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1. NEW BOOKS

**Knossos Monastiriako Kephali Tomb and ‘Deposit’**
Edited by Laura Preston

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**Abstract**

The archaeological sites on the Monastiriako Kephali hill analysed in this volume include the earliest known mortuary activity at the key Minoan centre of Knossos on the island of Crete. Two Bronze Age sites are presented, known as the ‘Tomb’ and the ‘Deposit’, originally excavated in the 1930s but until now never published in detail. The ‘Tomb’ represents the earliest known funerary site at Bronze Age Knossos, established in the late Prepalatial period and continuing in use until the Neopalatial. The function of the nearby ‘Deposit’ site is more ambiguous, but a mortuary interpretation is also possible for the phases contemporary with the ‘Tomb’, and is almost certain for the subsequent Late Minoan II–III era.

This volume presents the excavated material held principally in the Stratigraphical Museum at Knossos. The stone artefacts, human remains, faunal remains, glyptic material and ceramics are described and discussed by Don Evely, Rebecca Gowland, Valasia Isaakidou, Olga Krzyszkowska and Laura Preston respectively, and the sites are placed within the broader framework of Minoan mortuary practices at Knossos during the second millennium BC.

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The exhibition catalogue is available in Greek, English and Italian.

Abstract
Catalogue of the exhibition ‘Princesses’ of the Mediterranean in the dawn of History, which took place at the Museum of Cycladic Art (Athens, Greece) from 13 December 2012 until 8 May 2013. The exhibition presented 24 examples of ‘princesses’ from Greece, Cyprus, Southern Italy, and Etruria from 1,000 to 500 BC, and over 500 artefacts. Royal ladies or princesses; priestesses or healers; women of authority or knowledge; local women, who stood apart from the rest; other women, who accepted and adopted the cultural traits of different societies or of the men they married in their homeland – local or foreign men – or even those women, who for reasons of intermarriage, traveled from one place to another, are the women this exhibition examined. Through their stories, one can distinctly perceive how these women played a contributing role in broadening the cultural horizons of their time, including their involvement in the development of the archaic Mediterranean culture.

The exhibition presented real women. Not mythical or other figures. Women who were born, who lived; women of flesh and bone. Or, even better, women whose material remains, their bones, survive and ‘speak’ after thousands of years. When considered with tomb and burial types, funerary customs, and, above all, the grave gifts and other objects (garments and jewellery) buried with them - whether chosen by the deceased in life, or provided after their passing by loved ones to take to Persephone’s meadow - these remains can potentially help ‘resuscitate’ them by lifting the veils of time to see their likeness, however faintly, as far as archaeological thinking and interpretation permits.

The Lady of Lefkadi in Euboea, the Wealthy Athenian Lady from the Areopagus, the famous Picenean queen from Sirolo-Numana near modern Ancone, burials from Verucchio and Basilicata in Italy, from
Eleutherna in Crete, from Sindos in Thessaloniki were only a few examples of the exhibition which dazzled with its wealth of objects.

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Abstract

This volume presents current research related to Greek prehistory and Classical Archaeology and thus serves as a cross-section of the research strategies, which the Swedish Institute at Athens promotes. The topics relate to research, which span from the Neolithic to the Hellenistic times. The reason for putting this publication together is twofold: one aim is to publish the papers, which were put forward by a select number of Swedish scholars who were invited to give lectures at the Swedish Institute at Athens during the celebrations commemorating the Institute’s 60th anniversary on 10 May 2008. The second aim is to honour professor emeritus Robin Hägg, who was the director at the Swedish Institute at Athens from 1976 to 1994. This book thus consists of articles based on the lectures, which were held at the Swedish Institute celebrations on May 10 2008 and also of a number of articles by scholars who wished to celebrate Robin Hägg and who thus joined the venture.

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Abstract

Between 2009 and 2012, Dr Dan Hicks (Curator of Archaeology and University Lecturer) led a collections-based project that developed the first overview of the range and research potential of the Museum’s world archaeology collections.

The project - Characterizing the World Archaeology Collections of the Pitt Rivers Museum - was funded by a grant of £116,325 from the John Fell OUP Research Fund and with additional support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (IfA Workplace Bursaries scheme) and the Boise Fund.

The project resulted in a book, published in March 2013 as both hard copy and in open access form. This volume - World Archaeology at the Pitt Rivers Museum: a characterization - introduces the range, history and significance of the archaeological collections of the Pitt Rivers Museum, and sets out priorities for future research into the collection. Through 29 newly-commissioned essays written by a specialist team, the volume explores more than 136,000 artefacts from 145 countries, from the Stone Age to the modern period, and from England to Easter Island.

Pioneering a new approach in museum studies - which the project calls ‘characterization’ - this landmark volume is an essential reference work for archaeologists around the world, and a unique introduction to the archaeological collections of one of the world’s most famous museums.

Read all the articles online

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Abstract

The Klissoura cave site (Argolid, Greece) is a multi-layered site with layers dating back to the Middle Palaeolithic. In the Aurignacian layer were found concave clay forms which are estimated, by C14 dates, to be 35–37.5 calibrated kyrs BP. In this study the author takes an experimental approach to investigate these important primitive features.

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Encounters with Mycenaean figures and figurines. Papers presented at a seminar at the Swedish Institute at Athens, 27-29 April 2001
Edited by Ann-Louise Schallin & Petra Pakkanen

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Abstract
This volume presents fourteen articles which discuss Mycenaean figurines from various points of view. They focus on different aspects of the figurines, elaborating on their function, contextual characteristics, production, use-life, classification, topography, and history of scholarship. The articles are based on papers given at a workshop at the Swedish Institute at Athens in April 2001 entitled ‘Cultic Space and Mycenaean Figurines’. The idea of having a workshop arose from the fact that several of the participants were involved at the time with the documentation of various figurine types from the so-called Potter’s Workshop at Mastos in the Berbati Valley in the Argolid. The number and variety of the Mycenaean figurines from Mastos is impressive, particularly as the excavation had covered only a small area. The excavator, Å. Åkerström, proposed that the site had a cultic function in addition to its role as a production centre. In order to better understand the characteristics and identity of Mastos, scholars were invited to discuss the problems of the function and contextual characteristics of Mycenaean figurines more generally, presenting figurines from different sites so as to provide comparative contexts. Figurines in primary context are naturally considered as especially important since they may further our understanding of the roles of the figurines in religions as well as secular contexts. Issues such as interpreting the social roles of the figurines and considering their relation to other votive offerings, although not necessarily tied to primary contexts, are also discussed in this volume.

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Proceedings of the IVth International Cyprological Congress, Nicosia 29 April-3 May 2008 (2 volumes, I.1-I.2)
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Abstract
The publication of the Proceedings of the IVth Cyprological Congress was divided into two parts. In the first one were included all papers which were written in Greek, while all papers written in other languages were included in the second one. In both cases the papers were put in alphabetical order according to the family name of the writer, and not with reference to their period or content. The publication of the Proceedings of the Ancient Section was made possible through the financial sponsorship of the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation, to whom the Society of Cypriot Studies is indebted.

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Ewdoksia Papuci-Wladyka, ‘Pouring vessels from Paphos (Cyprus) and Koshary (Odessa province, Ukraine)’ [767-776]
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ΠΙΝΑΚΕΣ ΕΙΚΟΝΩΝ/PLATES 811

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**Well Built Mycenae Fascicle 34.1: Technical Reports. The Results of Neutron Activation Analysis of Mycenaean Pottery**

Elizabeth B. French & Jonathan E. Tomlinson (with contributions by S. M. A. Hoffman, †V. J. Robinson & R. E. Jones)

**City & year:** Oxford 2013  
**Publisher:** Oxbow Books  
**Series:** Well Built Mycenae 34.1  
**Description:** Paperback, 61 p., 24.3x16.9 cm, DVD included  
**ISBN:** 9781842175286  
**Price:** £25 (ca. €30)

**Abstract**

Since 1890 when Sir Flinders Petrie first realised the importance of the Aegean pottery he had found in Egypt further discoveries of these wares have been noted with more than superficial interest. Early studies, however, right up to the mid 20th century, had to be based on stylistic, and thus often subjective, criteria. It is only more recently with the development of a range of scientific techniques that it has become possible to make serious attempts to ascertain the exact sources of this imported pottery. A key factor in this work has been the establishment of data banks by which to define the various possible sites of origin. Samples from Mycenae, as one of the key nodes of Late Bronze Age trade, were taken both as part of the initial programme of research by the Research Laboratory at Oxford and then in the wider projects carried out in the Laboratory of the University of California, Berkeley, by Professors Frank Asaro and Isadore Perlman and by the Department of Nuclear Chemistry of the University of Manchester. Though the results
of these studies have been made public and widely used, the full details pertaining to the core area of the Argo-Corinthia have never been published. This fascicule of the Well Built Mycenae series presents for the first time the raw data as well as the statistical analyses based on it and assesses the impact of the various methods on the archaeological value of the research. Thus by giving an outline of the relation between these results and the on-going archaeological work at Mycenae and in the surrounding area we can see into which fields of study future work should be directed. Includes a DVD with accompanying material for 34.1 and all previous fascicles.

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2. NEW ARTICLES

2.1. ‘Crafts, Specialists, and Markets in Mycenaean Greece. Introduction’
     William A. Parkinson, Dimitri Nakassis & Michael L. Galaty
     *American Journal of Archaeology* 117.3 (2013): 413–422
     Online Forum (Crafts, Specialists, and Markets in Mycenaean Greece)

     **Abstract**

     Past models of Mycenaean political economies have overemphasized the role of redistribution, thereby discouraging research into other modes of exchange. New perspectives have effectively questioned the hypothesis that palatial control over the economy was absolute, however. Consequently, it is now possible to imagine significant economic production and exchange outside of palatial purview, especially given the long and well-established history of craft specialization in the Aegean beginning in the Early Neolithic. In other parts of the world, Mesoamerica in particular, archaeological studies of craft specialization in early states have led scholars to infer the existence of regional markets much earlier than expected, leading to a reconsideration of the relationship between political and economic organization.

     [Read the article](#)

2.2. ‘The Palace of Nestor, Craft Production, and Mechanisms for the Transfer of Goods’
     Julie Hruby
     *American Journal of Archaeology* 117.3 (2013): 423–427
     Online Forum (Crafts, Specialists, and Markets in Mycenaean Greece)

     **Abstract**

     Market exchange formed one aspect of a complex, mixed economy integrated into the political structures of Mycenaean Pylos. Palatial elites used a variety of strategies to obtain goods and services, and different individuals who represented a single craft often worked in different modes of production, as can be demonstrated for both the ceramic and the textile industries. Palatial elites did, however, establish predictable mechanisms for the remuneration of labor, forming an incipient labor market. They also, probably unintentionally, created conditions that favored the development of market-oriented systems through dispute management, infrastructure construction and maintenance, and the commoditization of goods.

     [Read the article](#)

2.3. ‘The New Political Economy of Nichoria: Using Intrasite Distributional Data to Investigate Regional Institutions’
     Jamie D. Aprile
     Online Forum (Crafts, Specialists, and Markets in Mycenaean Greece)

     **Abstract**

     Regional authority in Mycenaean Greece should be reconstructed using excavation data from both palatial centers and hinterland communities. Economic information is the first line of inquiry into this subject because of the presence of the Linear B tablets and the tangible quality of material production in the archaeological record. To this end, this article presents a starting point for reconsidering the use of intrasite artifact distribution in the non palatial community of Nichoria in Messenia as a means of detecting the economic relationship between the palatial center at Pylos and
one of its regional dependencies. The results of this study indicate that the institutions that structured the hierarchical relationship between Pylos and Nichoria were not based on creating an economic system of staple redistribution to equalize access to resources across the region. Instead, the construction of symbolic hierarchies of value in some resources and the use of those materials in political institutions, such as feasting and the distribution of exotic goods, likely played a significantly greater role in creating regional integration than did economic control.

Read the article

2.4. ‘Exchanging the Mycenaean Economy’
Daniel J. Pullen
Online Forum (Crafts, Specialists, and Markets in Mycenaean Greece)

**Abstract**
This article examines the palatial and nonpalatial organization of craft production and exchange in the Late Bronze Age Argolid. The Late Bronze Age elites controlled markers of status and prestige, which were institutionalized in palatial control of the production and consumption of prestige goods. At Mycenae, the existence of attached ceramic workshops is evidence for palatial interest in the production and distribution of a wider range of ceramics than existed at the palace at Pylos, which was interested only in kylikes. Communities in Mycenae's territory, such as Tsoungiza, used ceramic assemblages nearly identical to those of the palatial elites. Given the quantities of ceramic vessels needed annually to supply the entire polity, it is unlikely that these were allocated via mechanisms of palatial control. Instead, we must consider multiple mechanisms of distribution in addition to redistribution, including market exchange. Likewise, we must consider one individual to be engaged in transactions both with the palace (redistribution, tax payments) and with the surrounding communities (reciprocity and market exchange). Markets serve to horizontally integrate households in a community or region and to vertically integrate those households with the center. Other evidence for market exchange, such as weights and measures and the road network, is explored.

Read the article

2.5. ‘Economic Interplay Among Households and States’
Cynthia W. Shelmerdine
*American Journal of Archaeology* 117.3 (2013): 447–452
Online Forum (Crafts, Specialists, and Markets in Mycenaean Greece)

**Abstract**
This Forum has made progress on both its stated research themes: control of craft production and the newer topic of markets. My comments take up the issues of household economy, state control, and markets. First, I discuss developments at the second-order center of Nichoria, which show both independent activity and the effect of incorporation into the state of Pylos. Excavation of another such settlement at Iklaina promises to support and expand on the findings from Nichoria. State control is another subject for discussion; the evidence suggests some differences between prestige goods and ordinary pottery, concerning both production and consumption. Finally, I argue that the existence of markets is well supported by both archaeological and textual data.

Read the article
2.6. ‘Reenvisioning Ancient Economies: Beyond Typological Constructs’
Gary M. Feinman
Online Forum (Crafts, Specialists, and Markets in Mycenaean Greece)

**Abstract**

To date, most scholarly perspectives on ancient economies have been mischaracterized in part through a reliance on dichotomous frameworks (e.g., primitivist/modern, embedded/free) that draw false qualitative distinctions between past and more contemporary economic systems. This discussion challenges the metrics used in such frames and therefore the antimarket presumption prevalent in extant models of economic practices associated with ancient states. Shifting views of pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican economies are highlighted in part to illustrate how past theoretical frames helped deflect mounting evidence for markets drawn from archaeological and textual research. Implications for similar reenvisioning of the ancient economies of Bronze Age Greece are proposed, including a potentially greater role for marketplace exchanges and less direct palatial control over all facets of exchange and production.

[Read the article](#)

2.7. ‘Minoan Halls: A Syntactical Genealogy’
Quentin Letesson

**Abstract**

The tripartite room labeled a Minoan hall is probably the most emblematic architectural feature of the Neopalatial period in Bronze Age Crete (1700/1675–1470/1460 B.C.E.). Although this spatial arrangement stands out as an exceptional accomplishment because of its elaborate layout, fine materials, and innovative properties, its function is still somewhat enigmatic. In fact, some of its very characteristics, such as flexibility and layout complexity, significantly hinder an in-depth evaluation of the role that Minoan halls played in Late Bronze Age Crete. I argue here that the lack of an exhaustive and systematic analysis of the spatial structure of these tripartite arrangements has hampered our understanding of them and that their architectural development should receive more attention. I present an approach for analyzing the spatial syntax of Minoan halls, their evolution in a diachronic perspective, and their diversity in specific buildings. Far from being yet another attempt to give a clear-cut functional definition of Minoan halls, this research offers instead a new way of considering Minoan architecture.

2.8. ‘Trading, the Longboat, and Cultural Interaction in the Aegean During the Late Fourth Millennium B.C.E.: The View from Kephala Petras, East Crete’
Yiannis Papadatos & Peter Tomkins

**Abstract**

Currently, long-distance trading, gateway communities, and the longboat are understood to have emerged in the Aegean during Early Bronze (EB) IB/IIA. This longboat-trading model envisages an essentially static configuration of trading communities situated at nodal points in maritime networks of interaction, an arrangement that was brought to an end, by the beginning of EB III, with the introduction of the masted sailing ship. This article questions this EB IB/IIA emergence date and argues instead that trading, gateway communities, and the longboat have a deeper and more dynamic history stretching back at least as far as the end of the Neolithic (Final Neolithic [FN] IV). The results of recent
excavations at the FN IV–Early Minoan (EM) IA coastal site of Kephala Petras in east Crete paint a picture of an early trading community that, thanks to its close Cycladic connections, enjoyed preferential access to valued raw materials, to the technologies for their transformation, and to finished objects. This monopoly over the resource of distance was in turn exploited locally and regionally in east Crete, as a social strategy, to construct advantageous relationships with other communities. FN IV–EM IA Kephala Petras thus appears to represent the earliest known of a series of Early Bronze Age gateway communities (e.g., Hagia Photia, Mochlos, Poros-Katsambas) operating along the north coast of Crete.

2.9. ‘Environmental Roots of the Late Bronze Age Crisis’
David Kaniewski, Elise Van Campo, Joël Guiot, Sabine Le Burel, Thierry Otto, Cecile Baeteman
PLoS ONE 8(8) 2013: e71004.

Abstract
The Late Bronze Age world of the Eastern Mediterranean, a rich linkage of Aegean, Egyptian, Syro-Palestinian, and Hittite civilizations, collapsed famously 3200 years ago and has remained one of the mysteries of the ancient world since the event’s retrieval began in the late 19th century AD/CE. Iconic Egyptian bas-reliefs and graphic hieroglyphic and cuneiform texts portray the proximate cause of the collapse as the invasions of the “Peoples-of-the-Sea” at the Nile Delta, the Turkish coast, and down into the heartlands of Syria and Palestine where armies clashed, famine-ravaged cities abandoned, and countrysides depopulated. Here we report palaeoclimate data from Cyprus for the Late Bronze Age crisis, alongside a radiocarbon-based chronology integrating both archaeological and palaeoclimate proxies, which reveal the effects of abrupt climate change-driven famine and causal linkage with the Sea People invasions in Cyprus and Syria. The statistical analysis of proximate and ultimate features of the sequential collapse reveals the relationships of climate-driven famine, sea-borne-invasion, region-wide warfare, and politico-economic collapse, in whose wake new societies and new ideologies were created.

Read the article

2.10. ‘Ancient pests: the season of the Santorini Minoan volcanic eruption and a date from insect chitin’
Eva Panagiotakopulu, Thomas Higham, Anaya Sarpaki, Paul Buckland & Christos Doumas
Naturwissenschaften 100:7 (July 2013): 683-689.

Abstract
Attributing a season and a date to the volcanic eruption of Santorini in the Aegean has become possible by using preserved remains of the bean weevil, Bruchus rufipes, pests of pulses, from the storage jars of the West House, in the Bronze Age settlement at Akrotiri. We have applied an improved pre-treatment methodology for dating the charred insects, and this provides a date of 1744–1538 BC. This date is within the range of others obtained from pulses from the same context and confirms the utility of chitin as a dating material. Based on the nature of the insect material and the life cycle of the species involved, we argue for a summer eruption, which took place after harvest, shortly after this material was transported into the West House storeroom.

Read the article
2.11. ‘Οι αρχαιολογικές έρευνες στον Άγιο Βασίλειο στο Ξηροκάμπι’
Adamania Vasilogamvrou

From the introduction (in Greek)
Σε μικρή απόσταση ανατολικά από το Ξηροκάμπι και επί του δρόμου προς αυτό βρίσκεται ο αρχαιολογικός χώρος του Άγιου Βασιλείου. Αν και γνωστός στη βιβλιογραφία και κηρυγμένος από τη δεκαετία του ’60, ο χώρος αυτός δεν είχε, μέχρι πρόσφατα, ερευνηθεί ανασκαφικά. Τα πυκνότερα ίχνη αρχαίας κατοίκησης είχαν εντοπιστεί στο λόφο πάνω στον οποίο βρίσκεται ο βυζαντινός ναός του Άγ. Βασιλείου, από τον οποίο ο χώρος πήρε το όνομά του. Τα ίχνη αυτά, κυρίως κεραμική και διάσπαρτο αρχαίο οικοδομικό υλικό, χρονολογούνται σε διάφορες εποχές της προϊστορίας αλλά και των ιστορικών και βυζαντινών χρόνων. Εντονότερη ωστόσο είναι η παρουσία των καταλοίπων της μυκηναϊκής εποχής, κυρίως από τους πρώιμους και μέσους χρόνους της (17ος - 13ος αι. π.Χ.). Η μυκηναϊκή εγκατάσταση φαίνεται ότι εκτεινόταν και πέρα από το λόφο του Άγ. Βασιλείου, καταλαμβάνοντας τη χαμηλή λοφοσειρά, την οποία σήμερα καλύπτουν ελαιώνες και διασχίζει η εθνική οδός Σπάρτης-Γυθείου, ακριβώς στο σημείο της διασταύρωσης της με τον δρόμο προς το Ξηροκάμπι. Η επιλογή της θέσης αυτής υπαγορεύτηκε από τα πλεονέκτημα που παρείχε: Νερό, από τις κοντινές πηγές, άμεση οπτική επαφή προς άλλες μυκηναϊκές θέσεις της περιοχής (Παλαιοπύργι, Αμυκλαίο, Μενελάιο κ.α.) και εποπτεία στο νοτιοδυτικό τμήμα της πεδιάδας της Σπάρτης που βρίσκεται στην καρδιά της Λακωνίας, όπου διαχρονικά διασταύρωνονταν δρόμοι επικοινωνίας από και προς τις γύρω περιοχές και τη θάλασσα. Τη σπουδαιότητα της θέσης ήρθε να τονίσει η ανεύρεση το 2008 ενεπίγραφων πινακίδων σε Γραμμική Β γραφή, γεγονός μοναδικό για τη Λακωνία. Η παρουσία τους, που δηλώνει την ύπαρξη αρχείου στο χώρο, παραπέμπει σε διοικητικές λειτουργίες και προσδίδει στην μυκηναϊκή εγκατάσταση του Άγιου Βασιλείου χαρακτηριστικά διοικητικού-ανακτορικού κέντρου.

Read the article

2.12. ‘Who Hides Behind the Pots? A Reassessment of the Phoenician Presence in Early Iron Age Cos and Rhodes’
Giorgos Bourogiannis
Aegean Library: Dig. Bourogiannis 2013

Abstract
This paper investigates aspects of the Phoenician presence on the islands of Rhodes and Cos during the middle and late Geometric periods. Discussion is based primarily on pottery wares although other groups of artefacts are also considered. Phoenician ceramic imports are examined alongside locally produced wares that display Phoenician traits. Hybrid pottery classes that draw from the free mixture of Phoenician and local trends, sometimes occurring through the borrowing across different groups of objects and material, are also included in the discussion. This study outlines a complex pattern of contacts between the two islands and the Phoenician world from the ninth to the early seventh centuries BC. The chronological assessment of this phenomenon argues for shifting degrees of influence from Phoenicia, better attested during the late Geometric period.
2.13. ‘Performing the Practice Turn in Archaeology’
Philipp W. Stockhammer
*Transcultural Studies* 2012 (1): 7-42.

**Abstract**
Are we still living in the era of postmodern archaeology? The paradigmatic shift from processual to post-processual archaeology took place in the early 1980s—at least in the Anglophone archaeological community. In the eyes of many archaeologists, we have been working as postmodern scholars by appropriating postmodernity’s pluralistic approaches for three decades. In my view, it is time for another paradigmatic shift in archaeology. I do not want to proclaim a post-postmodernity in the sense of a rejection of what postmodernity has been postulating, but an enforcement and extension of some already existing approaches on the basis of the rich insights that anthropology, sociology, science and technology studies, material culture studies, and workplace studies won in the last years. After elaborating on the conceptualization of such a revision of approach for archaeology, I shall illustrate the innovative potential of this approach with two archaeological case studies taken from the Eastern Mediterranean Late Bronze and Early Iron Age of the thirteenth and twelve centuries BCE.

[Read the article (PDF)]
[Read the article (HTTP)]

Diamantis Panagiotopoulos

**Abstract**
In the pre-globalization era, foreign objects acquired high social value due to their exotic character, relative inaccessibility, and distant origin. However, a closer look at the factors involved in the creation of their captivating aura reveals that their dislocation into a new cultural context affected the perception and appreciation of their material and design in substantially different ways. More interestingly still, the contrasting attitudes towards foreign material and foreign design in pre-modern societies clearly diverge from what one might consider contemporary common practice. The present paper addresses these questions of material and temporal divergence within a specific historical context: the cultural interaction in the second millennium BCE Eastern Mediterranean. Furthermore, this case study aspires to demonstrate the potential of the Mediterranean as a favorable field of inquiry for exploring phenomena of transculture and globalization.

[Read the article (PDF)]
[Read the article (HTTP)]

2.15. ‘The Phaistos Disk: a solar calendar. Contribution to a decipherment’
Mary Kilbourne Matossian

**Abstract**
The objective of this paper is to contribute to the decipherment of the Phaistos Disk. The present assumption is that the Disk was a solar calendar. The proposed method is used to recreate the night sky over Crete in the year 1613 B.C., beginning on September 1, and to follow the astral phenomena for a year thereafter. In addition, the figures on the Disk are interpreted by what is known about Bronze Age Cretan culture, especially agriculture. The result was a set of plausible interpretations of
most of the icons found on the Disk. The conclusion is that the Phaistos Disk Unknown Script was created primarily to serve as a guide to the timing of agricultural activities and religious rituals.

Read the article

2.16. ‘A Minoan Eclipse Calculator’
M. Tsirikritis, E. Theodossiou, V.N. Manimanis, P. Mantarakis & D. Tsirikritis

**Abstract**

A stone die of the Minoan period, discovered near Palaikastro in Crete, Greece, in 1899, was selected for this study as bearer of astronomical significance. Strong evidence is presented in favor of its use (especially of the “ray-bearing” disc on its right-hand side) as a die for the construction of a device that could determine eclipse dates during the Minoan period (circa 15th century BC); additionally, two more practical uses for it are examined: as a sundial and as an instrument for the determination of the geographical latitude.

Read the article

2.17. ‘Faunal remains from Early Helladic II Lerna (Argolid, Greece)’
David S. Reese

**Abstract**

Recent analysis of preserved fauna from the 1952-58 excavations at Lerna stored in Argos and Stockholm allows us to reexamine the fauna published in 1969 by the late Prof. Nils-Gustaf Gejvall as the first of the Lerna final reports. The first fauna reanalysis was on the Late Helladic II-III material and published in this journal in 2008. The present detailed study of the much earlier Early Helladic II material uses the revised phasing, detailed context information, and fuller analysis of the preserved samples including butchery and burning. The final report on the architecture and pottery for this period was published by Wiencke (2000).

Read the article

2.18. ‘The Trojan War Dated by Two Solar Eclipses’
Goran Henriksson

**Abstract**

The Trojan War was very significant for the ancient Greeks and they dated historical events according to the number of years after the fall of Troy. However, there was already in antiquity no consensus as to the exact date of the war when compared with different epochs. Even after the modern discovery of the ancient city, there has been disagreement among different excavators as to which layer corresponds to the city mentioned in the Iliad attributed to Homer.

In this paper an attempt is made to identify the strange obscuration of the sun that occurred during the final battle of the Iliad as a total solar eclipse close to the southern border of the zone of totality. There exists only one solar eclipse that corresponds to the description in the text and this is the total solar eclipse of June 11, in 1312 BC. When I first presented this date in 1986, there was a difference of about 60 years compared with the most common archaeological dating at that time. My date is now fully supported by the latest results from the German-American excavation that identifies
the fall of Homer’s Troy with the destruction of the archaeological layer Troy VIh, dated to about 1300 BC.

Further independent support is provided by another solar eclipse that dates the reign of the Hittite king Muwatalli II. This king wrote a letter to king Alaksandu in Wilusa, identified as the Hittite name for Ilios, the most frequently used name for Troy in the Iliad. Alexander was another name for Paris who abducted Helen, the crime that resulted in the war. Muwatalli II was king 1315-1297 BC, according to the chronology for the Hittite Kingdom based on a solar eclipse in 1335 BC, during the tenth year of King Mursili II (1345-1315 BC), the father of Muwatalli II.

Read the article

2.19. ‘A New Astronomical Dating of Odysseus’ Return to Ithaca’
St. P. Papamarinopoulos, P. Preka-Papadema, P. Antonopoulos, H. Mitropetrou, A. Tsironi & P. Mitropetros

Abstract
The annular solar eclipse, of 30 October 1207 B.C. (Julian Day-JD 1280869), calculated by NASA together with the analysis of the weather’s and the environment’s description (long nights, plants, animals and peoples’ habits) and the astronomical data (guiding constellations and Venus in the east horizon) mentioned by Homer in the epic, constitute an autumn return of Odysseus to Ithaca five days before the above characterized day. The latter offers a precise astronomical dating of the event and dates the legendary Trojan War’s end as well.

Read the article

2.20. ‘Shaping Bronze by Heat and Hammer: An Experimental Reproduction of Minoan Copper Alloy Forming Techniques’
Nerantzis Nerantzis

Abstract
The compositions of copper-base tools, weapons, ornaments and ceremonial metalwork from numerous Late Bronze Age Aegean sites reveal a pattern of specific alloy combinations for the fabrication of certain classes of objects. Thus the majority of weapons and tools were made of high tin bronze whereas bronze statuettes, tripods and cauldrons contain small amounts of lead and in some cases tin is present in low amounts. Such diversity reflects the direct relationship between the compositions of prehistoric bronze objects and the art of their fabrication, because both the alloy additions and the impurities exert a pronounced effect on the forming capacity of alloys. In order to understand the correlation between composition and formability of Minoan bronzes, replica compositions with varying tin and lead contents were experimentally reproduced and their forming capacities were tested. Deformation and heat treatment of five tin and two leaded tin bronze alloys was attempted in order to replicate the forming stages for the shaping of cutting tools and bronze sheet for vessels and cauldrons. The amount of cold-working and annealing intervals, required to test the effects of workability on alloy properties, has been reflected as hardness values and transformations of the structural characteristics for each sample. It has been shown through the course of the experiment that high tin bronzes could be formed by frequent, short annealing stages at 600°C and that it is possible to work-harden leaded bronze as long as time and temperatures are closely monitored.

Read the article
3. RECENT BOOK REVIEWS


4. DIGITAL BOOKS


Text
This new section aims to gather articles and book reviews that are available in digital form and have been published before 2009 (Aegeus’s founding year).


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Simandiraki, A., 2002. Middle Minoan III Pottery from Building B of the Mount Juktas Peak Sanctuary, Crete, and a general re-assessment of the Middle Minoan III Period, Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Bristol.

Text


Free through the website EThOS (of the British Library) or through the Aegean Library (as PDF file)
Dear Members and Friends,

Aegeus is back from the summer holidays!

Over the next 6 months we will be gradually making changes to our website in order to improve its operation and update various sections. We would like to inform you in advance that some errors may appear during this process and we may have to disable several sections of the site for approximately one month. The Members of Aegeus will continue to receive emails with news on Aegean prehistoric archaeology throughout this period.

We would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and apologise for any problems that may occur. We hope that by Spring 2014, our website will have improved significantly and will be a lot more user friendly.

Wishing you all the very best for the new academic year!
9. UPCOMING LECTURES & CONFERENCES

A selection of upcoming lectures and conferences:

**United Kingdom, Wales, Aberystwyth 18-20 September**
Aberystwyth University
*Conference*
Ancient Warfare Workshop
Programme

**USA, New York, 27 September 18:30**
The Institute of Fine Arts (One East 78th Street)
The *New York Aegean Bronze Age Colloquium*
Robert B. Koehl
It’s a Dog’s Life: The Canine in Minoan Culture
Map Please R.S.V.P. 212-992-5803 or, IFA.events@NYU.edu

**Greece, Tripoli 04-05 October**
Apostolopouleio Cultural Centre
*Conference*
Η ιστορική και αρχαιολογική έρευνα στην Πελοπόννησο, όπως προκύπτει από τα αρχεία των Γ.Α.Κ. νομών Πελοποννήσου και αρχεία άλλων φορέων για την Πελοπόννησο
Programme and abstracts

**Greece, Athens, 7-8 October**
Archaeological Society, 22 Panepistimiou
*International Conference*
THORIKOS 1963-2013: 50 Years of Belgian Excavations: Evaluation and Perspectives
Programme

**Greece, Athens, 11 October 18:30**
Archaeological Society, 22 Panepistimiou
*Minoan Seminar*
Anastasia Tzigounaki (Director, 25th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities)
Η “σφραγιδοκρατία” την εποχή των πρώτων ανακτόρων
Further information
Minoan Seminar on Facebook
Map

**Greece, Athens, 12 October**
Ioannis Drakopoulos Conference Hall, (University of Athens central building), 30 Panepistimiou St.
*Colloquium*
Που αρχίζει το παρελθόν μας; Η συγκρότηση της επιστήμης της Παλαιοανθρωπολογίας και της Παλαιολιθικής Αρχαιολογίας στην Ελλάδα
Further information will be announced soon.

To see all the lectures press here.
😊 Visit the website of Aegeus constantly for updates and changes.
10. CALL FOR PAPERS

The Archaeological Work in the Aegean Islands
Rhodes, 27 November - 1 December 2013
Deadline: 30 September 2013

The conference aims at the presentation of the multi-faceted archaeological work recently carried out and currently in progress in the Aegean islands (Cyclades, Dodecanese, Northeast Aegean) by the central and regional Directorates of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, Universities and Research Institutes, as well as the Foreign Archaeological Institutes in Greece.

read more

IWA Regional Symposium on Water, Wastewater, and Environment: Traditions and Culture
Greece. Patras, 22-24 March 2014
Deadline: 30 September 2013

The Chairman of the Organizing Committee takes great pleasure in inviting you to the IWA Regional Symposium on Water, Wastewater and Environment: Traditions and Cultures, which will be held in Patras, Greece, from 22-24 March, 2014.

read more

11. GRANTS/BURSARIES & JOB VACANCIES

Innovational Research Incentives Scheme Vidi (GW)
Deadline: 03 October 2013

VIDI gives researchers who have already spent several years doing postdoctoral research the opportunity to develop their own innovative lines of research, and to appoint one or more researchers.

read more

INSTAP Grants
Deadline: 01 November 2013

The Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) provides many grants on the field of Aegean prehistoric archaeology every year. The deadline of most of the grants is 1 November each year.

read more

Harriet and Leon Pomerance Fellowship
Deadline: 01 November 2013

To support an individual project of a scholarly nature, related to Aegean Bronze Age Archaeology. Preference will be given to candidates whose project requires travel to the Mediterranean for the purpose stated above.

read more
The Cotsen Excavation Grant Program provides two grants per year of up to $25,000 each. One grant will be awarded to a first time project director launching a new project while the second grant will be open to all professionals working in the field.

The American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) invites applications for the position of Director of the Malcolm H. Wiener Laboratory of Archaeological Science (WL).

Several fellowships with different deadlines. The deadline of Wiener Laboratory Fellowship is on 15 January of each year.

A list of several fellowships, grants and scholarships with different deadlines during the whole year.

Applications are invited from university graduates of Greek or Cypriot nationality for awards to cover the expenses of a stay in the United Kingdom (U.K.) of short duration for a specific project of study or research in any field in which the British School is active.

The University of Cincinnati Classics Department is pleased to announce the Margo Tytus Visiting Scholars Program. Tytus Fellows, in the fields of philology, history and archaeology will ordinarily be at least 5 years beyond receipt of the Ph.D.

The Mediterranean Archaeological Trust, set up in 1959 for the promotion of the study of archaeology, invites applications for grants, made on a competitive basis, for expenses in 2014-15, in the preparation for...
final publication of material from archaeological excavation or fieldwork ...

read more

**Onassis Foundation Fellowships**
Deadline: 15 February 2014

In 1995 the Foundation established an annual programme of grants and scholarships for research, study and artistic endeavour within Greece.

read more

**The Vronwy Hankey Memorial Fund for Aegean Studies**
Deadline: 01 April 2014

The Vronwy Hankey Memorial Fund for Aegean Studies has been funded by gifts to the School’s Appeal in memory of Vronwy Hankey and her husband Henry.

read more

**BSA grants**
Deadline: 30 June 2014

During the whole academic year the BSA offers a series of awards, studentships, and fellowships to support research of all types and at all stages of your academic career.

read more

**The British Institute at Ankara grants**
Deadline: 30 June 2014

During the whole year the British Institute at Ankara provides a number of different grants and awards.

read more
Mycenaean Palace and Linear B Tablets Discovered in Sparta Area
A. Papapostolou, Greek Reporter., 11-09-2013

A new excavation in the Xirokambi area of Aghios Vassilios west of Sparta, in the Peloponnese, Greece, has revealed a richness of Mycenaean artefacts in the area, including the remains of a palace, Linear B tablets, fragments of wall paintings, and several bronze swords.

The excavation, led by emeritus ephor of antiquities Adamantia Vassilogrambrou, was presented publicly at the biennial Shanghai Archaeology Forum at the end of August as one of 10 sites showcased from different parts of the world.

Read more: http://www.aegeussociety.org

Letters from the “Underground”. Writing from Methoni, Pieria, late 8th - early 7th century BC Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, 12 September 2013 - 31 December 2014

Η αρχαία Μεθώνη είναι μία από τις σημαντικότερες αρχαιολογικές θέσεις της Μακεδονίας. Βρίσκεται στη βόρεια Πιερία, στη δυτική ακτή του Θερμαϊκού Κόλπου κοντά στις νότιες εκβολές του Αλιάκμονα. Οι ανασκαφές που διενεργούνται από την ΚΖ’ Εφορεία Προϊστορικών και Κλασικών Αρχαιοτήτων από το 2003 μέχρι σήμερα έχουν φέρει στο φως σημαντικά ευρήματα, τα οποία «ξεδιπλώνουν» πτυχές της ιστορίας αυτής της ακμαίας πόλης. Ένα από τα ευρήματα με μεγάλη ιστορική και αρχαιολογική σημασία προέρχεται από το «Υπόγειο», μια υπόσκαφη κατασκευή, όπου βρέθηκαν 191 ενεπίγραφα αγγεία, τα περισσότερα από τα οποία χρονολογούνται τον ύστερο 8ο και τον πρώιμο 7ο αι. π.Χ.

Read more (in Greek): http://aegeussociety.org

“Franchthi cave, Municipality of Ermionida, Prefecture of the Peloponnese”. Development works at the site and the surrounding area within the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) 2007-2013
Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology-Speleology of Southern Greece

Franchthi cave is located on the northern side of Koiladhia Bay in the southwestern Argolid. It was occupied during the Upper Palaeolithic (40-10,000 B.C.), Mesolithic (9-7,000 B.C.) and Neolithic periods (7-3,000 B.C.). During the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, the cave was inhabited seasonally by mobile hunter-gatherers and fishermen who used tools made of hard and sharp stones such as flint and obsidian.

Read more: http://aegeussociety.org

Anaskamma 6 (2013): the new issue is available online
anaskamma.wordpress.com

Anaskamma circulates with the ambition to give a solution to the problem of excavations that lose their discoveries in mysterious, inaccessible drawers, instead of enjoying them as multicolored, accessible publications; a solution that is neither the only one, nor the best one. It still is a solution, because it deliberately exceeds the error of the “minefield”, a rightful comparison of the excavational procedure, since the very first mistake of the excavator is also the last one.
Fossil insects tweak date of deadly “Atlantis” eruption
*Archaeology News Network, 22-08-2013*

A new study of insect pests found in an ancient storage jar on the Greek island of Santorini suggests the major volcanic eruption that took place there around 1600 B.C.-and which may have inspired the legend of Atlantis-happened in early summer. The “Atlantis” eruption was one of the most significant volcanic eruptions in human history.

Read more: [http://archaeologynewsnetwork.gr](http://archaeologynewsnetwork.gr)

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Farewell to a great teacher. Archaeologist Spyros Iakovides dies at 90
*Archaeology & Arts, 17-06-2013*

The archaeological community in Greece and beyond sends farewell to Spyros Iakovides, a great archaeologists and academic, specialized in the Mycenaean world.

Born in Athens (1923), Spyros Iakovides graduated from the University of Athens with a degree in Archaeology (1946). From 1952 up to 1954 worked as an archaeological curator but his great passion was archaeology through fieldwork and academia.

Read more: [http://archaiologia.gr](http://archaiologia.gr)

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Evidence of Production of Luxury Textiles and Extraction of Copper from Unknown Part of Cypriote Bronze Age City
*University of Gothenburg News, 21-08-2013*

A Swedish archaeological expedition from the University of Gothenburg has excavated a previously unknown part of the Bronze Age city Hala Sultan Tekke (around 1600–1100 BC). The finds include a facility for extraction of copper and production of bronze objects, evidence of production of luxurious textiles, as well as ceramics and other objects imported from all over the Mediterranean but also from central Europe.

‘One of our conclusions is that the Bronze Age culture in Hala Sultan Tekke played a central role in the Eastern Mediterranean. Cyprus served as an important node not only for regional but also for more long-distance trade. We have also realized that the city was larger than previously thought,’ says Peter Fischer, professor of Cypriote archaeology at the University of Gothenburg.

Read more: [http://hum.gu.se](http://hum.gu.se)

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3,500-year-old tombs discovered in Bodrum
*ANSAmed, 05-08-2013*

Ancient tombs thought to belong to the Mycenaean era of 3,500 years ago have been unearthed during an excavation being carried out by the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology in the Ortakent district of Bodrum.

Read more: [ANSAmed](http://ANSAmed)

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New timeline for origin of ancient Egypt
*Rebecca Morelle, BBC News, 04-09-2013*

A new timeline for the origin of ancient Egypt has been established by scientists. A team from the UK found that the transformation from a land of disparate farmers into a state ruled by a king was more rapid than previously thought. Using radiocarbon dating and computer models, they believe the civilisation’s first ruler - King Aha - came to power in about 3100BC.

Read more: [http://bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)
Νέες ανασκαφικές έρευνες στη Νεολιθική Μακεδονία (Μέρος Α’). Ο νεολιθικός οικισμός της Σταυρούπολης Θεσσαλονίκης
Kostas Kotsakis & Stavros Kotsos, Archaeology & Arts, 26-08-2013

Από τις αρχές του προηγούμενου αιώνα ήταν ήδη γνωστό από τις έρευνες πρωτοπόρων αρχαιολόγων ότι η κοιλάδα του Ανθεμούντα, στα νοτιοανατολικά της Θεσσαλονίκης, κατοικείται κατά την προϊστορική περίοδο με μικρής έκταση οικισμούς, οι οποίοι με το πέρασμα των χρόνων και τη συνεχή κατοίκησή τους σχημάτισαν τουμπες, μικρούς δηλαδή γηλόφους που δεσπόζουν στο σύγχρονο τοπίο.

Read more: http://archaiologia.gr

Νέες ανασκαφικές έρευνες στη Νεολιθική Μακεδονία (Μέρος Β’). Ο νεολιθικός οικισμός στη Θέρμη Θεσσαλονίκης
Μαρία Παππά, Αρχαιολογία & Τέχνες, 09-09-2013

Από τις αρχές του προηγούμενου αιώνα ήταν ήδη γνωστό από τις έρευνες πρωτοπόρων αρχαιολόγων ότι η κοιλάδα του Ανθεμούντα, στα νοτιοανατολικά της Θεσσαλονίκης, κατοικείται κατά την προϊστορική περίοδο με μικρής έκταση οικισμούς, οι οποίοι με το πέρασμα των χρόνων και τη συνεχή κατοίκησή τους σχημάτισαν τουμπες, μικρούς δηλαδή γηλόφους που δεσπόζουν στο σύγχρονο τοπίο.

Read more: http://archaiologia.gr

Σχολή διδασκαλίας της Ιστορίας της Τέχνης 2013-2014
Η εν Αθήναις Αρχαιολογική Εταιρεία

Η Αρχαιολογική Εταιρεία διοργανώνει κύκλο διαλέξεων με θέμα: «Η Αρχαιολογία της Κρήτης». Τα μαθήματα ξεκινούν στις 6 Νοεμβρίου 2013 και θα γίνονται κάθε Τετάρτη, 18:00-20:00, στην Αρχαιολογική Εταιρεία, Πανεπιστημιού 22, Αθήνα. Έναρξη εγγραφών: Από 1 Οκτωβρίου 2013. Διάρκεια: 110 ευρώ / φοιτητές 70 ευρώ.

The programme (in Greek)

Συνέχιση της ανασκαφής στα Τζαννάτα και το 2013

Το Σεπτέμβριο 2013 θα συνεχιστεί η αρχαιολογική έρευνα και μελέτη στον υστεροελλαδικό (μυκηναϊκό) οικισμό στα Τζαννάτα Πόρου Κεφαλληνίας, στη θέση Ρίζα, από την επιστημονική ομάδα του Δρ Αντώνη Βασιλάκη, Επίτιμου Διευθυντή του ΥΠΠΟ και τέως Εφόρου Αρχαιοτήτων Κεφαλλήνιας-Ιθάκης & Ζακύνθου.

Read more: http://aegeussociety.org

Εντυπωσιακά ευρήματα 4.000 ετών στη Σητεία
Ninetta Kontrarou-Rassia, Ελευθεροποίηση, 29-08-2013

Χωράει στη χούφτα του χεριού σου. Είναι «τόσο δα το μινωικό αγόρι. Γυμνούλι, όμορφο, με λεπτοκαμωμένο δυνατό σώμα. Και είναι μόλις χθεσινό, 4.000 χρόνων (και κάτι). Το κείμενο από λίγες μέρες που γράφονταν αυτές οι γραμμές στο Διαδίκτυο τα πήλινα μινωικά αγόρια είχαν γίνει έντεκα. «Αν ήταν δώδεκα, ίσως να λέγαμε πως αντιστοιχούν στους αρχαίους μήνες». Η Μεταξία Τσιποπούλου ακούγεται πανευτυχής για τη φετινή σοδειά της στη μινωική Σητεία, όπου σκάβει με μια πολυεθνική επιστημονική ομάδα στο Προανακτορικό και Παλαιοανακτορικό Νεκροταφείο του Πετρά.

Τα έντεκα πήλινα ειδώλια, με όλες τις ανατομικές λεπτομέρειες των αγοριών τονισμένες, τα χέρια σταυρωτά στο στήθος, τα μάτια βαθουλωτά, μύτη σαν ράμφος πουλιού, ήταν έκπληξη για την ανασκαφέα καθώς βρέθηκαν στους «μάρτυρες», δηλαδή στο διάδρομο των τετράγωνων ανασκαφικών σκαμμάτων που χρησιμοποιούν για τα καρότσια της ανασκαφής.

Read more: http://enet.gr
Changing climate may have driven collapse of civilizations in Late Bronze Age
AAAS, 14-08-2013

Climate change may have driven the collapse of once-flourishing Eastern Mediterranean civilizations towards the end of the 13th century BC, according to research published August 14 in the open access journal PLOS ONE by David Kaniewski from the University of Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France and colleagues from other institutions. Ancient civilizations flourished in regions of the Eastern Mediterranean such as Greece, Syria and neighboring areas, but suffered severe crises that led to their collapse during the late Bronze Age.

Read more: http://eurekalert.org

Sourcing obsidian artefacts in only 10 seconds
Archaeology News Network, 10-09-2013

Researchers at the University of Sheffield have developed a method of sourcing obsidian artefacts that takes only 10 seconds -- dozens of times faster than the current methods -- with a handheld instrument that can be used at archaeological excavations. Obsidian, naturally occurring volcanic glass, is smooth, hard, and far sharper than a surgical scalpel when fractured, making it a highly desirable raw material for crafting stone tools for almost all of human history. The earliest obsidian tools, found in East Africa, are nearly two million years old, and obsidian scalpels are still used today in specialised medical procedures.

Read more: archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.gr

Κοσμήματα που είναι επισήμως «εξωγήινα». Νέα μελέτη επιβεβαιώνει πέραν πάσης αμφιβολίας ότι οι σιδερένιες «χάντρες των Γκερζέχ» είναι από μέταλλο μετεωρίτη
tovima.gr, 28-08-2013

Θα μπορούσαν να αποτελούν απλώς ένα ακόμη προϊστορικό δείγμα του ότι στον άνθρωπο πάντα άρεσε να «στολίζεται». Οι ηλικίας άνω των 5.000 ετών χάντρες που έχουν βρεθεί στην Αίγυπτο, σε ένα νεκροταφείο της προδυναστικής περιόδου, περιβάλλονται όμως από ένα μοναδικό μυστήριο: είναι φτιαγμένες από σίδηρο σε μια εποχή που ακόμη ο σίδηρος δεν είχε εξορυχθεί.

Read more: tovima.gr
Aegeus - Society for Aegean Prehistory
6 Litous, 15124 Maroussi, Athens - Greece
Email: info[at]aegeussociety.org, URL: www.aegeussociety.org

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