socrates and Plato and how it evolved.

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Ancient Denisovans and the human family tree

Natural History Museum, 12/01/2011

Last month scientists revealed remarkable evidence of a new group of ancient humans called Denisovans that interbred with our species and left behind a genetic trace in people living in south east Asia today. An international team, including scientists at the Max Planck Institute in Germany, carried out a genetic study of a finger bone and a large molar tooth uncovered in Denisova Cave in the Altai Mountains, Siberia. They sequenced the genome and found that this ancient human shared 4-6% of its genetic material with some present-day Melanesians. In March, the team obtained a complete mitrochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequence for the same finger bone, dated to about 40,000 years ago, showing that it was from neither a modern human nor Neanderthal.

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Ancient farmers swiftly spread westward -Agricultural villages appeared in Croatia nearly 8,000 years ago

Bruce Bower, Science News, January 2011

Croatia does not have a reputation as a hotbed of ancient agriculture. But new excavations, described January 7 in San Antonio at the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, unveil a Mediterranean Sea—hugging strip of southern Croatia as a hub for early farmers who spread their sedentary lifestyle from the Middle East into Europe. Farming villages sprouted swiftly in this coastal region, called Dalmatia, nearly 8,000 years ago, apparently with the arrival of Middle Easterners already adept at growing crops and herding animals, says archaeologist Andrew Moore of Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

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La Grèce livre la preuve d'une navigation humaine il y a plus de 130 000 ans

Free, 04/01/2011

Dans le sud de la Crète, des outils faits de mains d'Homo et datant de plus de 130.000 ans témoignent d'une présence humaine alors que l'île en était déjà une. Des navires ont donc parcouru la Méditerranée bien plus tôt qu'on ne le pensait. Ce n'est pas une publication scientifique mais – pour l'instant – un simple communiqué de presse du ministère de la culture grec qui l'annonce : des archéologues, dont Eleni Panagopoulos et Thomas Strasser, ont découvert sur la côte sud de la Crète des outils en pierre taillée – des bifaces et des haches – dans des sites datés de 130.000 à 700.000 ans avant le présent.

Read more:

http://actualite.portail.free.fr

See also the following French articles:

http://groups.google.com

http://voyages.liberation.fr

http://www.lepoint.fr

http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu



Πολυτελείς κατοικίες στην Ιαλυσό και η ζωή στο Προϊστορικό Αιγαίο

G. Sykka, *Καθημερινή*, 11/01/2011

Είναι πλέον βέβαιο ότι η Ιαλυσός υπήρξε ένας από τους σημαντικότερους σταθμούς από και προς την Ανατολική Μεσόγειο, την Κρήτη και τις Μικρασιατικές ακτές στα δύσκολα ταξίδια της προϊστορίας. Αν μάλιστα σταθούμε στα τελευταία ευρήματά της και ειδικά στο εντυπωσιακό πολύθυρο με τον γραπτό διάκοσμο, για την ομορφιά του οποίου μιλάει όλη η Ρόδος, αλλάζουν πολλά από τα μέχρι σήμερα δεδομένα για τη Μέση Εποχή του Χαλκού στο προϊστορικό Αιγαίο.

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Effective Use of Power in the Bronze Age Societies of Central Europe

ScienceDaily, 11/01/2011

During the first part of the Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin in Central Europe, a large proportion of the population lived in what are known as tell-building societies. A thesis in archaeology from the University of Gothenburg (Sweden) shows that the leaders of these societies had the ability to combine several sources of power in an effective way in order to dominate the rest of the population, which contributed towards creating a notably stable social system.

Read more



Earliest Known Winery Found in Armenian Cave

J. Owen, National Geographic News, 10/01/2011

As if making the oldest known leather shoe wasn't enough, a prehistoric people in what's now Armenia also built the world's oldest known winery, a new study says. Undertaken at a burial site, their winemaking may have been dedicated to the dead—and it likely required the removal of any fancy footwear. Near the village of Areni, in the same cave where a stunningly preserved, 5,500-year-old leather moccasin was recently found, archaeologists have unearthed a wine press for stomping grapes, fermentation and storage vessels, drinking cups, and withered grape vines, skins, and seeds, the study says.

Read more:

http://news.nationalgeographic.com

http://newsroom.ucla.edu

http://www.bbc.co.uk

http://www.reuters.com

http://www.irishcentral.com

http://content.usatoday.com

Απολιθωμένες υποσχέσεις για Μουσείο στο Πικέρμι

N. Karagiannidi, Ελευθεροτυπία, 19/01/2011

Το Πικέρμι απέμεινε με το διεθνή χαρακτηρισμό της «Ακρόπολης» της Παλαιοντολογίας... Τα μοναδικά απολιθώματα, σπονδυλωτών που έζησαν στην περιοχή πριν από 7 εκατ. χρόνια, εντοπίστηκαν τυχαία επί Βαυαροκρατίας, αποκαλύφθηκαν τότε, αλλά και σε ύστερες ανασκαφές παλαιοντολόνων, για να καταλήξουν, τα περισσότερα στις προθήκες ευρωπαϊκών Μουσείων Φυσικής Ιστορίας. Μετά τον εμπλουτισμό τους, με νέες ανασκαφές των καθηγητών Συμεωνίδη και Μαρίνου στις δεκαετίες του '70 και του '80 πρόσφατα του Γ. Θεοδώρου- αποφασίστηκε να δημιουρνηθεί χώρο ανασκαφών στο των Παλαιοντολογικό Μουσείο και Πάρκο. Η Μελίνα Μερκούρη χαρακτήρισε το 1984 την περιοχή «αρχαιολογικό τοπίο ιδιαίτερου φυσικού κάλλους» και έκτοτε... ουδέν. Οι κάτοικοι ανωνίζονται να συγκινηθεί κάποιος, να βρεθούν χρήματα για να καθαριστεί ο χώρος, που έγινε χωματερή. Να γίνει το πάρκο κι ένα μουσείο αντάξιο των ευρημάτων. Δεκαετίες κρατικής αδιαφορίας και πολιτιστικής σκουριάς.

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Νήσος Γυαλί: Κινδυνεύει το νησί της ελαφρόπετρας

M. Thermou, *Το Βήμα*, 18/01/2011

Ενα νησάκι ανάμεσα στη Νίσυρο και στην Κω, το οποίο χάνεται σιγά-σιγά από το πρόσωπο της Γης, είναι το Γυαλί. Και αυτό λόγω του πλούτου του σε ηφαιστειακά πετρώματα κυρίως ελαφρόπετρα και περλίτη (φυσικό γυαλί) τα οποία εξορύσσονται αδιακόπως εδώ και 20 χρόνια. Αποτέλεσμα; Το ένα τμήμα του νησιού (αποτελείται από δύο λοφώδη τμήματα τα οποία συνδέονται από μια επίπεδη γλώσσα γης) έχει σχεδόν εξαφανισθεί και στη θέση του έχουν απομείνει δύο μεγάλοι κρατήρες λατομείων.

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Study Of Lice DNA Shows Humans First Wore Clothes 170,000 Years Ago

Medical News Today, 07/01/2011

A new University of Florida study following the evolution of lice shows modern humans started wearing clothes about 170,000 years ago, a technology which enabled them to successfully migrate out of Africa.

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Was the fox prehistoric man's best friend?

PhysOrg.com, 27/01/2011

Researchers analysing remains at a prehistoric burial ground in Jordan have uncovered a grave in which a fox was buried with a human, before part of it was then transferred to an adjacent grave. The University of Cambridge-led team believes that the unprecedented case points to some sort of emotional attachment between human and fox. Their paper, published today, suggests that the fox may have been kept as a pet and was being buried to accompany its master, or mistress, to the afterlife.

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http://www.physorg.com http://www.pasthorizons.com http://www.dailymail.co.uk



Η Περιηγητική Λέσχη Αρχανών και ο Γιάννης Σακελαράκης

N. Kolombotsakis, Πατρίς, 04/02/2011

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Norway's secret petroglyphs

Past Horizons, 01/02/2011

It looked to be a routine excavation of what was thought to be a burial mound. But beneath the mound, archaeologists from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology's Museum of Natural History and Archaeology found something more: unusual Bronze Age petroglyphs. "We believe these are very special in a Norwegian context," says museum researcher and project manager Anne Haug.

Read more:

http://www.pasthorizons.com



Στο υπουργείο Πολιτισμού το σπήλαιο Πετραλώνων

M. Thermou, *Το Βήμα*, 01/02/2011

Νέα εποχή για το σπήλαιο των Πετραλώνων στην Χαλκιδική μετά την οριστική αποβολή της Ανθρωπολογικής Εταιρείας με απόφαση του Συμβουλίου Επικρατείας και την υπαγωγή του στο υπουργείο Πολιτισμού. Το σπήλαιο περνά πλέον στην αρμοδιότητα της Εφορείας Παλαιοανθρωπολογίας - Σπηλαιολογίας Βόρειας Ελλάδας καθώς πρόκειται για αρχαιολογικό χώρο, που σύμφωνα με την ελληνική νομοθεσία δεν μπορεί να ανήκει σε ιδιώτες (Ανθρωπολογική Εταιρεία).

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'First-aid' needed for 5,000-year-old Somali cave paintings

Laura Allsop, CNN, 05/02/2011

Prehistoric paintings of antelope, snakes and giraffes that have survived for around 5,000 years are now under threat from looting and a lack of protection. The rock paintings, which include renderings of dogs and sheep as well as human figures, were discovered at Dhambalin, in a unique sandstone shelter close to the Red Sea in Somaliland, a breakaway state from war-torn Somalia. They were found by Dr. Sada Mire in 2007, in what she says was first ever survey initiated and led by a Somali archaeologist in the region. Since then, Mire has discovered 100 cave and rock art sites across Somaliland, but they need desperately to be preserved.

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Στα άδυτα του Διαχρονικού Μουσείου Λάρισας

Dim. Katsanakis, Ελευθερία, 30/01/2011

Μεταξύ των πλέον σημαντικών και ταυτόχρονα επιβλητικών Μουσείων στην Ελλάδα εντάσσεται το Διαχρονικό Μουσείο Λάρισας, η λειτουργία του οποίου τοποθετείται χρονικά στα μέσα του 2013 σύμφωνα με τις εκτιμήσεις τόσο των τοπικών αρχών όσο και των αρμόδιων υπηρεσιών. «Βρισκόμαστε στην τελική ευθεία για την ολοκλήρωσή του...» εκτίμησε την προηγούμενη Δευτέρα στη διάρκεια της επίσκεψής του ο δήμαρχος Λαρισαίων Κώστας Τζανακούλης, επιβεβαιώνοντας μαζί με τους υπηρεσιακούς παράγοντες των αρχαιολογικών υπηρεσιών ότι η τελική ευθεία αφορά στη διαμόρφωση του εντυπωσιακού εκθεσιακού χώρου, όπου πρόκειται να εκτεθούν ευρήματα που καλύπτουν χρονικά και με μενάλη επάρκεια την περίοδο από την παλαιολιθική εποχή έως και τα μεταβυζαντινά χρόνια.

Read more:

http://www.eleftheria.gr

