



Cypriot archaeology, pre-modern material culture, and cultural heritage in the UK

Friday, 5 April 2019

**Auditorium G6 and A.G. Leventis Gallery,
Institute of Archaeology
University College London**

Programme & Abstracts

Convenors:

Dr Maria Dikomitou-Eliadou, UCL Institute of Archaeology
Dr Marios Psaras, High Commission of Cyprus in the UK
Dr Thomas Kiely, British Museum



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**Cypriot archaeology, pre-modern material culture,
and cultural heritage in the UK**

*The symposium will be inaugurated on **Thursday, 4th of April 2019**, at 18:30
with a keynote lecture by*

Dr Jennifer M. Webb

*Adjunct Professor, Department of Archaeology, La Trobe University, Melbourne &
Senior Research Fellow, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus*

“Cyprus in the Middle Bronze Age:

New evidence from the Anglo-Cypriot excavations at Lapithos in 1913”

*The lecture will be hosted at the High Commission of Cyprus,
13 St. James’s Square, SW1Y 4LB*

Friday, 5th April 2019

**Auditorium G6 and A.G. Leventis Gallery, Institute of Archaeology
University College London**

Symposium programme

08:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:10 Welcome addresses

SESSION 1: COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES OF CYPRIOT ANTIQUITIES AND RELATED STUDIES

Chairperson: Dr Thomas Kiely, British Museum

9:10-9:25 The use of an Erbium: YAG laser in the removal of biological growth from polychrome archaeological terracotta and limestone figurines from Cyprus

Dr Lucía Pereira-Pardo, Dr Duygu Camurcuoglu, Miriam Orsini, Stephanie Vasiliou, Dr Kasia Weglowska, Dr Thomas Kiely & Dr Capucine Korenberg

British Museum, UK

9:25-9:40 The Collection of Cypriot Antiquities at the Ashmolean – History, content, digitisation

Dr Anja Ulbrich

Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Oxford, UK

9:40-9:50 The Kent Collection in Harrogate

Anna Reeve

University of Leeds, UK

- 9:50-10:05 Object handling with 3D prints of Kamelarga figurines**
Prof. Amy C. Smith & Claudina Romero Mayorga
 Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, University of Reading, UK
- 10:05-10:15 Q&As**
- 10:15-10:30 Investigating ancient Cypriot food practices and diets as part of the narratives developed for the ‘Being an Islander’: Art and Identity of the large Mediterranean Islands’ exhibition (Fitzwilliam Museum, September 2021)**
Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou, The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, UK & Dr Evi Margaritis, The Cyprus Institute, Cyprus
- 10:30-10:45 From Cyprus to Egypt, from Egypt to the United Kingdom: Tracing Cypriot antiquities in the UK**
Dr Giorgos Bourogiannis
 National Hellenic Research Foundation, Greece
- 10:45-11:00 Wilhelm Deecke’s bequest at the Bibliothèque Nationale et Universitaire de Strasbourg: a glimpse into 19th cent. archaeological investigations in Cyprus**
Dr Artemis Karnava
 Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Germany
- 11:00-11:10 Q&As**
- 11:10-11:30 Coffee break**

SESSION 2: CHALCOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE CYPRUS IN THE UK

Chairperson: Dr Jennifer M. Webb, La Trobe University and University of Cyprus

- 11:30-11:40 Textiles are in the details. Looking for a Chalcolithic ‘textile culture’**
Giulia Muti
 University of Manchester, UK
- 11:40-11:55 Excavating a looted cemetery: methods and results from Chalcolithic Souskiou-Laona**
Dr Lindy Crewe
 The Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, Cyprus
- 11:55-12:05 Picrolite: the chaîne opératoire in a practical approach**
Elizabeth Cory-Lopez
 Independent Researcher, UK
- 12:05-12:15 Exploring changes in activity patterns among Cypriot Chalcolithic and Bronze Age communities**
Martina Monaco
 University of Sheffield, UK
- 12:15-12:25 Q&As**

- 12:25-12:35 Is it an “elite” world? Unfolding the deathways at the Prehistoric Bronze Age Cemetery of Vounous, Cyprus**
Rafael Laoutari
University of Cambridge, UK
- 12:35-12:45 Burials, Bodies and Objects: Using the Mortuary Record to Interpret Bronze Age Identity on Cyprus**
Sarah Douglas
University of Manchester, UK
- 12:45-13:00 Early and Middle Bronze Age Lapithos X-rayed: The ReCyPot project**
Dr Maria Dikomitou-Eliadou
University College London, UK
- 13:00-13:10 Q&As**
- 13:10-14:10 Lunch break**

SESSION 3: UK-BASED STUDIES OF BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE CYPRUS ON LAND AND IN THE SEA

Chairperson: Dr Lindy Crewe, The Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute

- 14:10-14:25 Of opium and oil: detection of alkaloids in a Cypriot base-ring juglet**
Dr Rebecca J. Stacey, British Museum & *Dr Rachel K. Smith & Prof. Jane Thomas-Oates*, University of York, UK
- 14:25-14:40 Opium abuse in ancient Cyprus? Out of context, it’s just fake news**
Dr Lesley Bushnell
Independent Researcher, UK
- 14:40-14:50 Hierarchy and heterarchy, a brief re-exploration of Cypriot socio-political organisation in the Late Bronze Age**
Thomas Humphrey
University of Wales Trinity St David, UK
- 14:50-15:00 Q&As**
- 15:00-15:10 To fish or not to fish: The case study of fishing communities in Cyprus**
Maria Michael
University of Southampton, UK
- 15:10-15:20 Shipshape: Re-examining the role of terracotta boat models in Late Bronze and Iron Age Cyprus**
Mark Dolan
University of Southampton, UK
- 15:20-15:30 Deep-Sea archaeology in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Cyprus**
Achilleas Iasonos
University of Oxford, UK
- 15:30-15:40 Q&As**
- 15:40-16:00 Coffee break**

SESSION 4: BRINGING TOGETHER ANCIENT AND LATE ANTIQUE CYPRUS

Chairperson: Dr Athanasios Vionis, University of Cyprus

16:00-16:10 Revisiting data from old excavations: discovering the rediscoveries in the Amathous eastern necropolis

Elisavet Stefani

University of Cyprus, Cyprus

16:10-16:25 Cyprus' status and identity as a copper landscape in the Roman Empire

Dr Ersin Hussein

Swansea University, UK

16:25-16:40 Old excavations, new biographies: bringing Kourion's Amathous Gate cemetery back to life

Dr Michael Given

University of Glasgow, UK

16:40-16:55 Sculptural decoration of Cypriot bath buildings in Roman and Late Roman times

Dr Panagiotis Panayides

University of Oxford, UK

16:55-17:05 Q&As

SESSION 5: SACRED CYPRIOT LANDSCAPES

Chairperson: Dr Michael Given, University of Glasgow

17:05-17:20 New insights into the religious landscape of Late Antique Cyprus

Dr Georgios Deligiannakis

Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus

17:20-17:30 Heritagisation of Byzantine Churches: an unfinished project

Alexis Thouki

University of Sheffield, UK

17:30-17:45 Unlocking the Sacred Landscapes of Cyprus (UnSaLa-CY) – Settled and Sacred Landscapes of Cyprus (SeSaLaC): Two interconnected Cyprus-based Projects

Dr Giorgos Papantoniou & Dr Athanasios K. Vionis, University of Cyprus & Dr Doria Nicolaou, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany

17:45-18:00 Q&As and Closing remarks



SESSION 1: COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES OF CYPRIOT ANTIQUITIES AND RELATED STUDIES

The use of an Erbium: YAG laser in the removal of biological growth from polychrome archaeological terracotta and limestone figurines from Cyprus

Dr Lucía Pereira-Pardo, Dr Duygu Camurcuoglu, Miriam Orsini, Stephanie Vasiliou, Dr Kasia Weglowska, Dr Thomas Kiely & Dr Capucine Korenberg*
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The British Museum holds a large and archaeologically important collection of painted terracotta and limestone figurines from ancient Cyprus. These have been the subject of a collaborative conservation and study programme as part of the Cyprus Digitisation Project. The figurines were covered by dark and ingrained speckles of biological growth, possibly linked to inappropriate post-depositional storage conditions. Their appearance was significantly disfigured, obscuring physical features, manufacturing techniques and surviving pigments. Traditional conservation methods proved inefficient at reducing or removing the dark speckles on the terracottas, which led to consider the use of an Erbium laser (Er:YAG), since this technique had been successful in cleaning biological growth from Cypriot polychrome limestone figurines at the BM. This is therefore the first use of such technology on polychrome terracotta. Very satisfactory results were achieved, improving our understanding of archaeological aspects of the objects while also pushing forward conservation science.

The Collection of Cypriot Antiquities at the Ashmolean – History, content, digitisation

*Dr Anja Ulbrich**

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The Ashmolean museum of the University of Oxford holds the second largest collection of Cypriot antiquities, counting some 6800 objects, with more than 70% having a recorded provenance, as they were recovered in British and Cypriot excavations and surveys from the 1880s onwards. Other antiquities in the collection can now be re-contextualised thanks to their unique regional or even local Cypriot styles. This makes the Ashmolean's Cypriot collection one of the most important ones outside Cyprus. The aim of the current Ashmolean Cyprus Digitisation Project, which has been running since 2009, is the systematic digitisation and publication of the collection by find-assemblages as well as thematically, online and in print, so that the material can be included by scholars and excavators into their research. This paper gives a short overview of the history, content, method and results of the project, which runs parallel to and in collaboration with the Cyprus Digitisation Project at the British Museum.

The Kent Collection in Harrogate

*Anna Reeve**

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The Kent Collection consists of around 150 objects from ancient Cyprus, collected by father and son Bramley and Benjamin Kent from the late 19th to the mid 20th centuries, as part of a larger and wide-ranging antiquarian collection. It was bequeathed to Harrogate Borough Council in 1968, and is stored at the town's Mercer Art Gallery. The collection has recently been catalogued and photographed for the Cyprus Institute's project *Cypriot Antiquities in Foreign Museums: The Pittas Registry*. This paper gives an overview of the collection, and also briefly introduces its history. By exploring the networks of excavators, dealers and collectors along which the objects travelled, it helps to locate this collection in the broader history of Cypriot archaeology.

Object handling with 3D prints of Kamelarga figurines

Prof. Amy C. Smith & Claudina Romero Mayorga*
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Taking Kamelarga figurines into the Ure Museum (University of Reading), we are experimenting with the use of 3D prints for object-based teaching, both to broaden our outreach beyond the confines of the museum and to make better use of our Cypriot collection. Our 3D prints of Kamelarga figurines enable learners to engage with the materiality of the figurines themselves—scale, material, iconography, etc.—and to consider their function and symbolic meaning. The offerings each figure holds—shields, animals, food, musical instruments—encourage discussion of religious practice and other aspects of antiquity that are important points of entry to ancient cultures: warfare, food, sacrifice.

We are now on the cusp of the third phase of the project, incorporating the figurines into 'handling sessions' with various audiences. In this paper we consider lessons learned through the three phases of the project: (1) creating 3D replicas; (2) incorporating them into educational activities; (3) assessing audience responses.

Investigating ancient Cypriot food practices and diets as part of the narratives developed for the 'Being an Islander': Art and Identity of the large Mediterranean Islands' exhibition (Fitzwilliam Museum, September 2021)

*Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou**, The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, UK &
Dr Evi Margaritis, The Cyprus Institute, Cyprus
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This paper forms one of the narratives developed for a major exhibition, coming to the Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge in October 2021. The exhibition, *'Being an Islander': Art and Identity of the large Mediterranean Islands*, aims to elucidate what defines island identity in the Mediterranean in the examples of Cyprus, Crete and Sardinia. It will explore how insularity affects and shapes cultural identity and aims to provide a platform to debate cultural evolution in the islands as opposed to the surrounding mainland. *'Being an Islander'*, as a research project preceding the exhibition (2019-2021) will critically re-examine the concept of island life through material culture. It will further attempt to deconstruct the idea of 'insularity' perceived as a form of otherness and isolation. Distinctive archaeological finds and artworks from the three islands shown in the exhibition, Cyprus, Sardinia and Crete, will emphasise the idea of connectivity as an important feature of island life and of the sea as a linking rather than dividing body.

This thematic of the exhibition include settlement evolution and habitation (with special emphasis to the domestic environment and island household economy); divergence or similarities of burial architecture and practices across the three large Mediterranean islands; the study of material culture entities such as ceramics, glass and metalware as indicators of island life and the ways in which insular cultural identities were fashioned, manipulated or even imposed by islanders upon themselves as well as by foreigners. This project will also reconsider material culture as evidence of mobility or as a sign of island isolation. This paper focuses on one of the exhibition's narratives, the study of ancient island food practices, including cultivation, preparation and consumption practices within a specific island, Cyprus. While prior to the 1990's, narratives of food preparation/consumption were limited to the social context of food and drink vessels, used as evidence to communal meals or access of social class to material culture; recently archaeology has produced an immense amount of information for our understanding of consumption in antiquity, while scientific disciplines within archaeology, (archaeozoology and archaeobotany) have helped answer questions about ancient diets, their variations and impact on ancient societies, as well as placed the study of ancient food as a marker of ancient cultural identity. In the last decade, archaeobotanical studies in Cyprus have been the focus of many research and excavation projects, revealing well documented processes during the Neolithic period; or currently investigating Bronze Age agricultural practices, husbandry regimes and the social role of food, during the period of the creation of the first urban centres in the island, as well as investigating environmental conditions during the end of the Late Bronze Age and the otherwise known as "crisis" period in the east Mediterranean.

Very little of this discourse and scientific advances has influenced exhibition narratives or permanent Museum exhibits however; and even less so within museums displaying collections from

the ancient Mediterranean regions. This paper will address this as an important socioeconomic aspect of the study of Antiquity and the archaeology of Cyprus in specific and suggest ways in which exhibitions and Museum projects can include this discourse, with emphasis to the themes of insularity and mobility in the Ancient Mediterranean.

**From Cyprus to Egypt, from Egypt to the United Kingdom:
Tracing Cypriot antiquities in the UK**

*Dr Giorgos Bourogiannis**

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Egypt is a very important source of Cypriot antiquities, which are the tangible reflection of close contacts between the two areas throughout antiquity. A large part of this evidence was produced in the late 19th century during systematic excavations. It was then distributed to museums worldwide, including British institutions. Using Naukratis as a chief case-study, the presentation wishes to highlight potentials for future research on Cypriot antiquities, with a special focus on Cypriot archaeological and textual evidence produced at non-Cypriot contexts around the Mediterranean, and to explore possibilities for comparative studies and collaborative approaches to Cypriot collections from museums and institutions around Europe.

**Wilhelm Deecke's bequest at the Bibliothèque Nationale et Universitaire de Strasbourg: a
glimpse into 19th cent. archaeological investigations in Cyprus**

*Dr Artemis Karnava**

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Wilhelm Deecke (1831-1897) was a philologist, active in Etruscan, Cypriot and Lycian epigraphy. He spent most of his working life in Strasbourg, where he got involved with the study of Cypriot inscriptions from the 1870s onwards. In collaboration with a young scholar, Justus Siegismund (1851-1876), they concluded (one of) the successful decipherments of the Cypriot syllabic script in 1874.

Deecke's working archive is kept at the National and University Library of Strasbourg in France (BNU). It contains, among other material of interest to experts of Italic and Anatolian epigraphy, paper squeezes of Cypriot inscriptions and photographs of archaeological finds, mostly sent to him by Max Ohnefalsch-Richter. The material pertains to the latter's excavations in Geri-Phoenikiais (1883, an excavation commissioned by the British Museum, which is also where the finds are kept), Agia Paraskevi in Nicosia (1884-1885) and Marion (1885-1886).

To my knowledge, the existence of this archive was not known to scholars of Cypriot archaeology or epigraphy, until I recently came across an online catalogue entry by the BNU. It is because libraries and other archival institutions have begun to upload online information about their 'heritage collections', that such precious (for our work) archival material can draw, after more than a century, the attention of scholars who can appreciate and make use of it.

Textiles are in the details. Looking for a Chalcolithic ‘textile culture’

*Giulia Muti**

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Scholars agree that evidence for textile manufacture in Chalcolithic Cyprus is extremely scarce or absent. Nonetheless, textiles are one of the most ancient technologies appearing all over the world, and it is improbable that in Cyprus only non-woven materials were worn until the Bronze Age. With particular reference to the key-site of Kissonerga *Mosphilia*, this paper aims to identify and re-evaluate markers of textile production, starting from artefact analysis (e.g. needles). The concept of ‘textile culture’ (Gleba 2017) will be applied to integrate direct and indirect evidence for textile tools and techniques within the broader social and environmental context of Chalcolithic Cyprus. The definition of a Chalcolithic ‘textile background’ is essential to deepen the nature and extents of changes in textile technology, including tools and resources, occurring at the beginning of the Bronze Age (Philia) and will shed more light on the complex transition between these two periods.

Excavating a looted cemetery: methods and results from Chalcolithic Souskiou-Laona

*Dr Lindy Crewe**

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The partial or wholesale destruction of archaeological sites is ongoing problem in the Near East and eastern Mediterranean. This paper presents the results of fieldwork from the University of Edinburgh’s 2001–2006 excavation at the Middle Chalcolithic (c. 3000 BC) cemetery of Souskiou-*Laona* near Paphos, part of a unique complex of sites comprising a settlement and surrounding extramural cemeteries. These cemeteries were previously thought to have been thoroughly looted for the anthropomorphic figurines and pendants that characterise the period. Our investigations revealed a diverse set of rock-cut features and associated evidence for funerary ritual. Perhaps most striking was the presence of intact features both with and without human interments and/or grave goods. The aim of this paper is to highlight the archaeological possibilities of this type of project in the face of increasing destructions worldwide.

Picrolite: the chaîne opératoire in a practical approach

*Elizabeth Cory-Lopez**

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Picrolite, the native Serpentine of Cyprus, sometimes described as steatite in museum collections, is famed for the ease of its carving and the attractive qualities of the finished result. These properties, which allowed for the flourish in figurative use during the 4th millennium BCE (Early to Middle Chalcolithic Period), also permit the clear retention of toolmarkings, making the material ideal for practical studies in technique and wear using a *Chaîne Opératoire* approach. This presentation highlights elements from a 15-year study programme into prehistoric picrolite carving processes on Cyprus during the Chalcolithic period, and the development of wear patterns in picrolite pendants.

Exploring changes in activity patterns among Cypriot Chalcolithic and Bronze Age communities

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Over the last three decades bioarchaeological research in Cyprus has experienced significant growth. New excavations of funerary contexts have given rise to new data sets and research questions. Greater inclusion of human remains into archaeological studies offers more nuanced insights into patterns of social change across human history, for example through differentiation of activity roles. Unfortunately, the common site-by-site research approach taken in Cypriot bioarchaeology, combined with the application of inconsistent methods to record skeletal data, has prevented the possibility of investigating changing activity patterns among Cypriot prehistoric communities diachronically. My research aims to fill this gap by generating a substantial new dataset with which to explore variation in physical stress among the members of Middle/Late Chalcolithic – Late Bronze Age Cypriot communities. This paper will present the preliminary results derived by the examination of the enthesal and joint modification as well as dental wear undertaken on some of the most representative prehistoric osteological collections from Cyprus.

Is it an “elite” world?

Unfolding the deathways at the Prehistoric Bronze Age Cemetery of Vounous, Cyprus

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The presence of “elites” in ancient societies has been the matter of a long discussion in archaeology. In many cases, their assumed straightforward meaning and repetitive use has resulted in an ill-defined term detached from its socio-cultural framework. Consequently, a re-examination of putative elites through both theoretical discourse and case studies is important. The burials at the PreBA cemetery at *Vounous* have repeatedly been used for designating the social complexity of an emergent Cypriot society. The proposed elites, though, have barely been approached in the framework of the deathways of this community. Delving into the nature of the term “elite” and by systematically analyzing the tomb assemblages at *Vounous*, this paper elucidates the complex relationships that the community negotiates in deathways. It then argues that group identities and the community acquire a primary position in this context and it further suggests a different pathway for the study of “elite” individuals.

Burials, Bodies and Objects: Using the Mortuary Record to Interpret Bronze Age Identity on Cyprus

*Sarah Douglas**

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The difficulties with interpreting the Bronze Age burial record on Cyprus have been well documented and until now, the body of available demographic data for the period has been fairly limited. However, the number of osteologically analysed human remains has substantially grown in recent years, offering a new opportunity for a holistic study of burials, bodies and objects. In this paper, I will present my PhD research into identity on the island, which has used the expanding body of osteological data, as well as material facets of the burial arena as a point of departure. The inclusion of metal-work wear analysis has offered an additional variable for consideration within frequently complex and commingled assemblages. I will outline the current state of demography and offer an insight into meaningful choices in the deposition of burial goods, bodily connections to objects and how this is able to illuminate Bronze Age identity constructs in both life and death.

Early and Middle Bronze Age Lapithos X-rayed: The ReCyPot project

*Dr Maria Dikomitou-Eliadou**
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The ongoing detailed morphological study of the Early and Middle Bronze Age ceramic assemblages from the 1913 and 1917 excavations at the necropolis of Lapithos *Vrysi tou Barba*, undertaken by J.M. Webb, provided the ideal conditions for the implementation of a thorough analytical study of a large, contextualised and well documented ceramic sample from Early and Middle Bronze Age Lapithos. Integrating methods of chemical, mineralogical and microstructural characterisation (including portable ED-XRF, benchtop WD-XRF, NAA and ceramic petrography), ReCyPot aims to assess the extent to which the main wares recognised macroscopically correspond to distinct compositional or technological groups, and to identify compositional differences among pottery that on stylistic criteria is thought to be locally produced at Lapithos and vessels that are understood to be imports from other regions of the island. ReCyPot also seeks to define those compositional and technological elements that form the Lapithos ceramic profile, documenting technological elements of stability and change through time, and considering how these can be comprehended alongside environmental, technological, sociocultural and historical factors that must have had an impact on ceramic production, distribution and consumption.

SESSION 3: UK-BASED STUDIES OF BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE CYPRUS ON LAND AND IN THE SEA

Of opium and oil: detection of alkaloids in a Cypriot base-ring juglet

*Dr Rebecca J. Stacey**, British Museum &
Dr Rachel K. Smith & Prof. Jane Thomas-Oates, University of York, UK
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Cypriot base-ring juglets were widely traded in the eastern Mediterranean in the first half of the Late Bronze Age (1650-1350 BC). Ever since Merrillees [1] proposed a link with opium, based on the shape and decoration of the juglets, efforts have been made to recover chemical evidence to support an association. Few convincing results have emerged, and the theory has been increasingly questioned [2,3]. However, in 2018 new robust evidence for the presence of alkaloids in residue from a juglet (1981,1218.53) in the BM collections was published [4]. Radiography had revealed abundant remains of contents sealed inside: a rare opportunity for chemical analysis of exceptionally well-preserved material. Results from a range of mass spectrometry techniques showed that the residue primarily comprised degraded plant oil, but two opium alkaloids, papaverine and thebaine, were also detected in accordance with ageing experiments indicating that these are the most stable primary opium alkaloids [5].

The results provide a link to the opium poppy for this particular vessel, but the dominance of oil raises important questions. Various interpretations are possible: vessel re-use, content that was not intended to be imbibed, or poppy seed oil rather than opium latex. This paper will present the scientific findings and consider how the results from this one juglet can contribute to the wider debate about the content and function of these vessels.

1. R. Merrillees, *Antiquity*, 1962, 36, 287–292.
2. L. Bushnell, *Precious Commodities BAR*, 2016.
3. S. Bunimovitz and Z. Lederman, *Antiquity*, 2016, 90, 1552–1561.
4. R. Smith et al., *Analyst*, 143, 5127-5136.
5. Z. Chovanec, S. Rafferty, and S. Swiny, *Ethnoarchaeology*, 2012, 4, 5–36.

Opium abuse in ancient Cyprus? Out of context, it's just fake news

*Dr Lesley Bushnell**

Independent Researcher

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When the British Museum study on the detection of opium alkaloids in an ancient Cypriot Base-Ring (BR) juglet was published recently, the press had a field day. With scant reference to the scientific content and conclusions of the paper, The Times (3rd Oct. 2018) reported “An ancient fix” referring to Cyprus’s reputation as a party destination. The Independent headlined with “Flourishing drug trade in the Bronze Age”.

This media sensationalism is largely due to a very engaging theory, formulated by Merrillees, that the Base Ring juglets, resembled inverted poppy seed heads and designed in this manner to advertise their contents i.e., opium. Perpetuated for over 55 years, the theory had very little scientific evidence to back it. Indeed since 2012 new analytical residue analyses points to other, aromatic substances. Perhaps even more fundamental is that archaeological context has been ignored.

In this paper I will present contextual evidence based on over 16,000 Bronze Age juglets. These small, narrow necked containers were designed to contain and dispense small quantities of a luxury, liquid product. I will show how both contextual and textual evidence points to perfumed oil as a likely contender. Juglets were ubiquitous, widely available regardless of age, gender or social level and were most frequently associated with funerary ritual. And such products were traded, exported and consumed around the eastern Mediterranean long before Base Ring ceramics were produced. Far from whole populations getting high on opium, it is more likely that perfumed oil may have been poured out to the tiny jugs to anoint the dead, prosaically preventing unpleasant smells in hot countries. But that is unlikely to make good fake news.

Hierarchy and heterarchy, a brief re-exploration of Cypriot socio-political organisation in the Late Bronze Age

*Thomas Humphrey**

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The current model of socio-political organisation for Late Bronze Age Cyprus (ca. 1750-1100 BC) consists of a four-tiered hierarchy. This model, a development of Hector Catling’s earlier three-tiered system, was put forth in by Keswani in 1993 and modified by Knapp in 1997 has seen little change since. Comparatively little is known about the rural and inland settlements on the island despite these making up all but one of the tiers of the current model. It is the aim of this paper to re-visit our current view of socio-political organisation on Cyprus in light of recent work, in particular the excavation at Aredhiou. The results of this excavation in many ways fail to conform to the current model’s expectations for an ‘agricultural support village’ such evidence of metallurgical activity, a relatively high-status burial, and higher quality architectural remains than one might expect from a small rural settlement.

To fish or not to fish: The case study of fishing communities in Cyprus

*Maria Michael**

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Fishing is an activity that dates from the appearance of human civilization. As a result, fishing gear belongs to the material culture of most peoples. The current paper aims to demonstrate a few aspects of the ongoing PhD thesis entitled “The tradition of fishery and fishing gear on the island of Cyprus”. This research intends to examine the archaeological data of the fishing techniques from sites in Cyprus in an attempt to determine the development of the fishing technologies on the island through time. The fishbone assemblages and the iconographical and written data are a supporting class of evidence, in order to acquire a better general understanding of the developmental phases of the fishing technologies and to discover if the fishing activities influenced on the economy and the daily life of the communities of the island.

Shipshape: Re-examining the role of terracotta boat models in Late Bronze and Iron Age Cyprus

*Mark Dolan**

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Boat models form a distinctive subset within the wider corpus of Cypriot terracottas. Though occasionally cited as direct evidence for naval architecture (e.g. Westerberg 1983; Johnston 1985; Basch 1999) or used as a platform for exploring possible ritual or religious beliefs and practices (e.g. Carbillet 2005; 2011), they remain poorly understood. Some studies have thus pushed boat models towards the periphery of ship imagery analysis (Lopez-Bertran et al. 2008) or omitted them from discussion of votive terracottas (Reyes 1994) despite their funerary, sanctuary and marine depositional contexts. This paper outlines a new study focused on strengthening our understanding of this class of terracotta objects, including their particular social role(s), uneven distribution and high degree of variability. Using the British Museum's collection as a starting point, I aim to give a renewed focus to these objects, thinking about them in fresh ways, including through material, iconographic and statistical lenses.

Deep-Sea archaeology in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Cyprus

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It is a known fact that conducting deep-sea surveys beyond Territorial waters, for investigating Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) is in a sense, unfeasible, too expensive and rather inconvenient. Due to these constraints, maritime archaeology research has largely been focusing in more 'convenient' and 'accessible' waters such as the Territorial Seas. This is unfortunate when considering that UCH finds, in areas such as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), or even beyond such as 'The Area', either remain unexplored, or are mostly under threat by illegal salvagers and other commercial-sector companies. Regardless, in this study it is my intention to argue that it is possible to conduct research, and hence disclose new and unpublished information regarding UCH sites in the deep-seas, by taking advantage of datasets which were already produced by the oil and gas industry, and other commercial sector companies. In my opinion, this approach has not been exploited to its full extent yet.

Revisiting data from old excavations: discovering the rediscoveries in the Amathous eastern necropolis

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The first large-scale excavations organised by the British Museum in Cyprus commenced in 1893 and were funded through a bequest left by Miss Emma Turner. The burial grounds were chosen in all the explored sites of the island as being likely “fruitful” locations, which would supply the museums with intact artefacts. The first site explored by the expedition of the British Museum was Amathous and more than 320 tombs were investigated during the 4 months of the exploration works.

This paper presents new information regarding the tombs excavated by the British Museum expedition and re-excavated by the Department of Antiquities some eight decades later. The identification of the tombs excavated by both the British Museum and the Department of Antiquities was based on visits at the site and the study of the architectural plans obtained by relevant publications and archival sources. The illustrations of the tombs’ plans and sections in the excavators’ notebooks, accompanied by their dimensions, allowed their comparison and identification with the tombs re-excavated by the Department of Antiquities. The purpose of this presentation is to offer an overview of the tombs excavated in the late 19th century and rediscovered in the 1970s. The comparative study of both expeditions’ records will shed new light on the excavation and documentation methods employed with an eight-decade span between them, conducted by two different institutions.

Cyprus’ status and identity as a copper landscape in the Roman Empire

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Cyprus’ copper-rich landscape has long been celebrated as shaping the island’s identity, connectivity and economy in antiquity. Under Roman rule, the abundance and quality of Cyprus’ copper reserves continued to be heavily exploited and praised. Considerable scope to explore the impact of copper on Cypriot identity formation, as well as the island’s wider economic role, in the Roman Empire remains. This paper will present the initial findings of a project that investigates the impact of copper on local identity formation in Roman Cyprus and the wider cultural value of metals in the Roman Empire by drawing upon Pliny the Elder’s *Natural History* to consider the transmission of ideas surrounding Cyprus’ association with copper in antiquity. It will also outline plans to assess the materiality of copper artefacts housed in Swansea University’s Egypt Centre using XRF and SEM analysis to begin exploration of cultural and economic exchanges across the Roman Empire.

Old excavations, new biographies: bringing Kourion’s Amathous Gate cemetery back to life

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The excavations at Kourion’s Amathous Gate Cemetery, directed by the late Dr Danielle Parks of Brock University, Ontario, took place between 1995 and 2000. Two decades later, undertaking the publication of the extensive material and fascinating insights of this Roman-period cemetery has proved both very challenging and very rewarding. Thanks to the intensive work of Dr Chris Mavromatis, we now have a comprehensive stratigraphic analysis, which successfully accommodates the site’s long history of disturbance and the project’s varied recording methods. A team of new specialists has been analysing the pottery, coins, fresco fragments, lamps, glass, human remains, faunal remains, landscape, and much more, bringing fresh insights to this large but difficult body of material. Thanks to the old excavations and the new analysis, we are confident that Kourion’s Amathous Gate Cemetery will

transform our understanding of Kourion in the Roman period, of funerary and commemorative practices, and of the ongoing, often dramatic biography of this rich and meaningful place.

Sculptural decoration of Cypriot bath buildings in Roman and Late Roman times

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In Roman times, visiting the baths was a daily ritual shared by people of all social strata, with a social and cultural aspect. The level of services offered was as much important as the decorative programmes of the buildings; architectural and freestanding sculpture, mosaic floors, wall paintings and other movable equipment were all essential elements of the visual experience and remained so throughout the Roman and Late Roman periods. Archaeological research in Cyprus during the last century has confirmed the everlasting importance of bathing establishments, both public and private, as venues of sculptural display to the end of antiquity. This paper will give an overview of bath sculpture from Cyprus by presenting the evidence from the large urban centres of the island in a comparative approach.

SESSION 5: SACRED CYPRIOT LANDSCAPES

New insights into the religious landscape of Late Antique Cyprus

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My paper will offer new insights into the history of Cyprus pertaining to the transition from polytheism to Christianity in the fourth century AD. I am going to discuss (a) the concept of oneness in the devotion of the supreme deity; (b) the demise of public pagan cult, and (c) the growth of the first Christian communities across the island. Among the key elements of my analysis will be: a group of epigraphic texts containing the religious acclamation *heis theos*; the evidence about the cult of *Theos Hypsistos*, and; a new interpretation of the iconography of the Nea Paphos mosaics. All three special topics will be juxtaposed with the rest of the written and material evidence across the island.

Heritagisation of Byzantine Churches: an unfinished project

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In recent decades the painted Byzantine Churches of Cyprus have seen an unprecedented influx of secularly motivated visitors, with spiritual value being venerated alongside the historical, communal and aesthetic endowment. This fast-growing aestheticization constitutes religious sites a 'third place' balancing between cultural regeneration and spiritual fulfilment. In Cyprus and Europe as is currently the case, curators have difficulties in elaborating that sematic framework which will communicate the deeper meanings of those places, without running the risk of strengthening intercultural stereotypes. This phenomenon derives from the rapid, and thus unsustainable, adaptation of religious sites to a new era underpinned by secular values. This research appraises the morphogenesis of 'heritagization' of Cypriot churches as an unfinished project, calling for a new insight in visitors' conceptual framework. A new theoretical and methodological framework which will investigate how the causalities of structural conditioning shape social interaction and meaning making.

Unlocking the Sacred Landscapes of Cyprus (UnSaLa-CY) – Settled and Sacred Landscapes of Cyprus (SeSaLaC): Two interconnected Cyprus- based Projects

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SeSaLaC is a systematic archaeological survey project of the University of Cyprus, currently undertaking field research in the Xeros River valley in the Larnaka district. The project has recently received an EXCELLENCE HUBS award from the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation to officially collaborate with the international Research Network UnSaLa, under the strand *Unlocking the Sacred Landscapes of Cyprus* (UnSaLa-CY). This paper aims to present a synthesis of the diachronic settlement pattern in the Xeros River valley. After a short introduction on the area and the SeSaLaC project, we attempt to identify and interpret settlement evolution and landscape change in the region, from early prehistory to Late Antiquity, inserting it at the same time within the framework of UnSaLa-CY: Perceiving sacred space as instrumental in forming power relations and the worldview of the ancient Cypriots, UnSaLa-CY elucidates how meanings and identities were diachronically expressed in, or created by, the topographical setting of religion and its material depositions and dedications. Particular emphasis is given to the interaction between political and religious structures.