



*Newsletter on Aegean and Cypriot Prehistory*

**15 April 2011**

**No. 21**

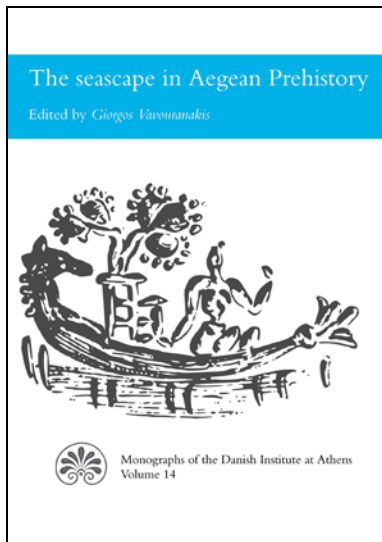
# AEGEUS SOCIETY OF AEGEAN PREHISTORY

## Contents

1. NEW BOOKS .....	3
2. NEW ARTICLES .....	14
3. RECENT BOOK REVIEWS.....	23
4. FREE DIGITAL BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS .....	23
5. USEFUL WEBSITES .....	23
6. AEGEUS'S NEWS .....	24
7. LECTURES OF THE MONTH .....	25
8. CALL FOR PAPERS .....	25
9. GRANTS/BURSARIES & JOB VACANCIES.....	26
10. MISCELLANEA.....	27



# 1. NEW BOOKS



## ***The Seascape in Aegean Prehistory***

Edited by Giorgos Vavouranakis

**City & year:** Athens 2011 [March]

**Publisher:** The Danish Institute at Athens

**Series:** Monographs of the Danish Institute at Athens, vol. 14

**Description:** Hardback, 288 p., 44 b/w figures, 3 tables, maps, 28x21,5 cm

**ISBN:** 978-87-7934-571-3

**Price:** € 55

*Aegean Library: 2441*

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

This book is about the relationship between the people and the sea in the prehistoric Aegean. It explores how people understood the sea as an integral part of their way of life and examines the role the sea played in the prehistoric societies of the archipelago. It may at first seem obvious - even self-evident - that there had been a close relationship between people and the sea, since the Aegean Archipelago is the dominant feature of its wider area. It spreads over a total area of about 214,000 sq km. This is a bit less than the overall land area of Greece today, which is almost 132,000 sq km. This large area of water includes over 1000 islands, many of which are populated today. The Aegean Sea and its islands epitomise Greece in the minds of many people today.

Nonetheless, we should remember that the land that borders the Aegean features the important mountain range of Pindos, the plains of Thessaly and Macedonia and, next to Greece, Turkey, with the solid landmass of Asia Minor. These places have always accommodated extensive and flourishing communities that were not related to the sea at all. Furthermore, many people on Mt Ida in Crete had never seen the sea in the recent past, despite being on an island, while until recently many Greeks living close to the coast had not known how to swim. A maritime way of life may be an obvious option, but it is neither the only nor an inevitable one in the Aegean. There is always room for choice in the relation between people and the sea and this relation may acquire various forms and different degrees of intimacy.

### **Contents**

List of contributors [9]

Giorgos Vavouranakis, 'Preface' [11-12]

Giorgos Vavouranakis, 'Introduction' [13-29]

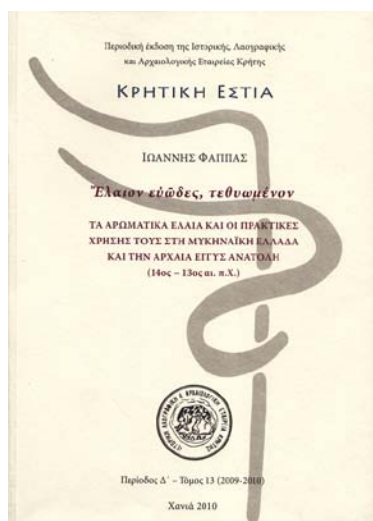
Albert J. Ammerman, 'The paradox of early voyaging in the Mediterranean and the slowness of the Neolithic transition between Cyprus and Italy' [31-49]

Tatiana Theodoropoulou, 'Fishing (in) Aegean seascapes: early Aegean fishermen and their world' [51-69]

Despina Catapoti, 'Further thoughts on the *International Spirit*: maritime politics and consuming bodies in the early Cyclades' [71-89]

Giorgos Vavouranakis, 'Funerary customs and maritime activity in Early Bronze Crete' [91-118]  
Ina Berg, 'Towards a conceptualisation of the sea: artefacts, iconography and meaning' [119-137]  
Matthew Haysom, 'Fish and ships: Neopalatial seascapes in context' [139- 160]  
John G Younger, '[A view from the sea](#)' [161-183]  
Vassilis P. Petrakis, 'Politics of the sea in the Late Bronze Age II-III Aegean: iconographic preferences and textual perspectives' [185-234]

Sophia Antoniadou, 'Import-*ant* Aegeans in Cyprus: a study on Aegean imports in Late Bronze Age non-mortuary contexts in Cyprus' [235-249]  
Anastasia Leriou, 'Overseas migrations at the end of the Late Bronze Age in the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean: some reflections' [251-270]  
Kostas Kotsakis, 'An epilogue: histories from the sea' [271-281]  
Index [283-288]



*Aegean Library: 2424*

***“Ελαιον εύωδες, τεθυωμένον. Τα αρωματικά έλαια και οι πρακτικές χρήσης τους στη μυκηναϊκή Ελλάδα και την αρχαία Εγγύς Ανατολή (Well-scented, Perfume Oil: Perfumed Oils and Practices of Use in Mycenaean Greece and the ancient Near East, 14th-13th cent. BC.)***

**Ioannis Fappas**

**City & year:** Chania 2010

**Publisher:** I.L.A.E.K.

**Series:** *Κρητική Εστία*, vol. 13 (2009-2010)

**Description:** Paperback, 576 p., 26 b/w plates, drawings, tables, 23,6x17 cm

**ISBN:** 978-960-85638-3-4

**Price:** € 20

### **Abstract**

The present study focuses on the matters and occasions during which perfumed oils were used, as well as on the analysis of the 'ideology' that accompanied these practices in the area of Mycenaean Greece and the wider Eastern Mediterranean during the 14th and 13th cent. BC. This was the period during which the Mycenaean palatial system had reached its peak in Greece, with intense contacts and interrelationships with other centres and areas in the ancient Near East, where power-states prevailed in the form of the so-called '*Great power's Club*'. This study is based on information deriving from the written sources of those times, i.e. the Linear B tablets from Mycenaean palaces and the cuneiform tablets from the contemporary centres of the ancient near East.

### **Contents**

ΠΡΟΛΟΓΟΣ [xxxi]

ΠΡΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΥΓΓΡΑΦΕΑ - ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΕΣ [xxvii]

ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ [3]

ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑ Α: ΤΑ ΑΡΩΜΑΤΙΚΑ ΕΛΑΙΑ ΣΤΗ

ΜΥΚΗΝΑΪΚΗ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 1: Η βιοτεχνία των αρωματικών ελαίων στα μυκηναϊκά ανάκτορα [15]

Α) Η βιοτεχνία αρωματικών ελαίων της Κνωσού [17]

Β) Η βιοτεχνία αρωματικών ελαίων της Πύλου [29]

ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 2: Οργάνωση και λειτουργία της βιοτεχνίας των αρωματικών ελαίων [41]

Α) Η προμήθεια των πρώτων υλών [43]

Β) Παράδοση των πρώτων υλών στους

αρωματοποιούς [63]

Γ) Απόδοση του μετασκευασμένου προϊόντος στο ανάκτορο [75]

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 3: Τα είδη των μυκηναϊκών

αρωματικών ελαίων [79]

Α) Έλαια που περιγράφονται με βάση το άρωμα [80]

Β) Έλαια που περιγράφονται με βάση το χρώμα [81]

Γ) Έλαια που περιγράφονται με βάση την ποιότητα [82]

Δ) Έλαια που περιγράφονται με βάση το άρωμα και το χρώμα [84]

Ε) Έλαια που περιγράφονται με βάση το άρωμα και την ποιότητα [85]

ΣΤ) Άλλα πιθανά αρωματικά έλαια [87]

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 4: Οι χρήσεις των μυκηναϊκών

αρωματικών ελαίων [91]

Α) Αρωματικά έλαια αποθηκευμένα στο ανάκτορο [91]

Β) Προσφορές θρησκευτικού χαρακτήρα [92]

Γ) Πρακτικές επάλειψης, ραντισμού και σπονδής [112]

Δ) Χορηγίες σε συμπόσια [116]

Ε) Χορηγίες σε εργατικό προσωπικό [118]

ΣΤ) Προσφορά δώρων [120]

#### ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑ Β: ΤΑ ΑΡΩΜΑΤΙΚΑ ΕΛΑΙΑ ΣΤΗΝ

ΑΝΑΤΟΛΙΚΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟ

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 5: Τα αρωματικά έλαια στα κείμενα της

Hattuša [127]

Α) Θρησκευτικό τελετουργικό [131]

Β) Τα έθιμα της γέννας: σπονδή αρωματικού ελαίου και επάλειψη της μητέρας και του νεογέννητου παιδιού [146]

Γ) Τα έθιμα του γάμου: επάλειψη του κεφαλιού της νύφης [147]

Δ) Χρήση βασιλέως [148]

Ε) Ταφικό τελετουργικό (šalliš waštaiš) [149]

ΣΤ) Διπλωματικά δώρα [151]

Ζ) Κοσμητική χρήση των αρωματικών ελαίων: επάλειψη του σώματος [152]

Η) Άλλες καθημερινές χρήσεις [153]

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 6: Τα αρωματικά έλαια στα κείμενα της

Ugarit [155]

Α) Καταγραφές οικονομικού χαρακτήρα [161]

Β) Θρησκευτικό τελετουργικό [165]

Γ) Ταφικό τελετουργικό [173]

Δ) Συμπόσια: επάλειψη του σώματος [175]

Ε) Απελευθέρωση δούλου: επάλειψη του κεφαλιού με έλαιο [175]

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 7: Τα αρωματικά έλαια στα κείμενα του

Emar [177]

Α) Θρησκευτικό τελετουργικό [179]

Β) Ταφικό τελετουργικό [185]

Γ) Επάλειψη τραπεζών με έλαιο [185]

Δ) Καταγραφές οικονομικού χαρακτήρα [185]

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 8: Τα αρωματικά έλαια στα κείμενα της

Akhetaten [187]

Α) Διπλωματικά δώρα [189]

Β) Υποδοχή ξένων επισκεπτών [192]

Γ) Επάλειψη του κεφαλιού των πρεσβευτών [192]

Δ) Επάλειψη του κεφαλιού των μελλονύμφων κοριτσιών [192]

Ε) Χρήση βασιλέων [193]

ΣΤ) Θρησκευτικό τελετουργικό: επάλειψη των αγαλμάτων των θεών και καύση θυμιάματος [194]

Ζ) Ταφικές πρακτικές: επάλειψη του σώματος του νεκρού και καύση θυμιάματος [196]

Η) Χρήση ιερέως [198]

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 9: Τα αρωματικά έλαια στα κείμενα του

Nuzi και της Alalah [199]

Nuzi [200]

Alalah [206]

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 10: Τα αρωματικά έλαια στα κείμενα

της Aššurn [209]

Α) Θρησκευτικό τελετουργικό [211]

Β) Χρήση βασιλέως [214]

Γ) Τα έθιμα του γάμου: επάλειψη του κεφαλιού της νύφης [215]

Δ) Συμπόσια [215]

Ε) Σύναψη συνθήκης [215]

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 11: Τα αρωματικά έλαια στα κείμενα

της Nišur [217]

Α) Θρησκευτικό τελετουργικό [220]

Β) Ταφικό τελετουργικό [223]

Γ) Διανομές σε διάφορα άτομα [224]

Δ) Άλλες καθημερινές χρήσεις [224]

#### ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑ Γ: ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΔΕΔΟΜΕΝΩΝ –

ΣΥΜΒΟΛΙΣΜΟΙ

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 12: Οι χρήσεις των αρωματικών ελαίων στη μυκηναϊκή Ελλάδα και την ανατολική



Μεσόγειο: σύγκριση και αξιολόγηση των γραπτών πηγών [227]  
Α) Θρησκευτικό τελετουργικό [235]  
Β) Χορηγίες σε συμπόσια [247]  
Γ) Επάλειψη ενδυμάτων [255]  
Δ) Επεξεργασία μαλλιού και μάλλινων υφασμάτων [256]  
Ε) Διανομές σε προσωπικό – καθημερινή ζωή [258]  
ΣΤ) Διεθνείς συναλλαγές – υποδοχή ξένων επισκεπτών [261]  
Ζ) Ταφικό τελετουργικό [266]

#### ΣΥΓΚΡΙΤΙΚΟΙ ΠΙΝΑΚΕΣ [270]

ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 13: Η ιδεολογία της χρήσης των αρωματικών ελαίων: προεκτάσεις και συμβολισμοί [277]

Α) Θρησκευτικό τελετουργικό [288]  
Β) Διαβατήρια έθιμα [295]  
Γ) Σύναψη συνθηκών [308]

ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ 14: Τα αρωματικά έλαια στη μυκηναϊκή κοινωνία: συμπεράσματα [311]

#### ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑΤΑ

Παράρτημα Α': Οι πινακίδες της σειράς Fr(1) της Κνωσού [329]  
Παράρτημα Β': Οι πινακίδες της σειράς Fr της

Πύλου [331]  
Παράρτημα Γ': Κείμενα από τη Hattuša [339]  
Παράρτημα Δ': Κείμενα από την Ugarit [371]  
Παράρτημα Ε': Κείμενα από το Emar [378]  
Παράρτημα ΣΤ': Κείμενα από την Akhetaten [379]  
Παράρτημα Ζ': Κείμενα από το Nuzi [384]  
Παράρτημα Η': Κείμενα από την Alalah [388]  
Παράρτημα Θ': Κείμενα από την Aššur και την Calah [389]  
Παράρτημα Ι': Κείμενα από τη Nippur [392]  
Παράρτημα ΙΑ': Κείμενα από τον Επικό Κύκλο [395]  
Παράρτημα ΙΒ': Κείμενα από την Παλαιά Διαθήκη [410]  
Παράρτημα ΙΓ': Συλλαβογράμματα και αριθμητικά της μυκηναϊκής Γραμμικής Β γραφής [412]  
Παράρτημα ΙΔ': Τα σημεία (γράμματα) της σφηνοειδούς αλφαβητικής ουγκαριτικής γραφής [413]  
ΚΑΤΑΛΟΓΟΣ ΠΙΝΑΚΩΝ [415]  
ΒΙΒΛΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ [459]  
ΕΥΡΕΤΗΡΙΟ ΚΕΙΜΕΝΩΝ [553]  
SUMMARY [571]



*Aegean Library: 2423*

***Το τοπίο στις προϊστορικές τοιχογραφίες. Αιγαίο και ανατολική Μεσόγειος (1700-1300 π.Χ.) (The Landscape in Prehistoric Frescoes. Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean, 1700-1300 BC)***

Pandelis Komninos

**City & year:** Thessaloniki 2010 [March 2011]

**Publisher:** Ant. Stamoulis

**Series:** -

**Description:** Hardback, 382 p., 22 colour plates, 127 b/w figures, 25x18 cm

**ISBN:** 978-960-6887-62-8

**Price:** € 30

#### **Abstract (in Greek)**

Οι τοιχογραφίες έκαναν ξαφνικά την εμφάνισή τους στο Αιγαίο κατά τη Νεοανακτορική περίοδο και ως τάση ήταν πλήρως διαμορφωμένη, χωρίς φαινομενικά να έχει ένα προκαταρκτικό στάδιο. Ωστόσο, τα ίχνη της εξέλιξης αυτής μπορούν να ανιχνευτούν σε άλλα μέσα της εικονογραφίας και όχι μόνο στο Αιγαίο, αλλά και γύρω από αυτό κατά τη διάρκεια της 2ης χιλιετίας π.Χ. Από την εποχή του Arthur Evans ως τους

σημερινούς μελετητές της αιγαιακής εικονογραφίας κατά την Ύστερη Εποχή του Χαλκού, πολλοί προσπάθησαν να ερμηνεύσουν τις επιλογές των ανθρώπων του Αιγαίου και συχνά να τις συσχετίσουν με αυτές των λαών της Ανατολικής Μεσογείου. Το βιβλίο εστιάζει στην αποτύπωση του περιβάλλοντος στην αιγαιακή εικονογραφία και στο πως μετουσιώνεται σε τοπίο. Διερευνά όψεις του τοπίου που βιώνουν οι άνθρωποι στην ανατολική Μεσόγειο, καθώς και τον τρόπο που επιδρά η ιδεολογία και ο συμβολισμός στην αποτύπωση αυτή, Εξάγονται χρήσιμα συμπεράσματα για τα εθνοτικά τοπία που «έχτιζαν» οι άνθρωποι αυτοί, τις ταυτότητες που συγκροτούσαν και συνακόλουθα τον αυτό-προσδιορισμό της θέσης τους μέσα στον κόσμο της Εποχής του Χαλκού.

## Contents

Κατάλογος εγχρώμων πινάκων [A-13]

Κατάλογος εικόνων [A-15]

Συντομογραφίες [A-23]

Πρόλογος [A-27]

Εισαγωγή [A-29]

Κεφάλαιο 1: Τοπίο και περιβάλλον: Η βίωσή τους ως σύλληψη και ως πρακτική [1]

1. Το τοπίο στην αρχαιολογική σκέψη [1]

2. Το τοπίο ως ιδεατή σύλληψη [9]

3. Η έννοια του χρόνου και το τοπίο [15]

4. Η τοιχογραφία ως εικονογραφικό σύνολο [19]

Κεφάλαιο 2: Το περιβάλλον του Αιγαίου άλλοτε και τώρα [23]

Κεφάλαιο 3: Τοπίο και αιγαιακές τοιχογραφίες [34]

1. Μελέτες στις αιγαιακές τοιχογραφίες: προσπάθειες και ερμηνείες [34]

2. Η εικονογραφία του τοπίου σε άλλα μέσα του υλικού πολιτισμού: οι απαρχές

3. Κατάλογος τοιχογραφιών [55]

Κεφάλαιο 4: Οι κυριότερες τοιχογραφικές παραστάσεις στη Μινωική Κρήτη και τον ευρύτερο περιβάλλοντα αιγαιακό χώρο [77]

1. Η αποτύπωση της φύσης στη Μινωική Κρήτη [77]

2. Οι τοιχογραφικές συνθέσεις του Ακρωτηρίου [109]

3. Η απεικόνιση της φύσης στη μεγάλη ζωγραφική των Κυκλάδων [139]

4. Οι τοιχογραφίες στην ηπειρωτική Ελλάδα [143]

Κεφάλαιο 5: Η σχέση των εικονογραφικών προγραμμάτων με τη φύση [158]

1. Η σύμβαση στην απόδοση των μορφών – υβρίδια [160]

2. Ο ρόλος των κυριοτέρων εικονιστικών μονάδων [182]

Κεφάλαιο 6: Το φυσικό περιβάλλον ως στοιχείο βίωσης του τοπίου διαμέσου της «τέχνης» [202]

1. Η οικονομική και κοινωνική διάσταση της εικονογραφίας του τοπίου [202]

2. Συμβολισμός και αιγαιακό τοπίο [205]

3. Η διαμόρφωση των εθνοτικών τοπίων [211]

4. Η αιγυπτιακή εικονογραφία και η σχέση της με το Αιγαίο [224]

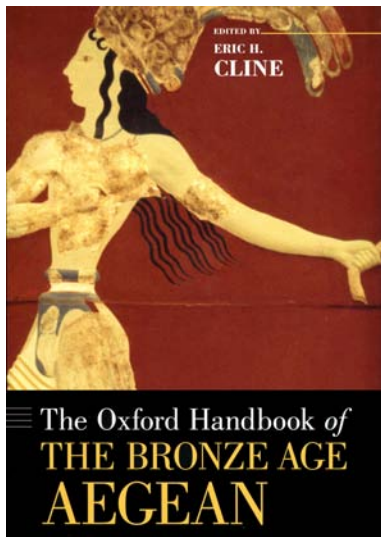
5. Εθνοτικά τοπία και Αιγαίο [235]

Συμπεράσματα - συζήτηση [244]

Αντί επιλόγου [292]

Βιβλιογραφία [294]

Εικόνες [316]



## The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean

Edited by Eric H. Cline

**City & year:** Oxford 2010

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**Series:** -

**Description:** Hardback, 976 p., 162 halftones, 11 line illustrations, 17,1x24,8 cm

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**Price:** £ 85 (ca. € 97)

*Aegean Library: 2413*

### Abstract

The Greek Bronze Age, roughly 3000 to 1000 BC, witnessed the flourishing of the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations, the earliest expansion of trade in the Aegean and wider Mediterranean Sea, the development of artistic techniques in a variety of media, and the evolution of early Greek religious practices and mythology. The period also witnessed a violent conflict in Asia Minor between warring peoples in the region, a conflict commonly believed to be the historical basis for Homer's Trojan War. The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean provides a detailed survey of these fascinating aspects of the period, and many others, in sixty-six newly commissioned articles.

Divided into four sections, the handbook begins with Background and Definitions, which contains articles establishing the discipline in its historical, geographical, and chronological settings and in its relation to other disciplines. The second section, Chronology and Geography, contains articles examining the Bronze Age Aegean by chronological period (Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age). Each of the periods are further subdivided geographically, so that individual articles are concerned with Mainland Greece during the Early Bronze Age, Crete during the Early Bronze Age, the Cycladic Islands during the Early Bronze Age, and the same for the Middle Bronze Age, followed by the Late Bronze Age. The third section, Thematic and Specific Topics, includes articles examining thematic topics that cannot be done justice in a strictly chronological/geographical treatment, including religion, state and society, trade, warfare, pottery, writing, and burial customs, as well as specific events, such as the eruption of Santorini and the Trojan War. The fourth section, Specific Sites and Areas, contains articles examining the most important regions and sites in the Bronze Age Aegean, including Mycenae, Tiryns, Pylos, Knossos, Kommos, Rhodes, the northern Aegean, and the Uluburun shipwreck, as well as adjacent areas such as the Levant, Egypt, and the western Mediterranean.

Containing new work by an international team of experts, The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean represents the most comprehensive, authoritative, and up-to-date single-volume survey of the field. It will be indispensable for scholars and advanced students alike.

### Contents

Acknowledgements [v]

Contents [vii]

Contributors [xiii]

Abbreviations [xvii]

Preface, Eric H. Cline [xxxi]

#### Part I: Background and Definitions

1. James D. Muhly, 'History of Research' [3-10]



2. Sturt W. Manning, 'Chronology and Terminology' [11-28]

## **Part II: Chronology and Geography**

3. Peter Tomkins, 'Neolithic Antecedents' [31-49]

### Early Bronze Age

4. Jeannette Forsén, 'Mainland Greece' [53-65]
5. Peter Tomkins and Ilse Schoep, 'Crete' [66-82]
6. Colin Renfrew, 'Cyclades' [84-95]

### Middle Bronze Age

7. Sofia Voutsaki, 'Mainland Greece' [99-112]
8. Ilse Schoep, 'Crete' [113-125]
9. Robin L. N. Barber, 'Cyclades' [126-136]

### Late Bronze Age

10. Kim Shelton, 'Mainland Greece' [139-148]
11. Erik Hallager, 'Crete' [149-159]
12. Robin L. N. Barber, 'Cyclades' [160-170]
13. Reinhard Jung, 'End of the Bronze Age' [171-184]

## **Part III: Thematic Topics**

### Art and Architecture

14. Louise Hitchcock, 'Minoan Architecture' [189-199]
15. Louise Hitchcock, 'Mycenaean Architecture' [200-209]
16. Ioulia Tzonou-Herbst, 'Figurines' [210-222]
17. Anne P. Chapin, 'Frescoes' [223-236]

### Society and Culture

18. Dimitri Nakassis, Michael L. Galaty, and William A. Parkinson, 'State and Society' [239-250]
19. Susan Lupack, 'Minoan Religion' [251-262]
20. Susan Lupack, 'Mycenaean Religion' [263-276]
21. Christopher Mee, 'Death and Burial' [277-290]
22. Bryan E. Burns, 'Trade' [291-304]
23. Ioannis Georganas, 'Weapons and Warfare' [305-314]

### Seals and Writing/Administrative Systems

24. Judith Weingarten, 'Minoan Seals and Sealings' [317-328]
25. John G. Younger, 'Mycenaean Seals and Sealings' [329-339]
26. Helena Tomas, 'Cretan Hieroglyphic and Linear A' [340-355]
27. Thomas G. Palaima, 'Linear B' [356-372]
28. Nicolle Hirschfeld, 'Cypro-Minoan' [373-384]

### Material Crafts

29. Doniert G. Evely, 'Materials and Industries' [387-404]
30. Birgitta Hallager, 'Minoan Pottery' [405-414]
31. Jeremy B. Rutter, 'Mycenaean Pottery' [415-429]
32. Brendan Burke, 'Textiles' [430-442]
33. Robert Laffineur, 'Jewellery' [443-454]

### Events

34. Sturt W. Manning, 'Eruption of Thera/Santorini' [457-474]
35. Trevor Bryce, 'Trojan War' [475-482]
36. Oliver Dickinson, 'The Collapse at the End of the Bronze Age' [483-490]

## **Section IV: Specific Sites and Regions**

### Crete

37. Vincenzo La Rosa, 'Ayia Triada' [495-508]
38. Lefteris Platon, 'Kato Zakros' [509-517]
39. Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki, 'Khania (Kydonia)' [518-528]
40. Colin Macdonald, 'Knossos' [529-542]
41. Joseph and Maria Shaw, 'Kommos' [543-555]
42. Jan Driessen, 'Malia' [556-570]
43. J. Alexander MacGillivray and L. Hugh Sackett, 'Palaikastro' [571-581]
44. Vincenzo La Rosa, 'Phaistos' [582-595]

### Mainland Greece

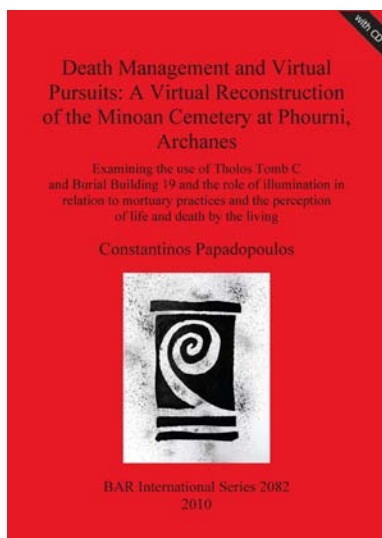
45. Sofia Voutsaki, 'Argolid' [599-613]
46. Anastasia Dakouri-Hild, 'Boeotia' [614-630]
47. William G. Cavanagh, 'Central and Southern Peloponnese' [631-642]
48. Stelios Andreou, 'Northern Aegean' [643-659]
49. Martha Wiencke, 'Lerna' [660-670]
50. Elizabeth French, 'Mycenae' [671-679]
51. Jack L. Davis, 'Pylos' [680-689]
52. Anastasia Dakouri-Hild, 'Thebes' [690-711]
53. Robert Laffineur, 'Thorikos' [712-721]
54. Joseph Maran, 'Tiryns' [722-734]

### Cyclades, Dodecanese, and Saronic Islands

55. Walter Gauss, 'Aegina Kolonna' [737-751]
56. Christos Doulas, 'Akrotiri' [752-761]
57. Toulia Marketou, 'Dodecanese' [762-774]
58. Toulia Marketou, 'Rhodes' [775-793]

### Wider Mediterranean

59. George F. Bass, 'Cape Gelidonya shipwreck' [797-803]  
 60. Louise Steel, 'Cyprus' [804-819]  
 61. Jacke Phillips, 'Egypt' [820-831]  
 62. Assaf Yasur-Landau, 'Levant' [832-848]  
 63. Peter Jablonka, 'Troy' [849-861]  
 64. Cemal Pulak, 'Uluburun shipwreck' [862-876]
65. Alan M. Greaves, 'Western Anatolia' [877-889]  
 66. Lucia Vagnetti, 'Western Mediterranean' [890-905]  
 Index



***Death management & Virtual Pursuits: A Virtual Reconstruction of the Minoan Cemetery at Phourni, Archanes***  
 Constantinos Papadopoulos

**City & year:** Oxford 2010

**Publisher:** Archaeopress

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**ISBN:** 9781407305585

**Price:** £ 46 (ca. € 52)

*Aegean Library: -*

*Examining the Use of Tholos Tomb C and Burial Building 19 and the Role of Illumination, in Relation to Mortuary Practices and the Perception of Life and Death by the Living.*

**Abstract**

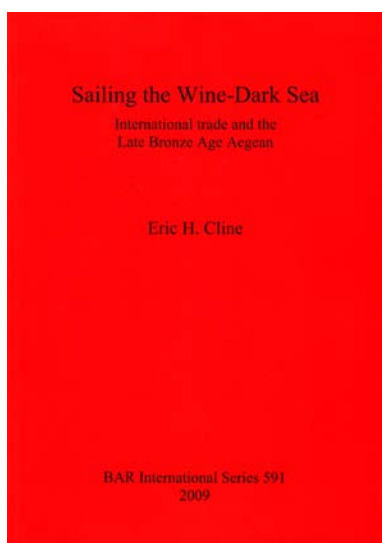
In the striking event of death, each community produces rituals, not explicitly or exclusively of a funerary nature. This is done in order to maintain both its stability and integrity, while incorporating the living into a fixed system of culturally defined roles and statuses.

The living had an active role in manipulating dead bodies, either for the primary burial or secondary treatment. This means that they entered the tombs or antechambers in order to prepare the deceased for inhumation, and practiced various ceremonies in commemoration of their ancestors, in accord with their attitude towards death. In addition, they were preparing the tombs for forthcoming burials by removing decomposed bodies, or selected parts of them, and lighting fires for small or large scale fumigations. People were entering in the tombs to practice rituals related to funerary ceremonies, or for practical purposes, however the noisome environment of a poorly ventilated structure full of corpses may suggest that only a small amount of people could simultaneously enter and remain in it. Natural light, or flame light, should have been a key factor by illuminating the interior, and mirroring eschatological beliefs and world views.

Computer based research provides scientists with an alternative reading of the dataset from the Minoan cemetery at Phourni, Archanes. This analysis attempts to evaluate tombs' architecture, use, visual impact, and their capacity during different time periods, as well as the contribution of light to determine not only practical purposes, but philosophical and religious beliefs as well.

## Contents

- List of figures [vii]
- List of tables [xviii]
- Introduction [1]
- 1. Virtual reconstructions as a means of research, pedagogy and dissemination of archaeological knowledge - limitations & problems: Some theoretical considerations [3]
- 2. The study area - The cemetery at Phourni, Archanes. Archaeological evidence, burial cult & correlates [5]
  - 2a. Overview [5]
  - 2b. History of investigation [5]
  - 2c. Archaeological evidence [5]
  - 2d. Tholos Tomb C and its structural features [5]
  - 2e. Burial Building 19 and its structural features [6]
  - 2f. Aspects of the burial cult [6]
  - 2g. Parallels [7]
  - 2h. Illustrations [8]
- 3. Reconstructing the cemetery [13]
  - 3a. Decision making process [13]
  - 3b. Architecture [13]
  - 3c. Technical issues [14]
  - 3d. Reconstructing alternatives [14]
  - 3e. Illustrations [15]
- 4. Reconstructing Tholos Tomb C and its finds [17]
  - 4a. Architecture [17]
  - 4b. Finds [17]
  - 4c. Reconstructing alternatives [18]
  - 4d. Technical issues [18]
  - 4e. Illustrations [19]
- 5. Reconstructing Burial Building 19 and its finds [32]
  - 5a. Architecture [32]
  - 5b. Finds [32]
  - 5c. Reconstructing alternatives [33]
  - 5d. Technical issues [34]
  - 5e. Illustrations [34]
- 6. Incorporating human models into the burial structures [49]
  - 6a. Human models in virtual reconstructions [49]
  - 6b. Decision making process & archaeological evidence [49]
  - 6c. Creating human models [49]
  - 6d. Illustrations [50]
- 7. Natural & flame lighting in Phourni [51]
  - 7a. The importance of light [51]
  - 7b. Lighting devices and fuels [51]
  - 7c. Natural light and orientation of the burial structures [51]
  - 7d. Natural factors affecting the illumination [51]
  - 7e. Global illumination & mental ray renderer - Aiming accuracy [52]
  - 7f. Previous work on the illumination of archaeological scenes [52]
  - 7g. Lighting scenarios [53]
  - 7h. Daylight [53]
  - 7i. Nightlight [53]
  - 7j. Sources of flame light and their physical properties [54]
  - 7k. Accurate flame illumination [54]
  - 7l. Technical issues [55]
  - 7m. Tables [56]
  - 7n. Illustrations [58]
- 8. Presenting & interpreting the results [62]
  - 8a. Tholos Tomb C [62]
  - 8b. Burial Building 19 [107]
  - 8c. Destruction of Tholos Tomb C and Burial Building 19 (MMIIB/MMIIIA) [142]
- Conclusion [143]
- Appendix 1: Chronological table [145]
- Appendix 2: The first four phases of the cemetery - An overview [146]
- Appendix 3: Structures at Phourni - Chronology & approximate height [147]
- Appendix 4: Modelling the terrain [148]
- Appendix 5: Definitions [149]
- Appendix 6: Archaeological sources & 3d models [150]
- References [152]



***Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: International trade and the Late Bronze Age Aegean***

Eric H. Cline

**City & year:** Oxford 2009

**Publisher:** Archaeopress

**Series:** BAR S591

**Description:** Paperback, xxii & 326 pages, 10 b/w plates, 24 b/w figures, 70 tables, 4 maps, 29,7x21 cm

**ISBN:** 9781407304175

**Price:** £ 53 (ca. € 60)

*Aegean Library: -*

### **Abstract**

A reissue of Eric H. Cline's highly regarded study of trade in the Late Bronze Age Aegean, first published in 1994 and out-of-print since 2000. The monograph is composed of three principal parts: 1) an analytical section discussing the trade and contacts which occurred between the Aegean, Italy, Egypt, and the Near East during the latter half of the second millennium BC, and the social, economic and cultural implications of such contacts; 2) first, a catalogue of literary and pictorial references to the LBA Aegean found in outside areas – primarily Egypt and the Near East – with transliterations and translations of the appropriate texts, and second, a compilation of the references to, and loanwords from, other areas of the Mediterranean found in the Linear B texts in the Aegean; and 3) a catalogue, by object type, of all the Orientalia and Occidentalia found in LBA contexts within the Aegean area. The monograph utilizes the catalogues in combination with previously published works by a variety of scholars to provide a detailed analysis of the trade and contacts between the LBA Aegean, Italy, Egypt and the Near East. The work is divided into six sections, each consisting of a series of interlinked essays. Section One provides an introduction to the topic, a brief overview of the previous scholarship in this area, and a discussion of the chronological problems involved. Section Two consists of an initial chapter discussing LBA trade and contact between the Aegean, Italy, Egypt and the Near East by centuries, followed by chapters discussing trade between the LBA Aegean and individual Mediterranean countries. Section Three contains discussions of the trade mechanisms involved, the trade routes, merchant nationalities, goods, motivations, and partnerships, plus a brief look at the Ulu Burun (Kas) and Cape Gelidonya shipwrecks. Section Four presents an overview of the conclusions reached by this study and reiterates that the current work presents much raw data and some preliminary observations but is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of tapping the wealth of information which may be extracted from the accompanying catalogues.

### **Contents**

List of tables [ix]  
List of figures [xii]  
List of plates [xiii]  
List of maps [xiii]  
Abbreviations [xiv]  
Acknowledgments [xv]

Abstract [xvi]

Preface [xx]

Section One: Introduction

Chapter One: Introduction [1]

Chapter Two: Previous Scholarship [3]

Chapter Three: Chronology [5]

Section Two: Trade during the Late Bronze Age  
Chapter Four: Overview (LH/LM I-III) [9]  
Chapter Five: Mesopotamia and the LBA Aegean [24]  
Chapter Six: Egypt and the LBA Aegean [31]  
Chapter Seven: Syro-Palestine and the LBA Aegean [48]  
Chapter Eight: Cyprus and the LBA Aegean [60]  
Chapter Nine: Anatolia and the LBA Aegean [68]  
Chapter Ten: Italy, Europe and the LBA Aegean [78]  
Section Three: Trade and transactions  
Chapter Eleven: Trade Mechanisms and Motivations [85]  
Chapter Twelve: Trade Routes and Merchant Nationalities [91]  
Chapter Thirteen: Trade Goods [95]  
Chapter Fourteen: Ulu Burun (Kas) and Cape Gelidonya Shipwrecks [100]  
Section Four: Epilogue  
Chapter Fifteen: Epilogue [106]  
Catalogue I. Literary and pictorial evidence for international trade and the LBA Aegean  
A. Egyptian evidence [108]

B. Syro-Palestinian evidence [120]  
C. Anatolian evidence [121]  
D. Mesopotamian evidence [126]  
E. Linear B references to Egypt and the Near East [128]

Catalogue II: Oriental and Occidentalia in the LBA Aegean  
I. Figurines and reliefs [132]  
II. Jewellery [135]  
III. Scarabs, seals and plaques [142]  
IV. Utensils [162]  
V. Vessels and stands [163]  
VI. Weapons and tools [223]  
VII. Weights and measures [231]

Appendices I-III: Raw materials, problematic objects, disputed contexts  
I. Raw material [234]  
II. Dubious or problematic imports [239]  
III. Unknown or disputed contexts [252]

Tables for catalogue II [258]  
Bibliography [278]





## 2. NEW ARTICLES

### 2.1. 'Redistribution in Aegean palatial societies. Introduction: Why redistribution?'

Michael L. Galaty, Dimitri Nakassis & William A. Parkinson

*AJA* 115.2 (2011): 175-176.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Galaty *et al.* 2011

#### Abstract

This collection of papers explores the role of redistribution in Minoan and Mycenaean economies. The term 'redistribution' was coined to describe a particular mode of economic exchange employed in ancient economies, particularly Near Eastern temple economies, and later applied to the Aegean. Recently, the redistributive model has been revised substantially, but these revisions largely have been ignored by Aegean prehistorians. We hope that this Forum will contribute to the ongoing debate about the nature and extent of control exercised by Aegean palatial authorities and to the larger study of ancient economic exchange in archaeology and anthropology. The articles in this Forum address the concept of redistribution – as a mode of transition and as a social institution – in the Aegean. They were presented originally at the 110th Annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (Philadelphia, 2009) in a colloquium titled 'Redistribution in Aegean Palatial Societies'.

[Read the article](#)

### 2.2. 'Redistribution in Aegean palatial societies. Redistributive economies from a theoretical and cross-cultural perspective'

Dimitri Nakassis, William A. Parkinson & Michael L. Galaty

*AJA* 115.2 (2011): 177-184.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Nakassis *et al.* 2011

#### Abstract

In this article, we address the historical question of why Aegean Bronze Age economies are characterized as redistributive systems and whether it is appropriate to continue to describe them as such. We argue that characterizing the political economies of the Aegean as redistributive is inaccurate and misleading. Instead, we suggest it is more fruitful to describe how specific prehistoric social institutions were used to organize and allocate goods and services and thereby to study how political and economic systems interacted with one another. By examining how Aegean social institutions were constituted and changed over time, we will be in a position to use the prehistoric Aegean to develop and refine general models of political economy.

[Read the article](#)

### 2.3. 'Redistribution in Aegean palatial societies. Before the palaces: Redistribution and chiefdoms in mainland Greece'

Daniel J. Pullen

*AJA* 115.2 (2011): 185-195.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Pullen 2011

#### Abstract

This article examines redistribution as formulated by scholars of the later Mycenaean palatial economies to ascertain its applicability to the Early Bronze Age (EBA) mainland. Lacking textual

sources in the EBA, the emphasis is on archaeological correlates of redistribution as both a mode of transaction and as an institution. Three areas are examined: mobilization of goods as suggested through the evidence for staple vs. wealth finance, scale and control of production on the basis of evidence for household production vs. craft specialization, and centralized control of economic and political transactions using evidence for administration and feasting. While the data leave much to be desired in terms of suitability and completeness, only a limited number of the transaction types and institutional forms of redistribution as posited for the Mycenaean palatial economies are apparent in the EBA mainland. Thus, the political economies of the Mycenaean palaces may well represent transformations not just of scale but also of forms from the political economies of the EBA chiefdoms.

[Read the article](#)

#### **2.4. 'Redistribution in Aegean palatial societies. Redistribution and political economies in Bronze Age Crete'**

**Kostis S. Christakis**

*AJA* 115.2 (2011): 197-205.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Christakis 2011

##### **Abstract**

Palatial authorities in Bronze Age Crete traditionally are thought to have functioned as centralized redistributive agents, reallocating wealth to the community as a whole and providing security in times of crisis. These institutions were gradually transformed, however, into mobilizers of wealth, rendering support exclusively to the elite and their associates. The present article explores this narrative; it reassesses the assumed impact of redistribution on the economy of Cretan states by studying the archaeological correlates of staple storage. It adopts a bottom-up perspective: besides data from palatial contexts, it incorporates evidence from ordinary domestic units. It argues that the impact of redistribution, as envisioned by neo-evolutionists, is highly questionable. Palatial institutions in Crete did not distribute goods to members of all social strata. Nor did they provide social security. Rather, they mobilized wealth meant to serve the exclusive needs of the elite.

[Read the article](#)

#### **2.5. 'Redistribution in Aegean palatial societies. A view from outside the palace: The sanctuary and the *Damos* in Mycenaean economy and society'**

**Susan Lupack**

*AJA* 115.2 (2011): 207-217.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Lupack 2011

##### **Abstract**

The Linear B offering tablets at first seem to indicate that Mycenaean palaces engaged in a form of redistribution with respect to the religious sphere. That the palace sent offerings caused many scholars to assume the religious sector was dependent on the palaces for its daily maintenance. The sanctuaries were therefore also thought to have been subject to palatial authority. However, more detailed analysis shows that the offerings could not have fully supported the sanctuaries, which eliminates the main argument used to support the idea that the sanctuaries were subject to palatial authority. This also indicates that the offerings cannot be interpreted as part of a real system of redistribution. Like the religious sphere, the individual communities found within palatial territory, referred to as *da-mo*, or *damos*, have been seen as subject to the political and economic control of the palace. However, a closer look at the textual evidence shows that each *damos* maintained a significant

degree of independence from the palace. We may therefore posit (at least) three spheres of economic influence in Mycenaean states: the palace, the sanctuaries, and the *damos*.

[Read the article](#)

## **2.6. 'Redistribution in Aegean palatial societies. By appointment to his majesty the Wanax: Value-added goods and redistribution in Mycenaean palatial economies'**

**Robert Schon**

*AJA* 115.2 (2011): 219-227.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Schon 2011

### **Abstract**

Rather than treating redistribution as an undifferentiated economic function, scholars currently recognize that multiple forms may occur simultaneously. In this Forum Article, I focus on one such form in detail, specifically, the redistributive system that financed the production of prestige goods at the Palace of Nestor at Pylos. I employ the manufacture of chariots, perfumed oils, and textiles as case studies. The three industries had a number of features in common. They required raw materials that were dispersed. Their managers collected dispersed raw materials and allocated them to specialists, who added value to them through skilled labor and who produced composite artifacts that were then redistributed by palatial authorities to an exclusive group of recipients. While similarities in the management of the industries reflect an overall policy of resource mobilization through which palace authorities garnered the loyalty of an emergent class of secondary elites, the inconsistencies in the manner in which the industries were run also suggest that redistribution was not fully standardized.

[Read the article](#)

## **2.7. 'Redistribution in Aegean palatial societies: Terminology, scale, and significance'**

**Paul Halstead**

*AJA* 115.2 (2011): 229-235.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Halstead 2011

### **Abstract**

Nakassis *et al.*, in their contribution to this Forum, argue that the term "redistribution" has been used with a range of meanings in the context of the Aegean Bronze Age and so obscures rather than illuminates the emergence and functioning of political economies. They call for detailed empirical investigation rather than reliance on ambiguous idealized types. Lupack and Schon concur, arguing respectively that the palace shared control of the Mycenaean economy with sanctuaries and local communities and that centralized production of craft goods (and thus elite strategies of wealth finance) developed late at the palace of Pylos. Pullen finds little archaeological support for Renfrew's extrapolation of centralized redistribution to the Early Bronze Age, while Christakis uses evidence of storage to argue the same for Prepalatial Crete and to play down the scale and importance of elite redistribution in the Minoan palaces. The calls for circumspect use of the term "redistribution" and for detailed empirical investigation are applauded, although these five papers arguably do not all attack the same form of redistribution. This response argues that redistribution *sensu* Polanyi, Finley, and Killen (i.e., centrally administered movements of goods and services without equivalence of value) retains considerable heuristic value in investigation of both textual and archaeological evidence for Bronze Age political economies.

[Read the article](#)

## 2.8. 'Redistribution in Aegean palatial societies. Redistribution and the political economy: The evolution of an idea'

Timothy Earle

*AJA* 115.2 (2011): 237-244.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Earle 2011

### Abstract

Whether the Bronze Age Aegean economies can be described as “redistributive” depends on how one defines the term. The concept of redistribution itself has undergone several decades of critical archaeological analysis, much of it stemming from my early work in Polynesia. I consider here how Polanyi's ideas about redistributive economies have been expanded since the 1970s. My review complements the article in this Forum by Nakassis et al. and the contribution by Halstead, who discusses why and how the concept of redistribution still matters in studies of the Minoans and Mycenaeans. To some degree, we all agree: chiefs, and later kings, who sought power in archaic societies did so through many highly variable, contingent, and changing means, all designed to support political-economic strategies based on multiple systems of finance. The Bronze Age Aegean societies provide excellent examples of this process, as demonstrated by the contributors to this Forum.

[Read the article](#)

## 2.9. 'New fragments of Aegean-style painted plaster from Tel Kabri, Israel'

Eric H. Cline, Assaf Yasur-Landau & Nurith Goshen

*AJA* 115.2 (2011): 245-261.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Cline et al. 2011

### Abstract

During the 2008 and 2009 excavations at Tel Kabri, more than 100 new fragments of wall and floor plaster were uncovered. Approximately 60 are painted, probably belonging to a second Aegean-style wall fresco with figural representations and a second Aegean-style painted floor. A date within the Middle Bronze II period, probably in the 17th century B.C.E., may be suggested for the Kabri frescoes, which makes them significantly earlier than the Tell el-Dab'a and Qatna frescoes and roughly contemporary with the Alalakh Minoan-style frescoes. That there are at least four Aegean-style frescoes found to date at Kabri (two painted floors and two wall paintings) may hint that either the palace was decorated with a single Aegean pictorial plan in mind—an ambitious undertaking by a unique Canaanite ruler—or that different paintings were commissioned in different episodes and executed by different Aegean (or Aegean-trained) artisans. Whichever the case, the close resemblance of the Kabri miniature fresco found by Kempinski and Niemeier to that in the West House at Akrotiri on Santorini, and the resemblance of the new figurative fresco to various Aegean paintings, provides hints as to the origin of the artisans (or single worker) at Kabri, who may have been an itinerant recruited in the Cyclades through Cypriot middlemen trading with Kabri.

## 2.10. 'The shipwreck of Odysseus: Strong and weak imagery in Late Geometric art'

Jeffrey M. Hurwit

*AJA* 115.1 (2011): 1-18.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Hurwit 2011

### Abstract

The once-popular interpretation of a well-known scene on a Late Geometric oinochoe in Munich as the shipwreck of Odysseus is now regularly dismissed: like other ambiguous scenes of late eighth-

century art, it has been banished from the ranks of early mythological narratives. I propose that the scene be restored to the ranks of possible mythological images and defend the premise that myth was the subject of some Late Geometric artists. I also suggest that the most important thing we can do with a Late Geometric scene is not to assign it to one of the standard categories of “myth” (*Sagenbild*), “genre” (*Lebensbild*), or “the generalized heroic” but to new categories that transcend those distinctions. Images may be defined as “strong” or “weak” depending on their uniqueness, complexity, and especially the concreteness of description, whether they depict scenes of myth, genre, or real (as opposed to universalized) life—a subject that may be more common and significant than is usually thought. This approach emphasizes the exceptionalism, variety, and originality of Late Geometric imagery, and the Late Geometric artist's interest in the description of both the heroic and real worlds.

### **2.11. ‘Maternity, children, and ‘Mother Goddesses’ in Minoan iconography’**

**Stephanie Lynn Budin**

*Journal of Prehistoric Religion* XXII (2010): 7-38.

*Aegean Library*: 2412

#### **Abstract**

This article reconsiders both the presence and role of maternal, kourotrophic, and child-oriented iconography in the Minoan repertoire. Contrary to the received wisdom, the only kourotrophic iconography in Minoan Crete is not a Mycenaean-influenced figural group from Mavrospelio cemetery, but a strongly Egyptianizing plaque from Monastiraki. Furthermore, in spite of the death of kourotrophic iconography, images of pregnant/parturient females are both original to and common on the island during this period. Finally, the author considers the role of children in the Minoan repertoire, noting especially in what contexts they are prevalent. As the combined data show, the Minoans had no problems with depicting either maternity or childhood in their arts. As such, the lack of an indigenous kourotrophic iconography argues strongly against any notions of a distinctly ‘Mother’ goddess in the Minoan pantheon.

### **2.12. ‘Trade, politics and religion in the Early Iron Age Aegean: Explaining the sacred island of Delos’**

**Jason W. Earle**

*Journal of Prehistoric Religion* XXII (2010): 39-56.

*Aegean Library*: 2412

#### **Abstract**

Delos was a major religious centre in antiquity, yet the origins of this small island's earliest known cults – those of Apollo, Artemis and Hera – are poorly understood. The author argues that sanctuaries dedicated to these deities developed in the Early Iron Age, mainly in the eighth century BC. Intensified long distance contacts and exchanges in the Aegean, together with Delos's location and the needs of mariners, led to the practice of certain cults on the island, followed by the establishment of formal sanctuaries and festivals. These sanctuaries and festivals, it is argued, provided a space for inter-elite competition, gift-giving and trade, and can be tied to the politics of emerging poleis.

### **2.13. ‘New evidence on the religious use of Room 67 at Hala Sultan Tekke. A tribute to Paul Åström’**

**Karin Nys, Melissa Samaes & Jan Coenaerts**

*Journal of Prehistoric Religion* XXII (2010): 57-61.

*Aegean Library*: 2412

#### **Abstract**

In 1988, the archaeological team under the direction of Paul Åström unearthed in Area 8 at Hala Sultan Tekke a building complex consisting of five rooms. Room 67 is the main room of this complex.



The complex was interpreted as a sanctuary as its plan is considerable to that of sanctuaries at Kition and Enkomi. Until now, neither the architecture nor the finds of this building complex had shed any light on the supposed cult or its exact function. However on 1 April 2009, while studying the bags containing the excavating material from Room 67, the authors made two discoveries that provide important new evidence for the religious use of Room 67. The first discovery consists of seven small glass amulets. The most exciting discovery, however, consisted of several fragments of a tablet inscribed with a text in Ugaritic cuneiform that described a religious ceremony .

#### **2.14. 'The materiality of representation: A preface'**

**Stratos Nanoglou**

In S. Nanoglou & L. Meskell (eds), *The Materiality of Representation, Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 16.3 (September 2009): 157-161.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Nanoglou 2009a

##### **From the Introduction**

Issues of materiality are gaining ground in archaeology, although there are still conflicting views over the usefulness of the concept. Despite the controversy over the concept itself, all interlocutors converge in the need to focus on the material aspect of the world, on the material part of material culture. Historically, this could be seen as a counteraction to an overt emphasis upon the cultural as an intellectual construct that has dominated many recent attempts to reconstruct the past, but the move does not restrict itself to that. Accordingly, in this issue our understanding and use of the term is on the broadest level. It pertains to the “thingness” of things, to that aspect of things that gives them a material presence in the world.

Representations are as material as any other thing. They are articulated in particular contexts, engaging particular materials, having a particular material presence, informing our understanding of the world and of the proper way to inhabit it. Representing something can have many different meanings and connotations, but it always entails referring to something else. Whether we choose to keep the term “representation” or abandon it, we argue against a certain tradition that sees representations as above society only mirroring other entities and other practices, and we think it is time to reposition them within the world, to understand them as part of the world they attempt to represent, to see them as real and tangible in themselves. Representations are never floating signifiers; they always occupy a certain place in the world from which they address people and get addressed by them. Their referential aspect is always situated in time and space: they refer to something being something specific. This particularity is exactly the subject of this special issue. The papers that follow try to situate artifacts representing people or animals within the particular material conditions from which they informed their users.

[Read the rest of the article](#)

#### **2.15. 'Animal bodies and ontological discourse in the Greek Neolithic'**

**Stratos Nanoglou**

In S. Nanoglou & L. Meskell (eds), *The Materiality of Representation, Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 16.3 (September 2009): 184-204.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Nanoglou 2009b

##### **Abstract**

The present article tries to assess the ways that animal bodies were represented in the Neolithic of Northern Greece. Contending that representations always have a material presence (be they spoken, depicted or anything else), an attempt is made to sort out how the specificity of this presence

constitutes a frame of reference for the deployment of social action. Animal representations seem to be particularly related with certain materials, especially clay, and certain objects, mostly clay vessels. It is suggested that these objects allow animals to be incorporated in social action in a very specific manner, one that is further defined by the contexts of their use.

[Read the article](#)

## 2.16. 'Articulate bodies: Forms and figures at Çatalhöyük'

Carolyn Nakamura & Lynn Meskell

In S. Nanoglou & L. Meskell (eds), *The Materiality of Representation, Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 16.3 (September 2009): 205-230.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Nakamura & Meskell 2009

### Abstract

This paper examines the materializing practices of bodies at the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük. We focus on the clay and stone figurine corpus (over 1,800 total, with over 1,000 of those being diagnostic), but also consider other media such as wall paintings and sculptured features, as well as the skeletal evidence. This paper is the first attempt to analyze particular bodily characteristics in the Çatalhöyük figurine repertoire from a perspective that investigates, rather than assumes, a priori the representational priorities of their makers. Within a wide range of anthropomorphic and abbreviated figurines, we find that specific areas such as the stomach and buttocks were often clearly delineated and emphasized, whereas demarcation of primary sexual characteristics was typically downplayed. These traits and their material "prominence" might underscore specific bodily areas that have generally been overlooked as potential sites of articulation and attention. Our work challenges older assumptions that figurines were always engaged in projects of either deification or self-making. Instead, we suggest that these body types might mediate other kinds of social concerns and practices.

[Read the article](#)

## 2.17. 'Le cuivre chypriote et la Crète. Les régions d'importation des lingots peau-de-bœuf'

Florence Liard

*Revue archéologique* 2010 (n° 1): 47-65.

*Aegean Library*: -

### Abstract

Since the so-called "copper oxhide ingots" are considered one of the most common forms of raw copper exchange in the Mediterranean Late Bronze Age, the question of their provenance and function has received the attention of scholars. Cyprus has long been considered to be the centre of this international trade, due to the intense extraction which is attested on the island as early as the Early Bronze Age. In the case of Crete, the absence of natural copper resources, resulting in the necessary import of metals, has encouraged the idea among archaeologists that there was a system of exchange of Minoan ceramics for Cypriot oxhide ingots. Catling (1979) was the first to adjust this model, followed by Knapp (1990). The aim of these few pages is to define and check the pertinence of their respective theories, from the data on published provenance and context for the Cretan copper oxhide ingots.

**2.18. 'A rare Neolithic find from the Aegean: A fibre from Drakaina Cave, Kephallonia Island, W. Greece'**

Marie-Louise Nosch, Bridget Murphy, Bodil Holst, Irene Skals, Georgia Stratouli & Anaya Sarpaki

Online article (<http://www.drakainacave.gr>)

*Aegean Library*: -

**Abstract**

The article publishes a neolithic fibre from Drakaina Cave (Kephallonia, Greece). This uncommon material was found in a rich archaeological unit of the eastern roofed part of the cave, particularly in the southern part of trench Δ5, excavated in July 2004 and dated most probably to the late 6th millennium BC (radiocarbon dating is pending). Considering the nature of the deposit of this unit, it consisted mainly of ash and charcoal fragments alongside with burnt food remains, *i.e.* bones, seeds, as well other plant substance. There is little doubt that the unit represents, largely, the *in situ* remnants of a hearth. From the aforementioned unit/deposit, a soil sample (6 litres in sum) was collected for water flotation, in which the microscopic fibre was discovered.

[Read the whole article](#)

**2.19. 'Radiocarbon dating archaeological samples in the eastern Mediterranean, 1730 to 1480 BC: Further exploring the atmospheric radiocarbon calibration record and the archaeological implications'**

S.W. Manning & B. Kromer

*Archaeometry* 53.2 (April 2011): 413–439.

*Aegean Library*: -

**Abstract**

The East Mediterranean Radiocarbon (Inter-)Comparison Project (EMRCP) has measured time series of radiocarbon ages for known age samples of German oak (GeO) and for samples from the near-absolutely placed Gordion juniper dendrochronology from central Anatolia. In this paper, we review the data for the calendar years from 1730 to 1480 bc, relevant in particular to controversy and debate concerning the absolute date of the Minoan eruption of the Santorini (Thera) volcano. We consider the issue of the radiocarbon ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ) dating of the Santorini eruption, and the problem of how this relates to the archaeological record and historical chronology of Egypt in light of the  $^{14}\text{C}$  data. We find that these  $^{14}\text{C}$  data, and other recent radiocarbon work, provide good grounds to be confident in the possibility of a robust radiocarbon-based chronology for the eastern Mediterranean. In contrast, as the radiocarbon case becomes stronger, questions must be asked about some archaeological dating: in particular, at the site of Tell el-Dab'a in the Nile Delta of Egypt.

**2.20. 'Seriphos surfaces: A study of copper slag heaps and copper sources in the context of Early Bronze Age metal production'**

M. Georgakopoulou, Y. Bassiakos & O. Philaniotou

*Archaeometry* 53.1 (February 2011): 123-145.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Georgakopoulou *et al.* 2011

**Abstract**

Kephala and Phournoi, on the island of Seriphos, add to a growing number of EBA metal production sites identified in the south-central Aegean. Analytical examination of samples from the two sites addressed the technological parameters of the copper smelting process, indicating the use of mixed oxidic and sulphidic copper-iron ores to produce unalloyed copper with minute copper sulphide inclusions. A preliminary geological reconnaissance of the island identified several small copper

mineralizations, one of them close to the site of Kephala. Nevertheless, the ore sources used remain unclear. Comparisons are made with other contemporaneous neighbouring smelting sites.

### **2.21. 'Lead isotopic analysis for the identification of Late Bronze Age pottery from Hala Sultan Tekke (Cyprus)'**

V. Renson, J. Coenaerts, K. Nys, N. Mattielli, F. Vanhaecke, N. Fagel & P. Claeys

*Archaeometry* 53.1 (February 2011): 37-57.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Renson *et al.* 2011

#### **Abstract**

Lead isotopic compositions were measured for 65 sherds from five pottery wares (Plain White, Coarse, Canaanite, White Slip and Base-ring) excavated from the Late Bronze Age site of Hala Sultan Tekke (Cyprus). The elemental composition and isotopic signature of the sherds were compared with those of 65 clay samples collected in south-east Cyprus, mainly in the surroundings (<20 km) of Hala Sultan Tekke. This work shows the effectiveness of using lead isotopic analysis in provenance studies, along with other analytical techniques, such as X-ray diffraction (XRD) and a scanning electron microscope (SEM) equipped with an energy dispersive X-ray detection (EDX) facility, to identify the composition of pottery wares and the clay sources used for pottery ware production.

### **2.22. 'The use of oxygen isotopes in sheep molars to investigate past herding practices at the Neolithic settlement of Çatalhöyük, central Anatolia'**

E. Henton, W. Meier-Augenstein & H.F. Kemp

*Archaeometry* 52.3 (June 2010): 429–449.

*Aegean Library*: Dig. Henton *et al.* 2010

#### **Abstract**

This paper presents a pilot study designed to test the use of oxygen isotopes for investigating aspects of early herding practices in the Neolithic of western Asia, using the site of Çatalhöyük in central Anatolia as a case study. Time-sequenced  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values in dental enamel of archaeological sheep are assessed for post-depositional diagenetic effects and compared with seasonal  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  meteoric water values in the region today. The evidence is used to indicate the environmental conditions in which individual sheep spent their first year, enabling management of breeding and birthing seasons, and movement to seasonal pastures, to be investigated.

### **2.23. 'Neolithic zoomorphic vessels from eastern Macedonia, Greece: Issues of function'**

C. Marangou & B. Stern

*Archaeometry* 51.3 (June 2009): 397-412.

*Aegean Library*: -

#### **Abstract**

Five fragments of Late Neolithic clay zoomorphic vessels from northern Greece have been analysed for organic residues by gas chromatography – mass spectrometry. The results showed that the containers had been used in connection with a number of substances, in particular lower terpenoids, an oil or fat, possibly fossil fuel and in one case possibly beeswax. The paper considers likely interpretations of such combinations of materials in relation to possible functions of these symbolically enhanced artefacts. It appears that substances may have been used in the vessels because of their aromatic and/or medicinal and combustible properties, possibly in order to produce light, fragrance and/or smoke.

### 3. RECENT BOOK REVIEWS

- 3.1.** Weilhartner, J., 2010. Review of Y. Duhoux & A. Morpurgo Davies (eds), *A Companion to Linear B. Mycenaean Greek Texts and their World*, vol. 1 (Louvain-la-Neuve 2008), *Kratylos* 55: 112-118.
- 3.2.** Cadogan, G., 2011. Review of N. Marinatos, *Minoan Kingship and the Solar Goddess: A Near Eastern Koine* (Urbana 2010), *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 3.1: 3-4.
- 3.3.** Wilkinson, R.H. & Schon, R., 2010. Review of J. Phillips, *Aegyptiaca on the Island of Crete in Their Chronological Context: A Critical Review* (Vienna 2008), *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 2.2: 27-28.
- 3.4.** Creasman, P.P. & Bannister, B., 2011. Review of S.W. Manning & M.J. Bruce (eds), *Tree-rings, Kings, and Old World Archaeology and Environment: Papers Presented in Honor of Peter Ian Kuniholm* (Oxford 2009), *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 3.1: 5-6.
- 3.5.** Wilkinson, R.H. & Schon, R., 2010. Review of D. Michaelides, V. Kassianidou & R.S. Merrillees (eds), *Egypt and Cyprus in Antiquity: Proceedings of the International Conference, Nicosia 2003* (Oxford 2009), *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 2.3: 50-51.

### 4. FREE DIGITAL BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

- 4.1.** Evans, A.J., 1901. *The Mycenaean Tree and Pillar Cult and its Mediterranean Relations with Illustrations from Recent Cretan Finds*, London: Macmillan and Co.  
[Press here](#)
- 4.2.** Evans, A.J., 1925. “The ring of Nestor”. A Glimpse into the Minoan After-World and a Sepulchral Treasure of Gold Signet-Rings and Bead-Seals from Thisbê, Boeotia’, London: Macmillan and Co.  
[Press here](#)
- 4.3.** Strasser, T.F., Panagopoulou, E., Runnels, C.N., Murray, P.M., Thompson, N., Karkanas, P., McCoy, F.W., & Wegmann, K.W., 2010. 'Stone Age seafaring in the Mediterranean: Evidence from the Plakias region for Lower Palaeolithic and Mesolithic habitation of Crete', *Hesperia* 79: 145-190.  
[Read the article](#)
- 4.4.** Yule, P., 1981. *Early Cretan Seals: A Study of Chronology* [Marburger Studien zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Bd. 4], Mainz: Philipp von Zabern.  
[Press here](#)

### 5. USEFUL WEBSITES

#### Mitrou Archaeological Project

The Mitrou Archaeological Project (MAP) is a cooperative venture between the University of Tennessee and the Greek Archaeological Service. Mitrou is a tidal islet in the bay of Atalanti in East Lokris, Greece.

[Visit the website](#)

#### Water Management in Prehistoric Crete: The case of Choiromandres, Zakros

The case study of Choiromandres describes an integrated management system over an area of ~7,5 hectares that ensured water for irrigation, protected soil from erosion, and to a certain degree protected the areas downstream from floods.

[Visit the website](#)



## 6. AEGEUS'S NEWS

### Members entrance

We are happy to inform you that *Aegeus* has completed the first phase of his members entrance to their personal space. Personal codes have already been sent to all members. In case a member has not received an e-mail with the relevant codes, please contact the Society. Currently, members have access to two webpages. The first webpage contains a catalogue of the journals that *Aegeus* has subscribed to, as well as periodicals that are available online free of charge and are directly or indirectly linked to the prehistoric times or the Early Iron Age in the Aegean or Mediterranean. The second webpage contains a catalogue of all *Aegeus* Newsletters.

### Dissertations

**Το τοπίο στις τοιχογραφικές παραστάσεις του αιγαϊακού χώρου κατά την Ύστερη Εποχή του Χαλκού (The Landscape on the Aegean Bronze Age wall-paintings)**

Pandelis Komninos

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki 2009

The main goal of this dissertation is to show how the iconography of the Aegean frescos could constitute multiple aspects of landscape experienced by the Aegean people of the Bronze Age. The researcher in order to achieve something like that should apply an approach by which the landscape would be seen under a "holistic" view, asking the help of other approaches, such as the Processual or even the Post-processual one. Thus, he would co-examine the depiction of natural environment on the different means of the material culture, e.g. on seals, pottery and jewellery crafting.

[Read more](#)

### Instructions on how to enter your personal space

At the website of *Aegeus* - in the top right you will find the phrase "Welcome to *Aegeus*". By placing your mouse over it you will see a small black box appear with the words "Log in" and "Register" (PLEASE NOTE: This is not working with Internet Explorer 6; please use Internet Explorer 8 or 9). By pressing on "Log in" a new page will open. You will then have to type in your passwords and press "submit". After this is done in the top right hand corner you will see the following message appear "Welcome, you are logged in as: (member name)". By placing your mouse over this field a small box will appear with the sections: Journals, Newsletter and Log out. In the Journals section you will find all the journals that *Aegeus* has subscribed to, as well as other periodicals that are available online. In the Newsletter section you will find a list of all the newsletters that *Aegeus* has posted online thus far. PLEASE NOTE: In order to leave from the specific web-pages it is absolutely necessary for you to press LOG OUT.

This is the first construction phase for the member web-pages of *Aegeus*. Soon we will send you additional information about new webpages.

### Past Conferences

**Mycenaeans up to Date: The Archaeology of the NE Peloponnese - Current Concepts and New Directions**

Athens, New Acropolis Museum & National Research Centre, 10-14 November 2010

The international conference "Mycenaeans up to Date: The Archaeology of the NE Peloponnese – Current Concepts and New Directions" was held in Athens on 10-14 November 2010 .

[Read more](#)

## 7. LECTURES OF THE MONTH

To see all the lectures of the month [press here](#).

## 8. CALL FOR PAPERS

### [Official Ceremonies and Processions in the Mycenaean World](#)

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

Deadline: **30 April 2011**

This session aims to explore the political, social, and symbolic functions of official ceremonies and processions in the Mycenaean world from a variety of perspectives.

[read more](#)

### [Destruction. Archaeological, philological and historical perspectives](#)

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, 24-25-26 November 2011

Deadline: **30 April 2011**

This international round table proposes to explore the various aspects of the destruction phenomenon.

[read more](#)

### [UK Archaeological Sciences Conference 2011](#)

University of Reading, 15-18 September 2011

Deadline: **01 May 2011**

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

[read more](#)

### [History, Technology and Conservation of Ancient Metals, Glasses and Enamels](#)

Athens, 16-19 November

Deadline: **20 June 2011**

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

[read more](#)

### [Olive Oil and Wine Production in Eastern Mediterranean during Antiquity](#)

Izmir, Turkey, 17-19 November

Deadline: **30 June 2011**

We are pleased to announce that the arrangements for the symposium entitled as "Olive Oil and Wine Production in Eastern Mediterranean during Antiquity" organised by Department of Archaeology of Ege University are in progress. The symposium will be held on 17-19 November 2011.

[read more](#)

### [Feminism and Classics VI: Crossing Borders, Crossing Lines](#)

Brock University, St Catharines, Ontario, Canada, May 2012

Deadline: **30 June 2011**

The Department of Classics at Brock University is pleased to host *Feminism and Classics VI: Crossing Borders, Crossing Lines* in May 2012, the first time this conference will be held in Canada.

[read more](#)

### [AIGEIOS lecture series 2011](#)

German Archaeological Institute at Athens

Deadline: **15 July 2011**

The AIGEIOS lecture series at the German Archaeological Institute at Athens, offers a forum in particular for younger scholars, who wish to present their research – results, preliminary results and/or approaches – to and discuss them with a critical audience.

[read more](#)

## 9. GRANTS/BURSARIES & JOB VACANCIES

### [Provenance research on Cypriot pottery classes circulating in the Eastern Mediterranean during the Bronze and early Iron Age](#)

Deadline: **30 April 2011**

The main scope of the research project is a contribution to the understanding of the long-distance exchange in the Eastern Mediterranean during the Bronze and early Iron Age. More specifically, the project aims at elucidating the provenance of Cypriot pottery classes circulating in the Eastern Mediterranean during this particular time span, by determining the regional isotopic fingerprint of Cyprus.

[read more](#)

### [A study of the use of copper alloys through time in the Eastern Mediterranean](#)

Deadline: **31 May 2011**

This research fellowship (equivalent to PhD research) focuses on identifying and interpreting patterns in copper alloy composition used from the Bronze Age up to the Medieval period in the eastern Mediterranean, looking at geographical preferences as well as changes over time.

[read more](#)

### [Ancient urban metallurgy in the Eastern Mediterranean](#)

Deadline: **31 May 2011**

This research fellowship (equivalent to PhD research) focuses on a study of the technology of processing of copper-based alloys to produce, repair and recycle artefacts, from the Bronze Age to the Medieval Period in the eastern Mediterranean.

[read more](#)

## 10. MISCELLANEA

### Archaeologists uncover evidence of a Minoan presence among ancient Canaanites

Dan McLerran, *Popular Archaeology*, 11-04-2011

A recent and ongoing excavation at the remains of an expansive Middle Bronze Age Canaanite palace in the western Galilee region of present-day Israel is opening a new window on the possible presence of ancient Minoans at an ancient Canaanite palace, revealing what may be the earliest known Western art found in the eastern Mediterranean. Known as Tel Kabri (located near its namesake kibbutz not far from historic Acco and the resort town of Nahariya on the coast of Israel), the site features an early Middle Bronze Age (MB I) palace dated to the 19th century B.C.E., making it, along with ancient Aphek and possibly Megiddo, the earliest MB palace discovered in present-day Israel. This conclusion was drawn as a result of excavations conducted there as recently as December 20, 2010 to January 10, 2011.

[Read more](#)



### Χανιά 1500 π.Χ.

N. Kontrarou-Rassia, *Ελευθεροτυπία*, 13-04-2011

Τους τάφους των πρώτων Μυκηναίων που κατέκτησαν την Κρήτη τον 15ο αιώνα π.Χ. έχει βρει στην περιοχή Δικαστηρίων στα Χανιά η γεν. διευθύντρια Αρχαιοτήτων Μαρία Ανδρεαδάκη-Βλαζάκη. «Το εύρημα είναι μοναδικό στην Κρήτη και οι 60 τάφοι που έχουν ανασκαφεί αποτελούν ένα σημαντικό μνημειακό σύνολο για την ιστορία και την αρχαιολογική έρευνα του νησιού», υποστήριξε στο Κεντρικό Αρχαιολογικό Συμβούλιο. Εισηγήθηκε την αναγκαστική απαλλοτρίωση των δύο οικοπέδων (3.100 τ.μ.) που βρίσκονται στο κέντρο της πόλης (οδός Ηγουμενίου Γαβριήλ 73-77) με σκοπό την ανάδειξη του αρχαιολογικού χώρου και την ενοποίησή του με το γειτονικό αλσύλλιο πίσω από το δικαστικό μέγαρο.

[Read more](#)

### Linear B tablet found at Iklaina (Peloponnese)

Ker Than, *National Geographic News*, 30-03-2011

Marks on a clay tablet fragment found in Greece are the oldest known decipherable text in Europe, a new study says. Considered "magical or mysterious" in its time, the writing survives only because a trash heap caught fire some 3,500 years ago, according to researchers. Found in an olive grove in what's now the village of [Iklaina \(map\)](#), the tablet was created by a Greek-speaking Mycenaean scribe between 1450 and 1350 B.C., archaeologists say. So far, excavations at Iklaina have yielded evidence of an early Mycenaean palace, giant terrace walls, murals, and a surprisingly advanced drainage system, according to dig director Michael Cosmopoulos. But the tablet, found last summer, is the biggest surprise of the multiyear project, Cosmopoulos said.

[Read more](#)

See also the article at [New York Times](#)



### More on the Iklaina tablet

Michael Cosmopoulos and Cynthia Shelmerdine, *AegeaNet*, 06-04-2011

Dear colleagues,  
Thank you for sharing our excitement at the discovery of a Linear B tablet from Iklaina. In the last few days it has led to some good publicity for the Aegean Bronze Age. But since media reports rarely transmit information with complete accuracy, we'd like to offer the following brief account of the context and content of the tablet. A full publication will appear as soon as practicable by Cynthia Shelmerdine.

[Read more](#)

## Θολωτοί τάφοι στην περιοχή του Αερινού (Νομός Μαγνησίας)

Ταχυδρόμος, 27-03-2011

Εξαιρετικής σημασίας ευρήματα αποτελούν οι εντυπωσιακοί αρχαίοι τάφοι που αποκαλύφθηκαν στην περιοχή του Αερινού, ανάγονται σε διάφορες χρονικές περιόδους και θα αποτελέσουν επισκέψιμα μνημεία, προσελκύοντας το ενδιαφέρον των απανταχού φίλων του πολιτισμού. Οι εργασίες ανάδειξης θα ξεκινήσουν άμεσα με πόρους του ΕΣΠΑ, ενώ έχει ήδη πραγματοποιηθεί η σχετική προεργασία από τους ιθύνοντες της ΙΓ' Εφορείας Προϊστορικών και Κλασικών Αρχαιοτήτων. Στην χορεία των πολύ σημαντικών αρχαίων μνημείων της περιοχής εντάσσονται, ειδικότερα, οι θολωτοί, λακκοειδείς αλλά και κιβωτιόσχημοι τάφοι που ανακαλύφθηκαν στην περιοχή του Αερινού, στο πλαίσιο των έργων διαπλάτυνσης της εθνικής οδού, που πραγματοποιήθηκαν στην χρονική περίοδο 1995 - 1999. Τα εν λόγω μνημεία, που ανάγονται στην Μυκηναϊκή και την Πρωτογεωμετρική - Γεωμετρική εποχή, βρίσκονται στον αρχαιολογικό χώρο του Αερινού, στην περιοχή του κόμβου Αερινού και δίνουν πολύ σημαντικές πληροφορίες για την μακραίωνη ιστορική πορεία της συγκεκριμένης περιοχής.

[Read more](#)



## Our ancestors lived on shaky ground

University of York, 03-03-2011

Scientists find link between tectonically active landscapes and ancient sites. Our earliest ancestors preferred to settle in locations that have something in common with cities such as San Francisco, Naples and Istanbul – they are often on active tectonic faults in areas that have an earthquake risk or volcanoes, or both.

[Read more](#)

## Oldest evidence of arrows found

Victoria Gill, *BBC News*, 26-08-2010

Researchers in South Africa have revealed the earliest direct evidence of human-made arrows. The scientists unearthed 64,000 year-old "stone points", which they say were probably arrow heads. Closer inspection of the ancient weapons revealed remnants of blood and bone that provided clues about how they were used. The team reports its findings in the journal *Antiquity*. The arrow heads were excavated from layers of ancient sediment in Sibudu Cave in South Africa. During the excavation, led by Professor Lyn Wadley from the University of the Witwatersrand, the team dug through layers deposited up to 100,000 years ago.

[Read more](#)



## 8,000-year-old remains of early Anatolians discovered in Istanbul

*Hurriyet Daily News and Economic Review*, 28-03-2011

Two skeletons dating back 8,500 years, making them the oldest ever found in what is now Turkey, have been discovered during archaeological excavations in Istanbul's Yenikapı area. "Such remains have not been discovered during the excavation before; these are the oldest graves in Anatolia," said Dr. Yasemin Yılmaz, an expert on anthropology and prehistory, who expressed excitement about the find. According to Yılmaz, the use of wooden blocks – preserved to this day – to cover the coffins makes them distinctive from other finds.

[Read more](#)

## Study questions how long ago ancient ancestors learned to use fire

*The Washington Post, 14/03/2011*

A new study is raising questions about when ancient human ancestors in Europe learned to control fire, one of the most important steps on the long path to civilization. A review of 141 archaeological sites across Europe shows habitual use of fire beginning between 300,000 and 400,000 years ago, according to a paper in Tuesday's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Most archeologists agree that the use of fire is tied to colonization outside Africa, especially in Europe where temperatures fall below freezing, wrote Wil Roebroeks of Leiden University in the Netherlands and Paola Villa of the University of Colorado.

[Read more](#)

See also: <http://www.sciencecentric.com>



## Was Lost City of Atlantis Found in Spanish Marsh?

*Lisa Holewa, AOL News, 13/03/2011*

Crime solvers follow the money, but experts searching for the lost city of Atlantis? In archaeology, "you should follow the stones," Richard Freund said. Freund, a University of Hartford professor, believes he and his research team have found the legendary island-city described by Plato in about 360 B.C. as having "in a single day and night ... disappeared into the depths of the sea." Using satellite photography, ground-penetrating radar, underwater technology and some old-fashioned reasoning, Freund said his team pinpointed the city in a vast marsh in southern Spain that dries out one month a year. Their findings are featured in a National Geographic special premiering tonight, "Finding Atlantis."

[Read more](#)

## Ακρωτήρι Θήρας. Σκεπάστηκε... με χώμα το πρωτοποριακό στέγαστρο

*Έθνος, 15/03/2011*

Ο αρχαιολογικός χώρος στο Ακρωτήρι Σαντορίνης θα λειτουργήσει μέσα στο 2011. Αν, μάλιστα, τηρηθούν τα χρονοδιαγράμματα, ίσως αυτό γίνει εφικτό και μέσα στην τουριστική περίοδο, την οποία θα ωφελούσε ιδιαίτερα ένα τέτοιο γεγονός. Παρ' όλα αυτά, κάποιιοι επιμένουν ότι ο χώρος θα ανοίξει την επόμενη χρονιά. Το Ακρωτήρι, πάντως, έχει περισσότερους από ένα εκατομμύριο επισκέπτες ετησίως. Οπως σημειώνει ο βραβευμένος αρχιτέκτονας του στέγαστρου, Νίκος Φιντικάκης, η μέχρι τώρα πρόοδος των εργασιών δείχνει πως το έργο θα παραδοθεί στις 31 Μαΐου, όπως προβλέπεται από τη σύμβαση ανάμεσα στην Αρχαιολογική Εταιρεία και στον εργολάβο.

[Read more](#)



## Το νέο Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο του Συλλόγου Ελλήνων Αρχαιολόγων

*Σύλλογος Ελλήνων Αρχαιολόγων, 10-04-2011*

Το νέο Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο του Συλλόγου Ελλήνων Αρχαιολόγων που προέκυψε από τις αρχαιρεσίες της 18ης Μαρτίου 2011 συγκροτήθηκε σε σώμα στη συνεδρίαση της 10ης Απριλίου ως εξής:

Πρόεδρος: Δέσποινα Κουτσούμπα (Εφορεία Εναλίων Αρχαιοτήτων)

Αντιπρόεδρος Β': Αθανασία Ψάλτη (Ι' Εφορεία Προϊστορικών και Κλασικών Αρχαιοτήτων)

Γενικός Γραμματέας: Γεώργιος Ρήγιος (ΑΓ' Εφορεία Προϊστορικών και Κλασικών Αρχαιοτήτων)

Ταμίας: Σωκράτης Κουρσούμης (ΑΖ' Εφορεία Προϊστορικών και Κλασικών Αρχαιοτήτων)

Οργανωτικός Γραμματέας: Μαρία Κουτσουμπού (ΚΑ' Εφορεία Προϊστορικών και Κλασικών Αρχαιοτήτων)

Μετά από απόφαση της πλειοψηφίας του ΔΣ οι θέσεις του Αντιπροέδρου Α' και του Αναπληρωτή Γραμματέα παρέμειναν κενές.

URL: <http://www.sea.org.gr>



## Το «κομπιούτερ» του... Μίνωα

M. Kokolakis, Έθνος, 23-03-2011

Οι Μινωίτες ήταν άριστοι... αστρονόμοι και πρώτοι είχαν ανακαλύψει τον αρχαίο χειροκίνητο υπολογιστή. Μάλιστα η ανακάλυψη αυτή είχε γίνει 1.400 χρόνια πριν από την ανακάλυψη του μηχανισμού των Αντικυθήρων, όπως αποκαλύπτει στο «Έθνος» ο ερευνητής Μηνάς Τσικριτζής, ο οποίος ισχυρίζεται ότι... έθεσε πριν από λίγες ημέρες σε λειτουργία τον αρχαίο υπολογιστή. Ο Κρητικός επιστήμονας, που φέρνει στο φως νέα δεδομένα στον χώρο της έρευνας, εντόπισε πρόσφατα όπως λέει τη «μήτρα» του αρχαίου υπολογιστή σε μινωικό εύρημα, το οποίο βρέθηκε το 1898 στο Παλαίκαστρο Σητείας και φυλάσσεται στο Μουσείο Ηρακλείου.

[Read more](#)



## Νήμα 7.000 ετών σε ελληνικό σπήλαιο

X. Nanou, Αγγελιοφόρος, 16-03-2011

Ενα ιδιαίτερα σπάνιο -τουλάχιστον για τα ελληνικά δεδομένα- εύρημα κρυβόταν στο εσωτερικό σπηλαίου της Κεφαλλονιάς. Η εργαστηριακή εξέταση μάζας χύματος από το σπήλαιο αποκάλυψε στα έκπληκτα μάτια των ερευνητών ένα απανθρακωμένο νήμα μήκους μόλις ενός χιλιοστού, η ηλικία του οποίου υπολογίζεται ότι φτάνει τα 7.000 χρόνια! Σύμφωνα με τους αρχαιολόγους, το μικροσκοπικό αυτό εύρημα, που προέρχεται από το Σπήλαιο Δράκαινα του νησιού του Ιονίου, είναι ιδιαίτερα σημαντικό, καθώς δείχνει ότι οι άνθρωποι των νεολιθικών χρόνων στην Ελλάδα μπορούσαν να γνέθουν κλωστές και να υφαινούν υφάσματα. Μαζί με το νήμα εντοπίστηκαν, επίσης, απανθρακωμένα διατροφικά κατάλοιπα (οστά, σπόροι και άλλα φυτικά υπολείμματα) που χρονολογούνται στα τέλη της 6ης χιλιετίας π.Χ.

[Read more](#)

## Στην τελική ευθεία το Αρχαιολογικό

Μουσείο Θήβας

M. Thermou, Το Βήμα, 16/03/2011

Ενα υπερσύγχρονο μουσειακό συγκρότημα ολοκληρώνεται αυτή τη στιγμή στη Θήβα για να αναδείξει τη διαχρονικότητα του πολιτισμού της Βοιωτίας από τους Προϊστορικούς χρόνους ως και τη Μεταβυζαντινή εποχή. Πήλινες πινακίδες που φέρουν χαραγμένη τη Γραμμική Β γραφή, δεκάδες σφραγίσματα και λεπτοτεχνήματα από χρυσάφι, ελεφαντόδοντο, λαζουρίτη και άλλα πολύτιμα πετράδια της Μυκηναϊκής εποχής, πρωτόγνωρα αρχαϊκά γλυπτά και σκεύη, πλήθος αφιερωμάτων από τα μεγάλα ιερά του Απόλλωνα, των Καβίρων, των Θεομοφόρων θεοτήτων Δήμητρας και Κόρης και του τεμένους του Ηρακλή και των τέκνων του, επιτύμβιες στήλες, πήλινα αριστουργήματα ειδωλοπλαστικής της κατεχοχίν παραγωγής της αρχαίας βοιωτικής τέχνης περιμένουν την έκθεσή τους στις νέες εγκαταστάσεις.

[Read more](#)



## Λαθρανασκαφές στην Κνωσό

M. Kontorou, news247, 16/03/2011

Μία πολύ περίεργη υπόθεση έχει ταραξει τις τελευταίες ημέρες τους αρχαιολόγους του Ηρακλείου, καθώς το περασμένο Σάββατο η ΚΓ' Εφορία Κλασικών Αρχαιοτήτων δέχτηκε καταγγελία, η οποία έκανε λόγο για λαθρανασκαφή σε αγροτεμάχιο, δίπλα στις αρχαιότητες της Κνωσού, στην περιοχή "Μπουγάδα Μετόχι". Ο φύλακας του αρχαιολογικού χώρου διαπίστωσε ότι εντός του αγροτεμαχίου είχαν εκτελεστεί εκσκαφές, πιθανότατα προς αναζήτηση αρχαιοτήτων. Η προϊσταμένη της ΚΓ' Εφορίας, Αθανασία Κάντα συνοδευόμενη από το φύλακα έσπευσε στο σημείο και διαπίστωσε ιδίους όμμασι το τί είχε συμβεί. Αμέσως ειδοποίησε την αστυνομία, άνδρες της οποίας έφθασαν στο σημείο, έκαναν αυτοψία, όμως το περιστατικό δεν κατεγράφη ποτέ στα αστυνομικά συμβάντα.

[Read more](#)

## 2. εκ. € για μουσείο-στολίδι

A. Kotti, Έθνος, 30-03-2011

Ένα νέο μουσείο, σύγχρονο και εξοπλισμένο με όλα τα απαραίτητα μέσα για άψογη λειτουργία θα αποκτήσει ο Διρός. Το Νεολιθικό Μουσείο που υπάρχει θα δώσει τη θέση του σε καινούργιο κτίριο που θα αποτελεί καύχημα για την περιοχή καθώς και για την παλαιοανθρωπολογία-σπηλαιολογία. Η μελέτη θα ενταχθεί στο ΕΣΠΑ, λείει στο «Έθνος» η έφορος Παλαιοανθρωπολογίας - Σπηλαιολογίας Νοτίου Ελλάδος κ. Νίνα Κυπαρίσση-Αποστολικά. Η προμελέτη εξετάστηκε από το Κεντρικό Αρχαιολογικό Συμβούλιο και περιλαμβάνει και παρεμβάσεις στον περιβάλλοντα χώρο. Τα Σπήλαια Αλεπότρυπα, Καταφύγι και Γλυφάδα βρίσκονται στη νότια πλευρά του κόλπου Διρού Μάνης, 83 χλμ. νοτιοανατολικά της Σπάρτης. Στο σπήλαιο Αλεπότρυπα η αρχαιολογική έρευνα των τελευταίων 40 ετών υπό τον Γ. Παπαθανασόπουλο έχει αποκαλύψει πλούσιες ανθρωπογενείς επιχώσεις της Νεότερης και Τελικής Νεολιθικής περιόδου (5300-3200 π.Χ.). Ο πλούτος των ευρημάτων οδήγησε στη δημιουργία χώρων αποθήκευσης, εργαστηρίων συντήρησης και μικρού μουσείου στον χώρο εισόδου του σπηλαίου. Αυτό ακριβώς πρόκειται να αντικατασταθεί τώρα.

[Read more](#)



### Lewis Binford passed away

Official information by his wife Sally Binford:  
Lewis Roberts Binford, born November 21, 1931 to Joseph Lewis Binford and Eoline (Roberts) Binford in Norfolk, VA, died on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 6:10pm (officially declared at 6:30pm) in the house he designed and shared with me in Kirksville, MO. Lew was 79 years old last November. Martha Binford, Roz Hunter-Anderson, and I were all present at the time of his death. He passed very peacefully – breathing which had been labored much of the day became slow and shallow and then just stopped. Lew is survived by me & his daughter, Martha Binford (of Belen, NM).

Read also: <http://www.smu.edu/>

## Ιερό Κορυφής Βρύσινα: Δέκα Χρόνια Έρευνας

28-29 May 2011, University of Crete, Rethymnon

Η ερευνητική ομάδα του Τμήματος Ιστορίας και Αρχαιολογίας του Πανεπιστημίου Κρήτης που έχει αναλάβει τη μελέτη του Ιερού Κορυφής του Βρύσινα στο πλαίσιο του Τομέα Αρχαιολογίας και Ιστορίας της Τέχνης οργανώνει διημερίδα στις 28-29 Μαΐου 2011 για την παρουσίαση των αποτελεσμάτων της μέχρι τώρα έρευνας. Στη θέση Άγιο Πνεύμα όπου εντοπίζεται το Ιερό Κορυφής διεξάγεται συστηματική ανασκαφή από κοινού με την ΚΕ΄ Εφορεία (υπό την ευθύνη της Ελένης Παπαδοπούλου) ενώ εκ παραλλήλου πραγματοποιείται εντατική επιφανειακή έρευνα γύρω από τον λόφο του ιερού (Κ. Σμπόνιας) και γεωμορφολογική μελέτη (Ν. Κραχτοπούλου). Τέλος η δημοσίευση του υλικού από την ανασκαφή Δαβάρα του 1973 βρίσκεται σε προχωρημένο στάδιο.

[Read the whole announcement \(in Greek\)](#)



### The Pre-Neolithic in the Troodos Mountains of Cyprus

*Past Horizons, 20-03-2011*

Archaeologists working at the pre-Neolithic site of *Rhoudias*, situated in the south foothills of the Troodos Mountains next to the Xenos river in Cyprus have recently revealed that this site was repeatedly visited by groups of hunter-gatherers. The field season was conducted in late November 2010 by a group of postgraduate students from the University of Thessaloniki along with other Cypriot archaeologists and researchers. The director, Professor Nikolaos Efstratiou said the site was part of a route from the coast to the mountains and vice-versa where hunter-gatherers would stay for short periods of time on the journey.

[Read more](#)

## Σπήλαιο με μυκηναϊκά ευρήματα στην Κάρλα (Μαγνησία)

Ταχυδρόμος, 03-04-2011

Ανασκαφικές έρευνες διεξάγονται για πρώτη φορά από την Εφορεία Παλαιοανθρωπολογίας - Σπηλαιολογίας Βόρειας Ελλάδος σε πολύ σημαντικό σπήλαιο της Μαγνησίας, το οποίο μετράει χιλιάδες χρόνια ζωής. Στόχος των ερευνών είναι η ανάδειξη και προστασία του συγκεκριμένου σπηλαίου, το οποίο βρίσκεται στην περιοχή του Αγίου Αθανασίου, στην Δημοτική Ενότητα Κάρλας και έχει πληγεί από την δράση αγνώστων. Σύμφωνα με τα μέχρι τώρα στοιχεία που έχουν στην διάθεσή τους οι αρχαιολόγοι, υπάρχουν σαφή δείγματα χρήσης του σπηλαίου κατά την μυκηναϊκή, αλλά και την νεολιθική περίοδο, ενώ σύμφωνα με γραπτές αναφορές του αείμνηστου Δημήτρη Θεοχάρη, εντοπίστηκαν τη δεκαετία του '60 και ευρήματα της παλαιολιθικής περιόδου, χρονολόγηση που δεν επιβεβαιώνεται επί του παρόντος από τα ως τώρα ευρήματα. Στις προθέσεις της Εφορείας Παλαιοανθρωπολογίας - Σπηλαιολογίας Βόρειας Ελλάδος είναι να κηρυχθεί αρχαιολογικός χώρος, προκειμένου να διαφυλαχθεί από την καταστροφική δράση των λαθρανασκαφών, η οποία έχει προκαλέσει σημαντικές φθορές στο συγκεκριμένο σπήλαιο.

[Read more](#)



## The Cultural Heritage of Water

Athens, Greece, 17-18 April 2011

Three events will be held in Athens to celebrate the International Day of Monuments, this year dedicated to the cultural heritage of the water.

[Programme](#)



## Announcement for a four-week Field Project in 3d Laser Scanning and Recording at Eleusina, Greece, May 20-June 16 2011

Initiative for Heritage Conservancy

The four-week programme will introduce students to a broad range of 3D recording, mapping and visualization methods. Students will be given hands-on instruction in these methods in the context of the major ancient Greek archaeological site of Eleusis. Eleusis is world famous as the location of the ancient Eleusinian Mysteries believed to derive from religious practices of the Mycenaean era (1,800-1,200 BCE). The mysteries were performed annually in honor of Demeter, goddess of agriculture and fertility, and her daughter Persephone, and soon became one of the most renowned Athenian religious festivals, that prepared the initiates for the afterlife; it was open to men, women, and even slaves. Eleusis is located some 14 miles (27 km) northwest of Athens opposite the island of Salamis, birthplace of the tragic poet Aeschylus (525/4-456/5 BCE). During this intensive four-week field programme, the students will record the site's extensive architectural remains using terrestrial laser scanning and photogrammetry.

A number of partial grants for the first five good applicants are available.

There are also a small number of full grants.

Application deadline: April 20

For further details on the course, application procedure and the scholarships contact Nota Pantzou at [pantzou\[at\]inherity.org](mailto:pantzou[at]inherity.org)

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

## Απαλλοτριώσεις ύψους 2,5 εκατ. ευρώ για την αρχαία Κυδωνία (Χανιά)

*In.gr, 11-04-2011*

Μια σημαντική απόφαση που αφορά στις αρχαιότητες της δυτικής Κρήτης πήρε το Κεντρικό Αρχαιολογικό Συμβούλιο (ΚΑΣ), την περασμένη Τρίτη 5 Απριλίου. Πρόκειται για την έγκριση της απαλλοτρίωσης δύο ακινήτων, που βρίσκονται στην περιοχή των Δικαστηρίων της πόλης των Χανίων, όπου έχουν ανακαλυφθεί μερικά από τα σημαντικότερα ευρήματα της αρχαίας Κυδωνίας. Η Κυδωνία βρισκόταν στα σημερινά Χανιά και, σύμφωνα με τον Στράβωνα, ήταν η τρίτη μεγαλύτερη πόλη της Κρήτης. Ανασκαφές που έγιναν στον παραλιακό λόφο «Καστέλι» και στη συνοικία «Σπλάντζια» έχουν φέρει στο φως ευρήματα από όλες τις χρονολογικές φάσεις του μινωικού πολιτισμού (3650-1070 π.Χ.). Τα περισσότερα ανήκουν στην Υστερομινωική περίοδο (β' μισό της 2ης χιλιετίας π.Χ.).

[Read more](#)

## Κύθηρα: Ανασκαφή στη θέση «Άγιος Γεώργιος στο Βουνό»

*Ναυτεμπορική, 11-04-2011*

Μια σπουδαία ανασκαφή, αυτή στη θέση «Άγιος Γεώργιος στο Βουνό» Κυθήρων, πρόκειται να επαναληφθεί, μετά από απόφαση του Κεντρικού Αρχαιολογικού Συμβουλίου ΚΑΣ, που συνεδρίασε την Τρίτη 5 Απριλίου. Το αίτημα, που ήρθε από το Τμήμα Ιστορίας, Αρχαιολογίας και Διαχείρισης Πολιτισμικών Αγαθών του Πανεπιστημίου Πελοποννήσου, εγκρίθηκε ομόφωνα από τα μέλη του Συμβουλίου, καθώς αφορά ένα από τα σημαντικότερα μινωικά ιερά κορυφής, το μοναδικό που έχει βρεθεί εκτός Κρήτης. Πρόκειται στην ουσία για τη συνέχιση της ανασκαφής του αείμνηστου Γιάννη Σακελλαράκη, που είχε πραγματοποιηθεί μεταξύ 1992 και 1994 και η οποία έφερε στην επιφάνεια πολλά σπάνια ευρήματα. "Στο ιερό κορυφής των Κυθήρων, πέρα από τα συνήθη σε ιερά κορυφής ευρήματα της κεραμικής και των ανθρωπίνων και ζωόμορφων ειδωλίων, βρέθηκε και ένας πολύ μεγάλος αριθμός (86) χάλκινων ειδωλίων λατρευτών, εξαιρετικά σπάνιων σε άλλες θέσεις εν γένει", δήλωσε στο ΑΠΕ-ΜΠΕ η κ. Αιμιλία Μπάνου, επίκουρη καθηγήτρια του Πανεπιστημίου Πελοποννήσου, υπό τη διεύθυνση της οποίας θα γίνουν οι ανασκαφές.

[Read more](#)



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