

# INTRODUCTION

After c. 150 years of intensive research, Aegean archaeology is still a vigorous and dynamically developing discipline of broad research interests. These comprise the combination of traditional excavation with scientific methods, research based on large data sets, iconographic and textual studies, studies in religion, gender, technology, and production, socio-cultural and socio-economic analyses, methods of landscape and textile archaeologies, as well as theoretical deliberations. Geographically, investigation of the Bronze Age Aegean has spread off the shores and islands of the Aegean Sea, to the north and south, east and west, comprising now a large area of the eastern Mediterranean.

Being so vibrant and dynamic, the archaeology of the Aegean attracts each year new adepts: scholars and students who enter the discipline with new ideas and research enthusiasm. The *Symposium Egejskie* series is a platform created to present and introduce these new topics, approaches, and methodologies, as well as the achievements of new authors who are at the beginning of their research career as 'Aegeanists'.

It is our great honour to present the second volume of *Symposium Egejskie. Papers in Aegean Archaeology*. This peer-reviewed series was originally created as an answer to the great interest of adepts of the discipline in the *Conferences in Aegean Archaeology* organised by the editors successively since 2013. Although the core of the series derives from the papers presented at the *Conferences in Aegean Archaeology*, it also welcomes other contributions relevant to the Aegean Bronze Age.

The first volume in the series, published in 2017, comprised eight articles exploring a range of topics related to the Aegean region and cultures in the Bronze Age, as well as all connected themes, in this specific case: funerary architecture and ritual practices, Minoan art, the ties linking textile technology and Minoan glyptic, the use of databases in the study of small finds, the 'archaeology of childhood' in Crete and Cyprus, as well as Aegean and western Anatolian networks in the Late Bronze Age.<sup>1</sup>

The present volume, published by the University of Warsaw Press, contains eleven contributions submitted by an international group of authors brought up in different 'archaeological schools' and academic

traditions. In their specialist studies, they use various methodological approaches, both theoretical and experimental. This publication is a collection of articles which are the outcome of the *4th* and *5th Conference in Aegean Archaeology* that took place in Poland in 2016 (the young researchers' session, April 8th, 2016, Archaeological Museum in Poznań) and 2017 (June 1st and 2nd, 2017, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw). Unfortunately, not all of the papers originally presented could be published in this volume. The list of the conference participants who discussed the results of their current work in the field of Aegean Archaeology comprised also: Claudia V. Alonso-Moreno (Autonomous University of Madrid), Mariya Avramova (University of Warsaw; National Library of Poland), Kinga Bigoraj (University of Warsaw), Dr Peta Bulmer (University of Liverpool), Katarzyna Dudlik (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), Anna Filipek (University of Warsaw), Oihane González Herrero (Autonomous University of Madrid), Joseph Gaynor (University of Liverpool), Michael Hirschler (University of Graz), Beata Kaczmarek (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), Monika Koźlakowska (University of Warsaw), Anna Lekka (Hellenic Ministry of Culture), Stefan Müller (Heidelberg University), Jakub Niebieszczański (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), Francesco Tropea (University of Nottingham), Dimitris Tsikritsis (University of Edinburgh), Agata Ulanowska (The Centre for Research on Ancient Technologies of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences), and Katarzyna Żebrowska (University of Warsaw).

The contributions are arranged in a chronological order, starting with the discussion on Cycladic vessels found in the Early and Middle Bronze Age contexts in Crete. In the article 'Cycladic Sauceboats in the Deposit of the Camerette in Ayia Triada', Chiara De Gregorio presents the results of typological and contextual studies carried out on the Early Minoan III to Middle Minoan II pottery from the Deposit of the *Camerette* in Ayia Triada. She focuses her attention on one particular vessel type present within the ceramic repertoire, the so-called 'sauceboat', a form deriving from the Early Cycladic II Keros-Syros Culture.

<sup>1</sup> Żebrowska K., A. Ulanowska, K. Lewartowski (eds.) (2017) *Symposium Egejskie. Papers in Aegean Archaeology*, 1, Warsaw

(available in open access: <http://archeologia.uw.edu.pl/zalaczniki/upload2127.pdf>, accessed: 17.04.2019).

De Gregorio considers the find a possible local interpretation of the Cycladic model and stresses that this kind of evidence could be especially helpful in reconstructing the place of Ayia Triada in the interregional contacts in the Late Prepalatial period.

**Sarah Douglas** and **Giulia Muti**, in their contribution ‘*A Case of Identity. Investigating the Symbolism of Spindle Whorls in Early and Middle Cypriot Tombs*’, investigate the symbolism of the textile tools, specifically spindle whorls, that were found at *Erimi Laonintou Porakou*, *Lapithos Vrysi tou Barba*, and *Galinoporni*. The authors discuss the key elements of the deposition of spindle whorls, e.g. characteristics of the tools, their use-wear, location, and relationship to the bodies, in order to identify and explain the recurring pattern of deposition, reasons for offering whorls as grave goods, and possible implications of the observed practices for the construction of the deceased’s identity.

**Julia Binnberg**’s efforts are directed towards understanding meanings of birds’ representations in Cretan art and roles played by birds in Minoan ontologies. In her contribution entitled ‘*Animism or Analogism? Bird Depictions and Their Significance for the Reconstruction of Cretan Bronze Age Ontologies*’, the author employs a typology of ontologies developed by French cultural anthropologist Philippe Descola in order to offer a new approach to the problem and comes to the conclusion that animism played an important role in Cretan ontologies.

In the article titled ‘*Minoan Pottery Kilns: A Re-Evaluation of Their Morphology, Technology, and Function*’, **Ioannis Pappas** investigates Minoan kilns used in Crete in the process of pottery production. The author re-evaluates the typology of these structures through a comparative study of their morphological, technological, and functional features. Special attention is paid to the so-called ‘channel kilns’ and the possible variants of their construction. Finally, Pappas describes all types of Cretan kiln sites in order to shed light on the relations between the firing places and ceramic workshops.

**Georgios-Panagiotis Georgakopoulos** examines various areas for food preparation in late Neopalatial Crete. His contribution ‘*The Kitchen of the Palace and the Cooking Areas of the Houses in a Minoan Neopalatial Town*’ focuses on the settlement of Kato Zakros as a case study. This contribution offers a definition of the basic criteria for recognising cooking areas and kitchens within the houses and discusses their possible variations. The food preparation areas identified at Zakros are compared to the evidence from other Neopalatial sites in order to investigate the social role and dynamics of the observed consumption practices.

**Alessandra Saggio** proposes an innovative approach to the study of Cypriot gaming stones in her article ‘*The Rules of the Game. Cypriot Bronze Age Gaming Stones: Their ‘Informative Perspective’ about Social Practices*’. She analyses the various contexts of the finds in order to enhance the informative potential of the objects. Saggio successfully uses this methodology to hypothesise about the social importance of gaming practices and the complexity of local communities living in Cyprus during the Bronze Age.

In the contribution titled ‘*Materialising Mythology. The Cup of Nestor from Shaft Grave IV at Mycenae*’, **Stephanie Aulsebrook** hypothesises on a possible common source for the maker of the Cup of Nestor from the Shaft Graves and Homer’s description of Nestor’s cup in the *Iliad*, as well as on the possibility of the survival of Bronze Age legends into the historical period.

In her article ‘*Aegean Headbands: A Functional Analysis. Macroscopic, Microscopic, and Experimental Studies*’, **Betty Rame** undertakes an attempt to reconstruct functional ‘biographies’ of metal headbands, from the moment of their production to their deposition in graves. Functional features, production techniques, and use-wear marks recognised on the Bronze Age headbands on the basis of macroscopic and microscopic observations made by the author are compared with the evidence resulting from experimental recreation of gold headbands by a professional goldsmith and expert on ancient gold working.

In the contribution ‘*Between Crete and Anatolia. Metal Finds of the So-Called Lower Interface in the LBA*’, **Miloš Roháček** offers a thorough typological analysis of the Late Bronze Age metal objects found in the lower part of the East Aegean-West Anatolian Interface, backed up by a comparison with contemporary Cretan items. As a result, the author observes that some categories of bronzes from the Interface are characterised by very strong Minoan-Mycenaean traits. Such phenomenon has not been noted in artefacts from other areas of the Aegean.

The analysis of changes in the Cult Centre of Mycenae after the supposed earthquake in Late Helladic IIIB carried out by **Stephanie Aulsebrook** in her second article (‘*Crisis at the Cult Centre. Evidence from the Megaron Basements*’) reveals how the community responded to the crisis caused by the catastrophe. The author explores Ian Driessen’s concept of ‘crisis architecture’ and focuses her research on the Megaron.

In his contribution entitled ‘*Pottery as an Indicator of Interregional Contacts. Placing the Vardar and Struma River Valleys in the Cultural Network of Central Macedonia in the Late Bronze Age — State of Research*

and *Future Perspectives*, **Cezary Bahyrycz** leads the reader to Northern Greece, to the valleys of the Struma and Vardar rivers, in order to trace the relations of local communities to the Balkans and Greece in the Late Bronze Age. The evidence explored by the author is the pottery found during excavations of numerous sites and presently stored in several museums. The analysis

is based on a methodological assumption that pottery styles can function as a medium of cultural information and thus can reflect interregional contacts and influences. As a result of the examination, a picture emerges of the valleys as routes of intensive contacts between the north and south, and we get an insight into the present state of research.

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