University of Cyprus
Archaeological Research Unit

58th Public Lecture Series | Winter Semester 2022

The Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus
invites you to an online ZOOM public lecture
on Monday, October 3rd 2022, at 19:30 (EET)

by

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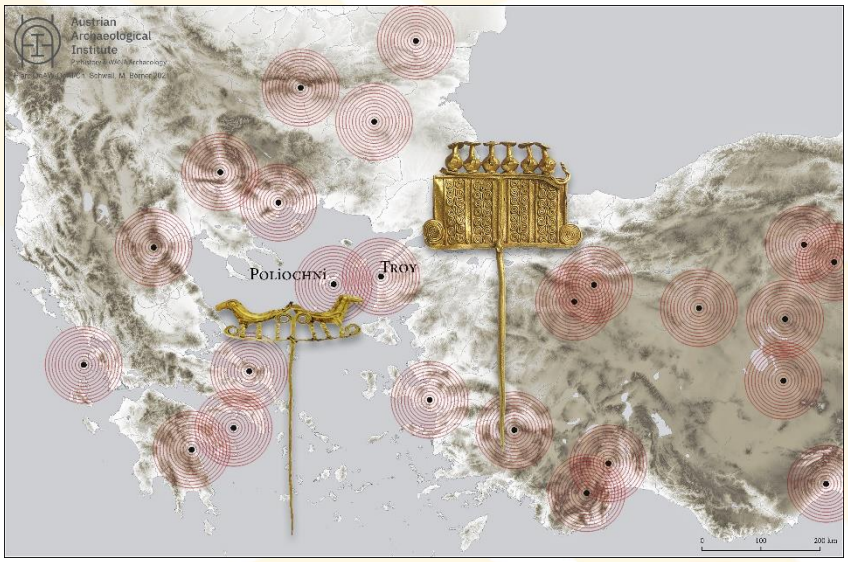
titled:

Golden times: Early Bronze Age gold objects as indicator for long distance trade networks



Summary:
The famous golden 'treasures' of the Early Bronze Age settlements of Troy in western Anatolia have been well known ever since they were discovered during Schliemann's investigations in the 19th century. Chronologically, the bulk of the treasures can be associated with the phases Troy II and III, dating mainly to the 2nd half of the 3rd millennium BC. Remarkable is the enormous number of high-quality gold objects, in particular, vessels and jewellery. The large number of jewellery, partially with fine filigree applications is striking and leads to the question of the people who produced and used these precious objects. Interestingly, the practice of hoarding prestige objects is not known in previous time periods in the Aegean and in western Anatolia. This phenomenon seems to arise with the formation of hierarchical structures and the first 'proto-urban' centres in the developed Early Bronze Age 2. The influence of these centres is indicated by the distribution of gold objects in the Aegean and the adjacent regions. Until today, questions regarding the production and the provenance of the precious gold objects in the Aegean region and its surroundings have remained enigmatic. Therefore, an innovative approach using a portable laser ablation technique was applied to sample material from archaeological objects in several museums and collections, including distinct gold items of the Trojan and Poliochni 'treasures' in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens.

All Monday lectures are free and open to the public, but registration is required for access to the Zoom lecture.
For registration, please, click here: https://ucy.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclcOutqjIuG9b0417NDxxSmK49c50x1XEt