

The background of the page is a repeating pattern of stylized, light blue motifs. These motifs consist of a central vertical stem with a bulbous base, topped by a horizontal bar. From the ends of this bar, two curved lines extend upwards and outwards, resembling a pair of wings or a stylized floral shape. The pattern is dense and covers the entire page.

*Newsletter on Aegean and Cypriot Prehistory*

**15 December 2010**

**No. 17**

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# 1. NEW BOOKS



**ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ. Étude régionale de la Crète aux Minoen Récent II-III B (1450-1200 av. J.-C.) 1. La Crète centrale et occidentale**  
Charlotte Langohr

**City & year:** Louvain-la-Neuve 2009

**Publisher:** Presses universitaires de Louvain

**Series:** AEGIS

**Description:** Paperback, 315 p., 1 CD-Rom, 8 colour maps,  
29,7x21cm

**ISBN:** 978-2-87463-200-6

**Price:** € 34

*Aegean Library: 1993*

## Abstract (in French)

À la croisée de l'Âge d'or de la civilisation minoenne et de l'Âge du Fer, les 250 ans d'histoire de la société crétoise couverts par cet ouvrage représentent une période encore fortement débattue (1450-1200 av. J.-C.). Cette problématique historique spécifique, résumée sous l'appellation de « Crète mycénienne », s'est longtemps concentrée sur le site majeur de Knossos et les relations variées entre les sociétés complexes de la Crète et de la Grèce continentale. Ce faisant, une domination culturelle et politique de la civilisation mycénienne sur la population crétoise s'est souvent érigée en modèle interprétatif dominant. En se basant sur une description analytique détaillée des données archéologiques disponibles, l'approche contextuelle de la Crète aux Minoen Récent II-III B proposée dans cet ouvrage vise à une meilleure compréhension de la diversité des identités, des interactions et des horizons socio-culturels qui caractérisaient les communautés crétoises à un stade avancé de l'Âge du Bronze. À travers le prisme des différentes régions et dans une perspective diachronique, on souhaite illustrer que cette société ne peut désormais plus être envisagée sous l'angle d'un isomorphisme culturel ou de la simple opposition entre « minoen » et « mycénien ».

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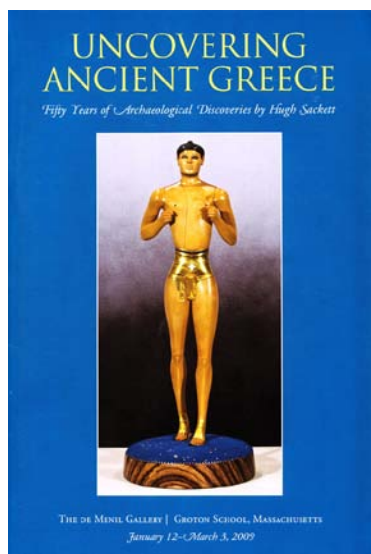
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***Uncovering Ancient Greece: Fifty Years of Archaeological Discoveries***  
 Hugh Sackett

**City & year:** Massachusetts 2009  
**Publisher:** The de Menil Gallery, Groton School  
**Series:** -  
**Description:** Paperback, 44 p., colour & b/w ill., maps, 26,5x18 cm  
**ISBN:** -  
**Price:** Not for sale

*Aegean Library:* -

**Abstract**

Catalogue of an exhibition held at the de Menil Gallery (January 12, 2009 - March 3) to celebrate a long and fruitful career of Hugh Sackett with Groton School. Principally associated throughout his career with the British School at Athens, Mr. Sackett is best known for his work at five important archaeological digs that were the

focus of the exhibition: the Dema and Vari Houses near Athens, the Unexplored Mansion at Knossos in Crete, the town of Lefkandi on the island of Euboea, and a previously unknown Minoan palace complex at Palaikastro in eastern Crete.

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*Aegean Library: 2329*

### *Μουσείο Μπενάκη, vol. 8 (Benaki Museum)*

**City & year:** Athens 2008 [2010]

**Publisher:** Benaki Museum

**Series:** -

**Description:** Paperback, 293 p., colour & b/w ill., 28x21,5 cm

**ISSN:** 1109-4109

**Price:** € 18

### Abstract

The book is the eight volume of the journal of the Benaki Museum. The two first articles, written in English, focus on a golden Mycenaean kylix of the Benaki Museum. The golden kylix decorated with repoussé runnig hounds was bought by Antoni Benaki himself in 1939; it consists one of the most known prehistoric artefacts of the Museum.

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Irini Papageorgiou, 'The Mycenaean golden kylix of the Benaki Museum. A *dubitandum*?' [9-37]

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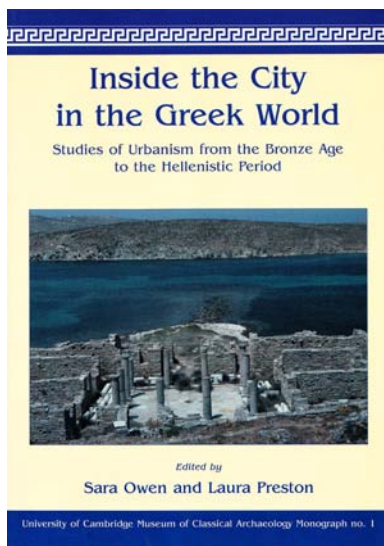
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***Inside the City in the Greek World: Studies of Urbanism from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic Period***  
 Edited by Sara Owen & Laura Preston

**City & year:** Cambridge 2009  
**Publisher:** Oxbow Books  
**Series:** University of Cambridge Museum of Classical Archaeology Monograph 1  
**Description:** Paperback, 140 p., b/w ill., plans, maps, 24,2x16,9 cm  
**ISBN:** 978-1-84217-349-7  
**Price:** £ 28.00 (€ 33)

*Agean Library: -*

### Abstract

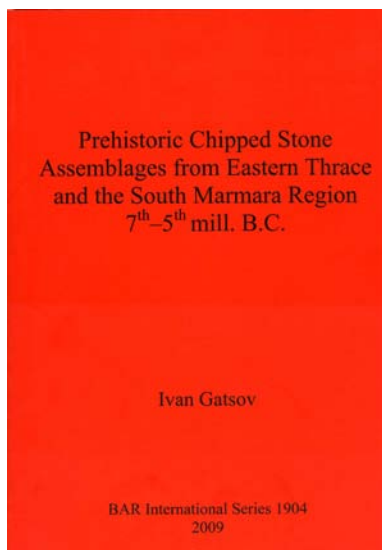
The focus of much recent archaeological study of urbanism has been on the relationship between urban centres and the rural sphere. However, this important line of inquiry has generally neglected the internal workings of cities. This volume presents an archaeological approach to urbanism in the ancient Aegean and related areas. In a series of articles investigating case studies from the Minoan palace centres of Bronze Age Crete to Hellenistic Beirut, it highlights the importance of analysing urban centres from *within*, to explore the widely differing ways in which people lived in, perceived and modified their built environments in the Greek world.

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Lisa Nevett, 'Domestic Facades: A 'feature' of the urban landscape of Greek Poleis?' [118-130].  
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***Prehistoric Chipped Stone Assemblages from Eastern Thrace and the South Marmara Region 7th-5th mill. BC.***

**Ivan Gatsov**

**City & year:** Oxford 2009

**Publisher:** Archaeopress

**Series:** BAR International Series 1904

**Description:** Paperback, 135 p., b/w ill., 29,7x21 cm

**ISBN:** 978-1-4073-0242-3

**Price:** £ 40 (ca. € 47)

*Agean Library: -*

**Abstract**

The main topic of this work is linked with the investigation of the Holocene chipped stone assemblages in the area of South Bulgaria and especially the region of Northern Thrace and NW Turkey (Eastern Thrace and South Marmara region) during the period 7th - 5th mill. BC. The reason for undertaking this type of research is connected with the important location and key position of present day NW Turkey and Bulgarian lands in the processes of cultural development of the prehistoric population between 7th - 5th mill. BC. The other reason can be found in the insufficient number of works concerning prehistoric stone technology and typology and system of supply in this region for the period mentioned above. At the same time the present work has the aim of publishing the acquired stone collections and to make them available to interested scholars.

Within this work the following topics will be considered:

- Technological and typological analyses of the chipped stone assemblages in Northern and Eastern Thrace and the South Marmara region – 7th and the 5th mill. BC.
- Raw material procurement and the systems of supply of the prehistoric population in the regions presented.

The research problems concerning the prehistoric periods of this region have been more or less detailed in different publications by different authors (Todorova 2003, 257-328; Özdoğan 2003a) and therefore it would be not necessary to repeat their publications and further below only short information on the sites is furnished, in addition to which the stone assemblages that have been processed by the author are presented. The research results till the end of 2005 are presented in this study.

**Contents**

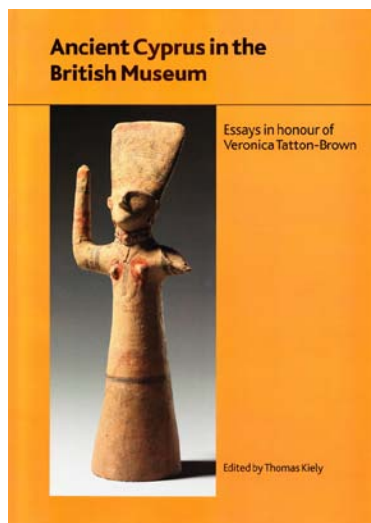
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***Ancient Cyprus in the British Museum: Essays in Honour of Veronica Tatton-Brown***

Edited by Thomas Kiely

**City & year:** London 2009

**Publisher:** The British Museum

**Series:** British Museum Press Research Publication 180

**Description:** Paperback, 100 p., 95 colour and half-tone ill., tables, drawings, 29,5x21 cm

**ISBN:** 978-0-86159-180-0

**Price:** £ 25 (€ 30)

*Aegean Library: -*

**Abstract**

The ancient Cypriot collections of the British Museum have inspired the essays in this volume in honour of Veronica Tatton-Brown, who for many years was their curator. Written by her academic colleagues and friends, the themes covered range from funeral rites at Late Bronze Age Enkomi to sculptured portraits of parents and children in the 5th and 4th centuries BC, along with the reconstruction of the Persian siege ramp at Palaipaphos and the history of Cypriot archaeology as revealed in the Museum's archives. The focus on individual objects ranges from the superb craftsmanship of an ivory gaming-box to an intriguing clay model of a dagger and its sheath, in a volume that highlights key points of interest in this rich and varied collection.

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|--|--|



## 2. NEW ARTICLES

### 2.1. 'Location and perspective in the Thera Flotilla Fresco'

Thomas F. Strasser

*Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 23.1 (2010): 3-26.

Keywords: Akrotiri, Flotilla fresco, fresco, iconography, palaeotopographical research, Thera.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Strasser 2010

#### Abstract

The Flotilla Fresco from Akrotiri on Thera depicts 14 sea craft, with seven large ships seemingly en route between two landmasses. There are, however, strong arguments against the idea of a long-distance voyage, and instead this study supports the concept of a nautical ceremony. By using palaeotopographical research, it is suggested additionally that the fresco depicts a specific setting inside the Thera caldera prior to the Bronze Age eruption; the perspective is from its interior eastern rim, looking west towards the opposite-facing cliffs of the crater's spits. This interpretation overcomes iconographic difficulties such as the placement of the boats and dolphins above the landmasses and the unique depiction of horizontally bedded rocks around the Departure Town.

### 2.2. 'We don't talk about Çatalhöyük, we live it': sustainable archaeological practice through community-based participatory research'

Sonya Atalay

*World Archaeology* 42.3 (2010): 418-429.

Keywords: access, Anatolia, benefits, Çatalhöyük, relevance, sustainable archaeological practice.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Atalay 2010

#### Abstract

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) provides a methodology for engaging descendent and local communities as partners in archaeological research. This article, based on a five-year comparative research project that examines CBPR's application to archaeology, demonstrates a collaborative model that involves reciprocity, is action based and aims to build community capacity while engaging communities in the process of archaeological research and heritage management. Included are details of what community-based participatory research is, the main principles involved in its practice and a demonstration of how it is being effectively applied "on-the-ground" at Çatalhöyük, Turkey. Two components of the Çatalhöyük CBPR project are highlighted: the community internship program and the archaeological community theatre project.

### 2.3. 'The Minoan lion: Presence and absence on Bronze Age Crete'

Andrew Shapland

*World Archaeology* 42.2 (2010): 273-289.

Keywords: affordance, Bronze Age, Crete, human-animal relations, lion, Minoan period, seal.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Shapland 2010

#### Abstract

Animal depictions are frequently treated by archaeologists either as direct reflections of human-animal relations or as symbolic of social realities. This paper offers a different way of conceptualizing animal depictions, as objects which mediate between society and human relationships with non-human animals. The focus here is on the large number of lions depicted on sealstones from Bronze Age Crete, despite there being no evidence (excluding the depictions themselves) that lions were present on Crete during this

period. This paper examines how these depictions change over the course of the Bronze Age, and suggests links between iconographic features and knowledge of, and encounters with, real lions. It considers the interplay between the affordances of lions revealed in the depictions, as dangerous predators, and the affordances of the objects, as a means of social interaction. The Minoan lion is an animal which is neither reducible to its iconographic manifestations nor possible to understand apart from a network of material culture.

#### **2.4. 'Political geography and palatial Crete'**

**Andrew Bevan**

*Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 23.1 (2010): 27-54.

Keywords: Crete, geography, Neopalatial period, Protopalatial period.

*Aegean Library: Dig. Bevan 2010*

##### **Abstract**

The political geography of Crete during the period of the Bronze Age palaces has been a subject of widespread debate, not only with respect to the timing of the island's move towards greater social and political complexity, but also with regard to the nature of the political institutions and territorial configurations that underpinned palace-centred society, as well as their longer-term stability over the course of the second millennium BC. As such, the region provides an ideal context in which to consider the broader question of how we develop robust political geographies in pre- and protohistoric contexts. This paper proposes the need for a more deliberate interlocking of computational, comparative and material approaches, as a means of guiding our political model-building efforts.

#### **2.5. 'Karst depressions as geoarchaeological archives: The palaeoenvironmental reconstruction of Zominthos (Central Crete), based on geophysical prospection, sedimentological investigations and GIS'**

**C. Siart, S. Hecht, I. Holzhauer, R. Altherr, H.P. Meyer, G. Schukraft, B. Eitel, O. Bubbenzer, D. Panagiotopoulos**

*Quaternary International* 216.1-2 (April 2010): 75-92.

Keywords: Crete, geoarchaeology, GIS, palaeoenvironmental reconstruction, sedimentology, Zominthos.

*Aegean Library: -*

##### **Abstract**

Sediment-filled karst depressions (e.g. dolines) have rarely been used as geoarchives in Greece due to an uncertainty about the thickness of accumulations and their vague suitability for palaeoenvironmental research. However, such terrestrial proxy-data sources can yield important records for the analysis of the Holocene landscape history. A multi-method approach was applied in order to evaluate the potential of colluvial fillings for reconstructing the geoarchaeological landscape in Mount Ida, Central Crete. Subsequent to an area-wide survey of appropriate karst hollows through remote sensing and GIS analyses, geophysical prospection (refraction seismics, earth resistivity tomography) was conducted at the most promising archive locations. Selective percussion drilling within the sinkholes provided vibra-cores for mineralogical and sedimentological investigations (grain size distribution, heavy- and light minerals, X-ray diffraction, thin sections) as well as AMS <sup>14</sup>C dates. As demonstrated by the results, the dolines are partially filled by loose material up to 20 m b.s. and, thus, offer valuable information about the environmental history. The diversified sediment constitution indicates several geomorphodynamic oscillations and a polygenetic nature of the colluvial fills. XRD-spectra of clay minerals and quartz-grain morphology both indicate a significant aeolian dust contribution to soil formation and pedo-sediments. Glass shards and substantially heterogeneous heavy mineral compositions point to supra-regional origin and external volcanogenic

deposits (Minoan eruption of Santorini, 3.6 ka). Regarding the hitherto discussed distribution of Z2 tephra in the Mediterranean, the spatial fallout must be revised as great amounts have also been deposited in the high mountains of Crete. Moreover, the redeposition of the sedimentary fills proves to be comparatively young since most materials were accumulated within the dolines post-eruptively. Huge and previously unknown subsurface archaeological remains strongly suggest that year-around settlement in the mid-Holocene might have been possible under better climatic conditions. The results imply that karst depressions serve as suitable geoarchives, particularly when investigated within a multi-method approach.

#### FROM THE YEAR 2009:

##### 2.6. 'New bifaces from the Palaeolithic site of Kokkinopilos, Greece and their stratigraphic significance'

Evangelos Tourloukis

*Antiquity* 83 (June 2009): online article.

Keywords: bifaces, Epirus, Kokkinopilos, Palaeolithic period, stone tools.

*Aegean Library*: **Dig. Tourloukis 2009**

###### Abstract (from the introduction)

Lower Palaeolithic lithic evidence in Greece, in contrast to the rich evidence from the rest of the Mediterranean, is scarce and mostly consists of surface finds, with relative dates based on inferred archaic morphology and without adequate stratigraphic correlations. For Greece, documentation of stratified lithics is essentially restricted to the sites of Kokkinopilos and Rodia. Kokkinopilos is a site of *terra rossa* deposits which have yielded thousands of Middle and Upper Palaeolithic artefacts. Since its discovery by E. Higgs in the 1960s, the site has played a central role in the discussion of the chronological and depositional relationship between artefacts and sediments at all red-bed sites of Epirus.

[Read the article](#)

##### 2.7. 'Körtik Tepe, a new Pre-Pottery Neolithic A site in south-eastern Anatolia'

Vecihi Özkaya & Aytaç Coşkun

*Antiquity* 83 (June 2009): online article.

Keywords: Anatolia, Körtik Tepe, Neolithic period.

*Aegean Library*: **Dig. Özkaya & Coşkun 2009**

###### Abstract (from the introduction)

The Upper Tigris Valley, in the Anatolian part of the Fertile Crescent, has indisputable significance for the early Neolithic in terms of the opportunities it provided for the permanent settlement of human communities. One of these settlements is Körtik Tepe, located in the province of Diyarbakir, near Pinarbasi, at the hamlet of the village called Agil, close to where the Batman Creek joins the Tigris.

[Read the article](#)

##### 2.8. 'The Lower Pleistocene lithic assemblage from Dursunlu (Konya), central Anatolia, Turkey'

Erksin Güleç, Tim White, Steven Kuhn, Ismail Özer, Mehmet Sağır, Hakan Yılmaz & F. Clark Howell

*Antiquity* 83 (March 2009): 11-22.

Keywords: Anatolia, erectus, hominins, Lower Palaeolithic, out of Africa, Pliocene.

*Aegean Library*: **Dig. Güleç et al. 2009**

###### Abstract

*Homo erectus* leaving Africa a million years ago ought to have passed through the area that is now Turkey, and the authors report a first certain sighting of human activity of this date in a lignite quarry near Konya.

The remains of rhino, hippo and horse were found with 135 modified quartz implements in layers dated by palaeomagnetic reversal to between 0.78 and 0.99 million years ago.

### **2.9. 'Beyond ethnicity: The overlooked diversity of group identities'**

**Naoise Mac Sweeney**

*Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 22.1 (2009): 101-126.

Keywords: Anatolia, Beycesultan, ethnicity, identity.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Mac Sweeney 2009

#### **Abstract**

This article challenges the current tendency in archaeology to assume an ethnic basis for group identity. Archaeology has rehabilitated the concept of ethnicity over the last decade, embracing a theoretically sensitive model of it as both socially constructed and socially constructing, as flexible, embodied and hybridised. The success of this model has been such that group identities are often assumed to be ethnic without investigation. Group identity, however, can relate to many types of perceived commonality and we must learn to look beyond ethnicity, viewing it as only one amongst many potentially salient social factors. This article advocates the active investigation of group identity and the complex social rationales that lie behind it. It takes as a case study the site of Beycesultan in western Anatolia, illustrating the dynamism of group identities in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages, and highlighting how group identity crystallised only at particular historical moments and around social rationales which were not primarily ethnic.

### **2.10. 'The Minoan fallacy: Cultural diversity and mortuary behaviour on Crete at the beginning of the Bronze Age'**

**Borja Legarra Herrero**

*Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 28.1 (February 2009): 29-57.

Keywords: Crete, cultural diversity, mortuary behaviour, Prepalatial period.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Legarra 2009

#### **Abstract**

We are becoming increasingly aware of regional data patterning in the archaeological record of Prepalatial Crete, yet a theoretically informed and methodologically systematic study assessing the significance of such differences is still lacking. This article investigates variation through the rich mortuary record of the period and explores the significance of such diversity for our understanding of Prepalatial Crete. A detailed analysis using mortuary data reveals a complex spatial and temporal variation in the record which raises questions about social, political and ideological differences between communities on the island during the early periods of the Early Bronze Age. Prepalatial Crete emerges from this analysis as a complex context resulting from an intricate combination of local and regional histories and trajectories and far from the unified culture that the term 'Minoan' implies.

### **2.11. 'Post-collapse: The re-emergence of polity in Iron Age Boğazköy, central Anatolia'**

**L. Kealhofer, P. Grave, H. Genz & B. Marsh**

*Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 28.3 (August 2009): 275-300.

Keywords: Anatolia, Boğazköy, Early Iron Age.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Kealhofer *et al.* 2009

#### **Abstract**

How communities reorganize after collapse is drawing increasing attention across a wide spectrum of disciplines. Iron Age Boğazköy provides an archaeological case study of urban and political regeneration after the widespread collapse of eastern Mediterranean Late Bronze Age empires in the early twelfth century BC. Recent work at Boğazköy has significantly expanded our understanding of long-term

occupation in north central Anatolia. This work counters previous suggestions that Boğazköy was abandoned after the collapse of the Hittite Empire during the Early Iron Age. In this paper, we focus on the Iron Age occupations at the site to show how growth in the scale and complexity of ceramic production and trade during this period provides another line of evidence for economic and political re-emergence. Based on the increasing diversity of non-local ceramics and ceramic emulations during the Iron Age, we suggest that only in the Late Iron Age, 500–700 years after Hittite collapse, did Boğazköy re-emerge as a significant polity in central Anatolia.

## **2.12. 'Contrasting subsistence strategies in the Early Iron Age? – New results from the Alföld plain, Hungary, and the Thracian plain, Bulgaria'**

**John Chapman, Enik Magyari & Bisserka Gaydarska**

*Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 28.2 (May 2009): 155-187.

Keywords: Bulgaria, Early Iron Age, palynological research, Thracian plain.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Chapman *et al.* 2009

### **Abstract**

What can students of the past do to establish the predominant land-use and settlement practices of populations who leave little or no artefactual discard as a testament to their lifeways? The traditional answer, especially in Eastern Europe, is to invoke often exogenous nomadic pastoralists whose dwelling in perpetuo mobile was based on yurts, minimal local ceramic production and high curation levels of wooden and metal containers. Such a lacuna of understanding settlement structure and environmental impacts typifies Early Iron Age (henceforth 'EIA') settlements in both Bulgaria and eastern Hungary – a period when the inception of the use of iron in Central and South-East Europe has a profound effect on the flourishing regional bronze industries of the Late Bronze Age (henceforth 'LBA').

The methodological proposal in this paper is the high value of palynological research for subsistence strategies and human impacts in any area with a poor settlement record. This proposal is illustrated by two new lowland pollen diagrams – Ezero, south-east Bulgaria, and Sarló-hát, north-east Hungary – which provide new insights into this research question. In the Thracian valley, there is a disjunction between an area of high arable potential, the small size and short-lived nature of most LBA and EIA settlements and the strong human impact from the LBA and EIA periods in the Ezero diagram. In the Hungarian Plain, the pollen record suggests that, during the LBA–EIA, extensive grazing meadows were established in the alluvial plain, with the inception of woodland clearance on a massive scale from c.800 cal BC, that contradicts the apparent decline in human population in this area. An attempted explanation of these results comprises the exploration of three general positions – the *indigenist* thesis, the *exogenous* thesis and the *interactionist* thesis. Neither of these results fits well with the traditional view of EIA populations as incoming steppe nomadic pastoralists. Instead, this study seeks to explore the tensions between local productivity and the wider exchange networks in which they are entangled.

## **2.13. 'Domesticity by default. Ritual, Ritualization and cave-use in the Neolithic Aegean'**

**Peter Tomkins**

*Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 28.2 (May 2009): 125–153.

Keywords: cave, domesticity, Neolithic period, ritualization.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Tomkins 2009

### **Abstract**

Neolithic caves in the Aegean are conventionally understood in domestic terms, principally as temporary homes for farmers or pastoralists. This paper challenges the theoretical and empirical foundations of this orthodoxy and develops an alternative model grounded in an understanding of Neolithic ritual and how through ritualization the everyday is referenced and transformed. This model is explored with reference to



the corpus of well-published cave-sites. Although further testing remains a priority, facilitated by the development of new ways of studying cave assemblages, ritual explanations are considered to provide a more credible explanation for Neolithic cave-use in all its aspects, from the selection of caves as locales for activity to the complexity and diversity of their material records. In this way the Aegean may be seen to fit within a broader pattern of ritual cave-use in the Mediterranean during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic.

#### **2.14. 'Caves, palimpsests and dwelling spaces: examples from the Upper Palaeolithic of south-east Europe'**

**Geoff Bailey & Nena Galanidou**

*World Archaeology* 41.2 (2009): 215-241.

Keywords: cave, memory, palimpsest, rock-shelters, time-averaging, Upper Palaeolithic.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Bailey & Galanidou 2009

##### **Abstract**

Deposits in caves and rock-shelters typically occur in the form of low-resolution palimpsests or time-averaged deposits, resulting from the superimposition of repeated and variable episodes of occupation, low rates of sedimentation and mixing by natural and anthropogenic processes. Despite the development of an impressive array of analytical techniques to disentangle these palimpsests into their constituent episodes of occupation, high resolution chronologies and detailed snapshots of activity areas and spatial organization have proved elusive. Here we suggest that, rather than seeing palimpsests as a problem, we take them as they are, as mixtures of materials that may have been actively recognized as such by the prehistoric occupants and deliberately enhanced, providing both physical resources that could be recycled for subsequent use and material cues for a sense of time and place. We illustrate this approach through a comparison of the spatial and material structure of four Upper Palaeolithic cave deposits in Southeast Europe, focusing on hearths and hearth-related distributions of material as clues to the active role of palimpsests in determining the use histories of different places.

#### **2.15. 'Reconstructing middle to late Holocene palaeogeographies of the lower Messenian plain (southwestern Peloponnese, Greece): Coastline migration, vegetation history and sea level change'**

**M. Engel, M. Knipping, H. Brückner, M. Kiderlen, J.C. Kraft**

*Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 284.3-4 (December 2009): 257-270.

Keywords: Akovitika, coastline migration, Messenian plain, palynological studies.

*Aegean Library*: -

##### **Abstract**

The glacio-eustatic sea level rise after the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) led to a worldwide flooding of shelf areas and the evolution of marine embayments and indentations. Its significant deceleration in mid-Holocene times resulted in the overcompensation by sediment yields and shoreline progradation in many areas. At the southeastern part of the lower Messenian plain (southwestern Peloponnese, Greece) detailed investigations of the Holocene stratigraphy revealed a maximum landward shoreline displacement around 3000 BC. Subsequently, aggradational processes started to form a prominent beach ridge in the late 3rd millennium BC. This is the substratum on which the early Iron Age Poseidon Sanctuary of Akovitika was founded approx. 900–850 BC. Palaeogeographic reconstructions based on 18 corings in the sanctuary and its surroundings revealed the later extension of adjacent marshland and gradual surface levelling due to seasonal inundations. These findings represent probable reasons for the abandonment of the ceremonial site around 380–350 BC. Palynological studies of the vegetational changes provide evidence for early land use and reflect regional settlement activities. Initial degradation and burning of woodland during late Neolithic times (c. 3500–3100 BC) as well as significantly reduced human impact during the Protogeometric

Dark Ages (c. 1060–900 BC) are proven. Additionally, local relative mean sea level (RSL) change since 5000 BC was reconstructed based on <sup>14</sup>C dated paralic peats.

## **2.16. 'Building a tephrostratigraphic framework for the Paleolithic of Central Anatolia, Turkey'**

Christian A. Tryon, M. Amelia V. Logan, Damase Mouralis, Steve Kuhn, Ludovic Slimak, Nur Balkan-Atli

*Journal of Archaeological Science* 36.3 (March 2009): 637-652.

Keywords: Anatolia, Kaletepe Deresi, Lower Paleolithic, Middle Paleolithic, tephra correlation.

*Aegean Library*: -

### **Abstract**

The Central Anatolian Volcanic Province (CAVP) in Turkey preserves widespread deposits of Quaternary tephra, presently associated with a small but growing number of Paleolithic archaeological sites. We use multivariate analyses of the abundances of a suite of nine major and minor element oxides determined by electron probe microanalysis. From these data, we construct a classificatory model for correlating distal tephra to one of five volcanic edifices or eruptive phases within the CAVP. Application of this model to distal deposits of primary tephra-fall and reworked tuffaceous sediments from the archaeological sites of Körkuyu and Kaletepe Deresi 3 indicates Late to possibly Early Pleistocene ages for the artifact assemblages there, and provides a fundamental tephrostratigraphic framework to examine spatial and temporal variation in hominin behavior comparable to that of other regions, such as eastern Africa.

## **2.17. 'Variations in the 13C/12C ratios of modern wheat grain, and implications for interpreting data from Bronze Age Assiros Toumba, Greece'**

Tim H.E. Heaton, Glynis Jones, Paul Halstead & Taxiarchis Tsipropoulos

*Journal of Archaeological Science* 36.10 (October 2009): 2224-2233.

Keywords: archaeobotany, Assiros Toumba, carbon isotopes, wheat.

*Aegean Library*: -

### **Abstract**

Variations in the <sup>13</sup>C/<sup>12</sup>C ratios of wheat grain at different spatial and temporal scales are examined by analysis of modern samples, including harvests of einkorn and durum wheat from Greece, and serve as a guide to interpreting data for Bronze Age grains from Assiros Toumba. The normal distribution and low variability of δ<sup>13</sup>C values of einkorn from 24 containers in the Assiros storerooms are consistent with pooling of local harvests, but less likely to represent the harvest of several years or include grain imported from further afield. Correlation between emmer and spelt δ<sup>13</sup>C values provides strong support for other evidence that these were grown together as a maslin crop. <sup>13</sup>C discrimination (Δ) for the Bronze Age samples is estimated to be 2.5‰ larger than at present, and would be consistent with an intensive, horticultural regime of cereal cultivation, possibly involving some watering.

## **2.18. 'Comments on Richards et al., Journal of Archaeological Science 35, 2008 "Strontium isotope evidence of Neanderthal mobility at the site of Lakonis, Greece using laser-ablation PIMMS"'**

G.M. Nowell & M.S.A. Horstwood

*Journal of Archaeological Science* 36.7 (July 2009): 1334-1341.

Keywords: laser ablation, mobility, Neanderthals, strontium isotopes, tooth enamel.

*Aegean Library*: -

### **Abstract**

We present an evaluation of the laser ablation Sr isotope data reported by Richards et al. [Richards, M., Harvati, K., Grimes, V., Colin Smith, C., Smith, T., Jean-Jacques Hublin, J.J., Karkanas, P., and Panagopoulou, E., 2008. Strontium isotope evidence of Neanderthal mobility at the site of Lakonis, Greece using laser

ablation PIMMS. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35, 1251–1256] for a Neanderthal tooth recovered from a site in Greece. Based on an alternative and analytically more robust method of correcting for isobaric interferences present during the analysis the tooth appears to be isotopically homogenous and within uncertainty of the value for modern seawater. If this is the case then contrary to the migration model proposed by Richards et al. [Richards, M., Harvati, K., Grimes, V., Colin Smith, C., Smith, T., Jean-Jacques Hublin, J.J., Karkanas, P., and Panagopoulou, E., 2008. Strontium isotope evidence of Neanderthal mobility at the site of Lakonis, Greece using laser ablation PIMMS. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35, 1251–1256] the Neanderthal individual may have actually been a coastal dweller and lived within the vicinity of the find site.

## **2.19. 'Integrated geological, petrologic and geochemical approach to establish source material and technology of Late Cypriot Bronze Age Plain White ware ceramics'**

**Cornelius Tschegg, Theodoros Ntaflos & Irmgard Hein**

*Journal of Archaeological Science* 36.5 (May 2009): 1103-1114.

Keywords: Cyprus, Enkomi, Late Cypriot Bronze Age, Mesaoria plain, pottery, provenance study, raw material, sediments, technology.

*Aegean Library*: -

### **Abstract**

Late Cypriot Bronze Age Plain White Wheelmade ware samples from several Cypriot excavation sites and the northern Canaanite coast were studied to ascertain their production centres and details of their manufacturing processes and post-depositional alteration. The investigation of the ceramics, using combined geoscientific analytical techniques (XRF, ICP-MS, XRD and EPMA) allowed four groups of pottery to be distinguished based on their common raw-material sources and/or technological analogies. Sediments that were sampled in East Cyprus (eastern Mesaoria Plain) for comparative purposes indicated that most of the investigated ceramics were produced from raw materials available around the ancient settlement of Enkomi. Appraising technological variations and discriminative raw-material characteristics, several pottery producing workshops in ancient Enkomi (Eastern Cypriot coast) have been identified that merchandised their commodities on Cyprus and, in all probability, also overseas.

## **2.20. 'Strangers in the grave? Investigating local provenance in a Greek Bronze Age mass burial using $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ analysis**

**Efrossini Vika**

*Journal of Archaeological Science* 36.9 (September 2009): 2024-2028.

Keywords: Early Helladic period, human bones, sulphur stable isotopes, Thebes.

*Aegean Library*: -

### **Abstract**

The present study employs  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  analysis to investigate the potential of this method in the investigation of local/geographic origin for the 12 individuals buried collectively over the ruins of a Bronze Age building, under a tumulus, in Thebes, Greece, and to help in the understanding of this unique case in Greek archaeology. Sulphur isotope analysis of bone collagen is applied with increasing frequency to elucidate aspects of paleodiet and movement in archaeology. Sulphur is linked to local geology and can also be used to indicate proximity of people and animals to the sea. The osteoarchaeological analysis of the assemblage revealed that it included individuals of both sexes and all age groups, a configuration which could traditionally be interpreted as an extended family. The absence of synchronous burials in Thebes amplifies the importance of this assemblage. At the same time, traditional archaeological practice has been unable to elucidate the conditions that led to this event, proposing a biological affinity for the individuals and personal reasons for their extinction. However, sulphur isotope analysis clearly demonstrated that at least

one of the individuals had spend the last years of life in an environment different from the rest, a fact likely to indicate a rather random composition of this assemblage.

### **2.21. 'Evidence for the trade of Mesopotamian and Egyptian glass to Mycenaean Greece'**

M.S. Walton, A. Shortland, S. Kirk & P. Degryse

*Journal of Archaeological Science* 36.7 (July 2009): 1496-1503.

Keywords: Egypt, glass, Mycenaean Greece, laser ablation ICP-TOFMS, Late Bronze Age, Mesopotamia.

*Aegean Library*: -

#### **Abstract**

The origins of raw glass used to fashion Mycenaean beads were explored using trace elements analyzed by laser ablation ICP-TOFMS. The use of this minimally destructive technique for the *in-situ* analysis of these beads was ideal given that the material is exceedingly rare and thus too sensitive to make use of traditional micro-sampling (e.g., by scalpel). A wide range of trace elements were measured to compare these Greek glasses to other Late Bronze Age glass coming from Egypt and Mesopotamia. Of the eleven beads analyzed, four blue glasses colored with cobalt and two blue/green glasses colored with copper have trace element compositions consistent with an Egyptian origin of manufacture. The other five of the glasses, all colored with copper, were found to conform to the composition of Mesopotamian glass. These data are the first to demonstrate direct and clear evidence for the trade of raw glass to the Mycenaean states.

### **2.22. 'Remodeled human skulls in Köşk Höyük (Neolithic age, Anatolia): a new appraisal in view of recent discoveries'**

Metin Özbek

*Journal of Archaeological Science* 36.2 (February 2009): 379-386.

Keywords: Anatolia, Köşk Höyük, Late Neolithic, modeling skulls.

*Aegean Library*: -

#### **Abstract**

Between 1985 and 2007 overall nineteen human skulls dating to the Late Neolithic period were recovered at Köşk Höyük, which lies within the borders of Bor, a district of the Niğde Province in Central Anatolia. One of these skulls belongs to a child and the remainder to adult males and females. The plastered skulls may have been laid on or wrapped in mats and exposed either singly or in groups on a plaster surface inside the house. Among thirteen of these skulls the mouths, noses, eyes and ears were depicted with clay and painted with red ochre, while the remaining six were untreated. Two headless skeletons were also found in situ underneath the floor inside the house. One of these skeletons belongs to a child aged approximately 15–16 years old and the other belongs to an adult female. The modeled human skulls were encountered in the second and third cultural levels of the Late Neolithic period indicating that this characteristic mortuary practice lasted for quite a long time and likely disappeared by the Chalcolithic at Köşk Höyük.

### **2.23. 'Dendrochemical analysis of a tree-ring growth anomaly associated with the Late Bronze Age eruption of Thera'**

Charlotte L. Pearson, Darren S. Dale, Peter W. Brewer, Peter I. Kuniholm, Jeffrey Lipton & Sturt W. Manning

*Journal of Archaeological Science* 36.6 (June 2009): 1206-1214.

Keywords: absolute chronology, Aegean, dendrochemistry, Thera, tree-rings.

*Aegean Library*: -

#### **Abstract**

The most marked tree-ring growth anomaly in the Aegean dendrochronological record over the last 9000 years occurs in the mid 17th century BC, and has been speculatively correlated with the impact of the Late

Bronze Age eruption of Thera (Santorini). If such a connection could be proved it would be of major interdisciplinary significance. It would open up the possibility of a precise date for a key archaeological, geological and environmental marker horizon, and offer a direct tie between tree-ring and ice-core records some 3600 years ago. A volcanic explanation for the anomaly is highly plausible, yet, in the absence of a scientifically proven causal connection, the value of the proposed correlation is limited. In order to test the hypothesis, dendrochemical analysis via Synchrotron Radiation Scanning X-ray Fluorescence Microscopy (SXF), Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-AES) and Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectroscopy (ICP-MS) was carried out on growth-ring series from four trees displaying the anomaly. Increases of sulfur, calcium, and rare earth elements following the onset of altered growth, plus concentration spikes of zinc and hafnium in the first affected growth-ring provide promising new evidence in support of a volcanic causal factor. Although a volcanic association is implied, the new data are not sufficient to prove a link to the exact eruption source.

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[Press here](#)

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[Press here](#)

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For another copy: [press here](#)

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## 5. USEFUL WEBSITES

### Calendar House: Clues to Minoan Time from Knossos Labyrinth

*Calendar House* presents evidence that a particular configuration of lunar, solar and stellar astronomy was important in Minoan life and especially visible in Late-period iconography. It incorporates critical feedback received over several years from archaeologists around the world.

[Visit the website](#)

### Kythnos Excavation Project

The excavations at the site "Vryokastro" on the island of Kythnos (Cyclades) started in 2002 and continue until today. Before the start of the excavations, a systematic survey took place during the years 1990-1995 and 2001. The site is identified with the ancient city of 'Kythnos', which was inhabited from the 10th century BC up to the 6th-7th century AD. The excavations have brought to light a sanctuary of the Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic times.

[Visit the website](#)

# 6. AEGEUS'S NEWS

## FELLOWS & MEMBERS

The webpages regarding the Fellows and Members and the login area are still under construction. We hope to have them online before the end of the year.

*Aegeus* so far has 120 members. The annual membership fee is currently 40 euros, and 30 euros for undergraduate archaeology students. The annual subscription for Institutions is 60 Euros.

If you would like to become a member of *Aegeus* and support us in this effort, you can find all the relevant information in the [BECOME A MEMBER](#) section.

## DONATIONS

Over one hundred books and pamphlets have been donated to the *Aegean Library* in the past two months.

We would like to thank you all for your donations and for your support.

Please see the [donation list](#).

## DISSERTATIONS

### **Settlement and Social Trends in the Argolid and the Methana Peninsula, 1200 – 900 BC.**

**Catherine (Katie) Lantzas**

University of Sheffield 2010 (Nov. 19th)

The central concern of my research is the ideology and socio-economic practices of the communities in the Argolid and the Methana Peninsula that existed during approximately 1200 BC through 900 BC. A thorough examination of mortuary practices, the built environment, ceramic material and metal objects demonstrate that during this transitional period an ideological shift took place alongside complex socio-economic developments.

[Read more](#)

	LECTURES OF THE MONTH
	LIST OF NEW BOOKS
	LIST OF NEW ARTICLES
	LIST OF BOOK REVIEWS
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## 7. MISCELLANEA

### **Archaeological Work in Macedonia and Thrace. 24th Meeting. 1st Circular**

Thessaloniki, Saturday 12 March 2010

Deadline: 15 February 2011

Η ετήσια 24<sup>η</sup> Συνάντηση για το Αρχαιολογικό Έργο στη Μακεδονία και στη Θράκη θα πραγματοποιηθεί από την Πέμπτη 10 Μαρτίου ως το Σάββατο 12 Μαρτίου 2010 στην αίθουσα τελετών του παλαιού κτηρίου της Φιλοσοφικής Σχολής Α.Π.Θ.

[Read more](#)



### **A Cycladic figurine breaks records in New York: sold for nearly \$17 million U.S. dollars**

A rare 4,400-year-old marble sculpture sold for a stunning \$16.8 million (USD) at Christie's in New York on Thursday (December 9). The sculpture is believed to date all the way back to 2400 B.C. and has survived antiquity in perfect condition. The 11 and a half inch figure is carved from white marble. It is one of only twelve known sculptures attributed to an artist called the Schuster Master, named after the figure's previous owner. It is also the only figure to remain intact over the centuries. Christie's said the Cycladic marble reclining female figure is the first of its kind to be offered at auction. The marble masterpiece was estimated to sell for between \$3 million and \$5 million, but during the auction, a battle was waged between two anonymous bidders on the phone, driving the final hammer price to \$15 million U.S. dollars. Bernheimer said the sale shows the strength of the art market.

More:

[Christie's description of the figurine](#)

[Christie's short video about the forthcoming auction](#)

[Christie's auction video](#)

<http://lootingmatters.blogspot.com>

<http://www.dailymotion.com/video>

### **The Ideational Archaeological Landscape: Archaeological Sites, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Public Imagination**

Berkeley, 6-8 May 2011

Deadline: 31 December 2010

*Session at the Theoretical Archaeology Group USA 2011.*

This session seeks to investigate the politics of the past with reference to archaeological sites and landscapes as objects of deliberate construction of the past as cultural heritage and of tourist consumption, as well as the popular strategies of representing those sites to the public.

[Read more](#)



### **Historic Images of the Greek Bronze Age: The Reproductions of E. Gilliéron & Son.**

The Metropolitan Museum of Art. May 17, 2011–  
November 13, 2011

This exhibition features a selection of early twentieth-century reproductions of now-famous artworks from Sir Arthur Evans's historic excavations of Minoan Crete and Heinrich Schliemann's Mycenaean Greece. Emile Gilliéron and, later, his son were the senior draftsmen responsible for reconstructing the fresco paintings in the palace at Knossos. The Gilliérons formed a thriving business selling original watercolors after the frescoes and other reproductions of three-dimensional artworks, which they made directly from the originals. Their work influenced the study of Aegean art and was integral to its widespread introduction throughout Europe and America. The installation draws from the Metropolitan Museum's own collection of Gilliéron reproductions, which is the largest in existence. The exhibition is made possible by The Vlachos Family Fund.

URL: <http://www.metmuseum.org>

## Ακρωτήρι - Νέα «στέγη» για τα αρχαία της Σαντορίνης

Maria Thermou, *To Βήμα*, 16/11/2010

Ως τις 31 Δεκεμβρίου, ενδεχομένως και νωρίτερα, το στέγαστρο του Ακρωτηρίου της Σαντορίνης θα έχει αποκατασταθεί, ενώ στις 31 Μαΐου 2011 το έργο θα παραδοθεί ολοκληρωμένο στους αρχαιολόγους προκειμένου να οργανώσουν τον χώρο ώστε να ανοίξει για το κοινό. Το επεισόδιο της πτώσης τμήματος του στεγάστρου, που εκτός των άλλων στοίχισε τη ζωή σε έναν άνθρωπο, θα θεωρείται λήξαν. Ωστόσο θα έχει περάσει από τότε (23 Σεπτεμβρίου 2005) πολύ περισσότερος χρόνος από τον απαιτούμενο για την αποκατάσταση της ζημιάς, η οποία προκλήθηκε από αστοχία υλικών, στατική ανεπάρκεια, κατασκευαστική διαδικασία κτλ. για επιστήμονες και επισκέπτες.

[Read more](#)

Read also: <http://news.in.gr>



## Darwin's theory of gradual evolution not supported by geological history, scientist concludes

*Physorg*, 09/11/2010

Charles Darwin's theory of gradual evolution is not supported by geological history, New York University Geologist Michael Rampino concludes in an essay in the journal *Historical Biology*. In fact, Rampino notes that a more accurate theory of gradual evolution, positing that long periods of evolutionary stability are disrupted by catastrophic mass extinctions of life, was put forth by Scottish horticulturalist Patrick Matthew prior to Darwin's published work on the topic.

[Read more](#)



## World's oldest Copper Age settlement found

*HindustanTimes*, 15/11/2010

A "sensational" discovery of 75-century-old copper tools in Serbia is compelling scientists to reconsider existing theories about where and when man began using metal. Belgrade - axes, hammers, hooks and needles - were found interspersed with other artefacts from a settlement that burned down some 7,000 years ago at Plocnik, near Prokuplje and 200 km south of Belgrade. The village had been there for some eight centuries before its demise. After the big fire, its unknown inhabitants moved away. But what they left behind points to man's earliest known extraction and shaping of metal.

[Read more](#)



## Naxos' Monuments in Danger. Citizens are talking about them

The first book of the non profit organisation *Monumenta* appeared recently. The book publishes the proceedings of a two-day workshop held on the island of Naxos in 2008; it includes 9 papers and a discussion on the reasons that cause the destruction of the monuments of Naxos.

For further information: [www.monumenta.org](http://www.monumenta.org)



## Brains of Neanderthals and Modern Humans Developed Differently

*ScienceDaily*, 09/11/2010

Researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany have documented species differences in the pattern of brain development after birth that are likely to contribute to cognitive differences between modern humans and Neanderthals.

[Read more](#)

## Έπαυλη από την Εποχή του Χαλκού στη Γαύδο

P. Georgoudis, *Ελευθεροτυπία*, 27/11/2010

Μπορεί η Γαύδος σήμερα να μην έχει τακτική συγκοινωνία και να ανήκει στις υποβαθμισμένες αναπτυξιακά περιοχές, όμως η εκπαιδευτική ανασκαφή του Τμήματος Ιστορίας-Αρχαιολογίας του Πανεπιστημίου Κρήτης έφερε στο φως ένα σημαντικό εύρημα: μια «έπαυλη» ή «αγρέπαυλη», ανάλογη με τα γνωστά αρχιτεκτονικά συμπλέγματα της μινωικής Κρήτης, συνολικής έκτασης 450-500 τ.μ. Το ανασκαφικό εύρημα προσδιορίζεται χρονολογικά στο πλαίσιο της Εποχής του Χαλκού. Ικανό τμήμα του διατηρήθηκε αδιατάρακτο στο κάτω ισόπεδο μιας διαβρωμένης πλαγιάς, ενώ το υπόλοιπο έχει καταπέσει στην υποκείμενη κλιτύ.

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### Επέστρεψαν πολύτιμα οστά

Τα Νέα, 24/11/2010

Τον δρόμο της επιστροφής βρήκαν 36 κιβώτια με ανθρωπολογικό υλικό (κυρίως οστά) που προέρχονταν από το αρχαιότερο νεκροταφείο της Αττικής, της Στερεάς και της Πελοποννήσου – το Τσέπι Μαραθώνος – ηλικίας 5.200 ετών και είχαν εξαχθεί νομίμως πριν από 40 χρόνια στη Βιέννη από τον καθηγητή Εμιλ Μπράιτινγκερ, ο οποίος υπήρξε στενός συνεργάτης του έλληνα αρχαιολόγου και ανασκαφέα του Τσεπίου, Σπυρίδωνα Μαρινάτου. Τα κιβώτια μέχρι να επιστραφούν στην Ελλάδα βρίσκονταν στο Μουσείο Φυσικής Ιστορίας της Βιέννης και δεν προερχόταν μόνο από το Τσέπι, αλλά και από άλλες προϊστορικές θέσεις της ηπειρωτικής Ελλάδας, όπως τα Βολιμίδια Μεσσηνίας.

[Read more](#)



### Jacques Raison has passed away

The French archaeologist Jacques Raison died on 2 December 2010. He was known for his work on Linear A and in particular for his two books on the Palace of Knossos (published in 1969 & 1988).

## ISLANDS OF WINDS. Maritime Culture of the Bronze Age Aegean. University of Heidelberg (November 27, 2010 - July 24, 2011)

The exhibition is organised by the University of Heidelberg. It is divided into three thematic sections. The first section focuses on the life of the inhabitants of the islands and the mainland seaside areas. The second section presents the development of shipbuilding materials, tools and other materials and the use of vessels. In the third part the land-based facilities of the maritime culture are presented.

<http://www.klassische-archaeologie.uni-hd.de>



### The Prehistory of Compassion: Neanderthals Cared Too

Heritage Key, 05/10/2010

New research by archaeologists at the University of York suggests that it is beyond reasonable doubt Neanderthals – often misrepresented as furry, primitive caveman hobbling about – had a deep seated sense of compassion. Dr Penny Spikins, Andy Needham and Holly Rutherford from the university's Department of Archaeology examined the archaeological record in search for evidence for compassionate acts in early humans. These illustrate the way emotions began to emerge in our ancestors six million years ago, which developed into the idea of 'compassion' we know today.

[Read more](#)



### Nestor (November 2010)

The November 2010 issue of *Nestor* (37.8) is available for download.

[Press here](#)

## Fertile Crescent farmers took DNA to Germany

Rebecca Jenkins, *ABC Science*, 10/11/2010

DNA evidence suggests that immigrants from the Ancient Near East brought farming to Europe, and spread the practice to the region's hunter-gatherer communities, according to Australian-led research. A genetic study of ancient DNA, published in *PLoS Biology* today, adds crucial information to the long-running debate about how farming was introduced to Europe's nomadic hunter-gatherer societies almost 8000 years ago. An international research team, led by University of Adelaide experts, compared ancient DNA from the remains of Early Neolithic farmers at a burial site in central Germany with a large genetic database of European and Eurasian populations. They found that these early farmers had a unique and characteristic genetic signature, suggesting "significant demographic input from the Near East during the onset of farming".

[Read more](#)



### Έκπληκτοι!!!

Filoi Arxaiologikou Ergou Krhths, 01/12/2010

Έκπληκτοι άκουσαν οι φοιτητές του Πανεπιστημίου Κρήτης, το βράδυ της Κυριακής της 28 Νοεμβρίου 2010, κατά τον αποχαιρετισμό στην καταληκτική συνεδρία της 11ης Παγκρήτιας Συνάντησης για το Αρχαιολογικό Έργο στην Κρήτη, την ΓΓ του ΥΠΠΟΤ κ. Λ. Μενδώνη να προβαίνει αφενός σε ατυχείς υπαινιγμούς για την «απουσία των φοιτητών του Πανεπιστημίου από τις εργασίες της Συνάντησης», αφετέρου σε ουσιαστικούς μεν, κεκαλυμμένους δε, απαξιωτικούς, ενίοτε μάλιστα και σχεδόν υβριστικούς, χαρακτηρισμούς κατά των παρευρισκομένων και μη πανεπιστημιακών δασκάλων και των άλλων συναδέλφων του κλάδου.

[Read more](#)



## Researchers Dispute Report on Early Butchers

Sindya N. Bhanoo, *New York Times*, 15/11/2010

A report in August that the early ancestors of humans used stone tools to butcher meat at least 3.4 million years ago is being challenged by other researchers, who say that the study misinterpreted cut marks in animal bones. "They look like cut marks made from stone tools, but they are not," said Manuel Domínguez-Rodrigo, an archaeologist at the Complutense University of Madrid in Spain and one of the authors of the new report, published in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. "They look very different when you look at them microscopically."

[Read more](#)



### Neanderthals: how needles and skins gave us the edge on our kissing cousins

*Guardian*, 5/12/2010

On the ground floor of the Natural History Museum in London, arrays of Formica-covered cabinets stretch from floor to ceiling and from one end of the great building to the other. Some of nature's finest glories are stored here: pygmy hippo bones from Sicily, mammoth tusks from Siberia and skulls of giant sloths from South America. Many treasures compete for attention, but there is one sample, kept in a small plywood box, that deserves especial interest: the Swanscombe skull.

[Read more](#)



### Neanderthals Lived Fast, Died Young

Jennifer Viegas, *Discovery News*, 15/1/2010

Neanderthals reached full maturity faster than humans do today, suggests a new examination of teeth from 11 Neanderthal and early human fossils. The findings, detailed in the latest *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, portray Neanderthals as a live fast and die young species. Our characteristically slow development and long childhood therefore appear to be recent and unique to *Homo sapiens*.

[Read more](#)

## New Statistical Model Moves Human Evolution Back Three Million Years

ScienceDaily, 05/11/2010

Evolutionary divergence of humans and chimpanzees likely occurred some 8 million years ago rather than the 5 million year estimate widely accepted by scientists, a new statistical model suggests. The revised estimate of when the human species parted ways from its closest primate relatives should enable scientists to better interpret the history of human evolution, said Robert D. Martin, curator of biological anthropology at the Field Museum, and a co-author of the new study appearing in the journal *Systematic Biology*.

[Read more](#)



## Tumulus skeleton found with arrow tip in spine

Today's Zaman, 9/12/2010

The body of a man with an arrow tip still lodged in his spine was found during ongoing excavations in Bursa's Aktopraklik tumulus. Archeologists believe that the man had died shortly after he was shot with an arrow from a Bowman on higher ground. The tumulus where the skeleton was buried is estimated to have a history of about 8,500 years. "This tomb of a man in his 30s from the early Chalcolithic period did not seem unusual at first glance. ... On closer examination of the skeleton, we discovered a deep arrow wound in the bottom of his spine," said the paleoanthropologist Songül Alpaslan Roodenberg.

[Read more](#)



## Τρύπες σε δεκαέξι μουσεία

Έθνος, 29/11/2010

Όλες οι πτυχές της χρήσης της στην Ιστορία της ανθρωπότητας μέσα από 200 εκθέματα σε έναν Μουσειακό Περίπατο που διοργανώνουν οι Νύχτες Πρεμιέρας.

[Read more](#)

## Modern Humans Mature More Slowly Than Neanderthals Did, Analysis of Teeth Suggests

ScienceDaily, 15/11/2010

A sophisticated new examination of teeth from 11 Neanderthal and early human fossils shows that modern humans are slower than our ancestors to reach full maturity. The finding suggests that our characteristically slow development and long childhood are recent and unique to our own species, and may have given early humans an evolutionary advantage over Neanderthals. The research, led by scientists at Harvard University, the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology (MPI-EVA), and the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), is detailed in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. "Teeth are remarkable time recorders, capturing each day of growth much like rings in trees reveal yearly progress," says Tanya M. Smith, assistant professor of human evolutionary biology at Harvard.

[Read more](#)



## Δίολκος για 1500 χρόνια (Diolkos for 1500 years)

Ναυτεμπορική

Μια ταινία 22 λεπτών, δημιουργημένη με το σύστημα του animation (εικονοκινητική τεχνική) αναπαριστά με μοναδικό τρόπο το εξαιρετικό μνημείο τεχνικού πολιτισμού της αρχαίας Ελλάδας, τον Δίολκο: μια οδό από ξηράς για την μεταφορά πλοίων ανάμεσα στον Σαρωνικό και τον Κορινθιακό κόλπο κατά μήκος του Ισθμού της Κορίνθου, τότε που δεν υπήρχε ο πορθμός. Η ταινία παρουσιάζει πολλές άλλες τεχνολογικές λεπτομέρειες, αλλά σκηνές της ζωής των ναυτικών εκείνης της μακρινής εποχής: τυχερό παιχνίδι, επίσκεψη στον ναό του Ποσειδώνα, γλέντι σε καπηλειό, καθώς και μια συναισθηματική συντυχία. Δημιουργοί της ταινίας είναι οι Θ.Π. Τάσιος, Ν. Μήκας, Γ. Πολύζος, οι οποίοι έχουν λάβει ως τώρα δύο βραβεία.

[Watch the film](#)



## Bronze Age Civilization Spotted in Old Photographs

*Discovery News, 12/10/2010*

Traces of a previously unknown Bronze Age civilization have been discovered in the peaks of Russia's Caucasus Mountains thanks to aerial photographs taken 40 years ago, researchers said Monday. "We have discovered a civilization dating from the 16th to the 14th centuries B.C., high in the mountains south of Kislovodsk," in Russia's North Caucasus region, Andrei Belinsky, the head of a joint Russian-German expedition that has been investigating the region for five years, said.

[Read more](#)



## Zominthos: Field Notes 2010: Week 4

The final week of excavations in Area 1 yielded interesting information about the building's history. First, up to now, we had found three destruction layers—one from the Roman period and two from Minoan times. The first Minoan layer was discovered in Sectors II, III, and IV. The second, in Sector II, contained not only at least six fruit stands and one *kyathos* bowl, but also one wall, which we called A, that extends parallel to the north wall and occupies most of the north side of Sector II.

[Read more](#)



## Farmers slowed down by hunter-gatherers: Our ancestors' fight for space

Agricultural – or Neolithic – economics replaced the Mesolithic social model of hunter-gathering in the Near East about 10,000 years ago. Research published today, Friday, 3 December 2010, in *New Journal of Physics* (co-owned by the Institute of Physics and the German Physical Society), details a physical model, which can potentially explain how the spreading of Neolithic farmers was slowed down by the population density of hunter-gatherers.

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## ΣΠΗΛΛΙΟ ΣΧΙΣΤΟΥ: Οι πρώτοι κάτοικοι της Αττικής... ζούσαν στο όρος Αιγάλεω, το 10.000 π.Χ!

Ο αρχαιότερος κάτοικος της Αττικής ζούσε στο όρος Αιγάλεω με θέα τη θάλασσα, κυνηγούσε στα δάση της περιοχής ελάφια, ψάρευε στα πλούσια νερά του Σκαραμαγκά και κατοικούσε στο Σπήλαιο Σχιστού, πάνω από την ομώνυμη σημερινή λεωφόρο.

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## Ταφικές πρακτικές και κοινωνική οργάνωση κατά τη Μέση Εποχή του Χαλκού

*Η Έρευνα, 28/11/2010*

Ποιες είναι οι ταφικές πρακτικές και η κοινωνική οργάνωση στη Θεσσαλία κατά τη μέση εποχή του χαλκού; Τι δείχνει σχετική έρευνα; Η Κασσάνδρα Σισμάνη, αρχαιολόγος, απόφοιτος του τμήματος Ιστορίας και Αρχαιολογίας του Α.Π.Θ. και κάτοχος μεταπτυχιακού διπλώματος με ειδίκευση στην Προϊστορική Αρχαιολογία του τμήματος Ιστορίας και Αρχαιολογίας του Α.Π.Θ. με βάση σχετική μελέτη, φωτίζει άγνωστες πτυχές της Θεσσαλικής κοινωνίας στη Μέση Εποχή του Χαλκού.

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## Oldest Salt Mine Known to Date Located in Azerbaijan

*ScienceDaily, 27/11/2010*

CNRS archeologists have recently provided proof that the Duzdagi salt deposits, situated in the Araxes Valley in Azerbaijan, were already being exploited from the second half of the 5th millennium BC. It is therefore the most ancient exploitation of rock salt attested to date. And, to the researchers' surprise, intensive salt production was carried out in this mine at least as early as 3500 BC.

[Read more](#)

## Lost Civilization Under Persian Gulf?

*ScienceDaily*, 08/12/2010

A once fertile landmass now submerged beneath the Persian Gulf may have been home to some of the earliest human populations outside Africa, according to an article published in *Current Anthropology*. Jeffrey Rose, an archaeologist and researcher with the University of Birmingham in the U.K., says that the area in and around this “Persian Gulf Oasis” may have been host to humans for over 100,000 years before it was swallowed up by the Indian Ocean around 8,000 years ago. Rose’s hypothesis introduces a “new and substantial cast of characters” to the human history of the Near East, and suggests that humans may have established permanent settlements in the region thousands of years before current migration models suppose.

[Read more](#)

See also:

<http://www.pasthorizons.com>



## Did Climate Change Drive Prehistoric Culture Change?

Michael Balter, *Science*, 6-12-2010

Earth is warming, climate researchers say, and sooner or later we will have to adjust our lifestyles if we want to adapt and survive. Perhaps we should take a cue from earlier occupants of North America. A new study finds a strong correlation between changing climate and changing culture in the prehistoric United States. Archaeologists divide the prehistory of North America into three broad cultural phases: the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Woodland periods.

[Read more](#)

## Gifts Enhance Metropolitan Museum’s Scholarly Activities in Cycladic and Early Greek Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art announced the gift to its Greek and Roman Art Department of an endowment fund from The Museum of Cycladic Art, in Athens, Greece. The gift, in memory of Dolly Goulondris, will support lectures about the ancient art of the Cyclades and other regions of the ancient Greek world. Also announced was the intended gift by Pat Getz-Gentle of a photograph archive of Cycladic art.

Read more:

<http://www.metmuseum.org>

<http://www.cycladic.gr>



## Archaeological amazements from Bulgaria: 5 thousands year old burials (Chirpan Project)

*Examiner*, 2/12/2010

Bulgaria is one of the archaeologically richest countries in the world. Archaeology is a highly prestige profession there with huge media interest in everything what has been discovered. Recently, thanks especially to young generations archaeologists, more information has begun to be published online. An excellent example is 2009-2010 Project *Archaeological examination of a Thracian-Roman Dynasty Centre in the region of the Chirpan Eminences* directed by Dr Milena Tonkova with team.

Among the new discoveries within this project is the Early Bronze Tumulus Malkata Momina Mogila near Chirpan in South Bulgaria, Bratya Daskalovi municipality. Sadly, but significantly for science, several children’s burials were unearthed in this Tumulus (single and a group burial) together with two adolescents, two adults and a baby.

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*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*If you are aware of other news and/or events (in Greece or abroad), or if you wish to advertise your recent publications, send us an email and we will include them in one of our next newsletters or in Aegeus's website.*

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