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Πληροφοριακό Δελτίο της Ελληνικής Αρχαιομετρικής Εταιρείας

- Ιούνιος 2006 -

400 BC - Plato - ideal forms and reason.



Plato (428-347 BC) plays an important role in the history of epistemology. His theory of ideas, which he presented in the famous cave allegory, can be seen as a precursor of both medieval realism and later idealism.

Plato held that all forms of the physical world are merely instances of perfect forms in an ideal world. The idea of a table is the supreme form of table of which there is only one. It contains in itself all actual tables of the physical world. The knowledge of ideas, or supreme forms, provides intellectual and ethical guidance for humans. Plato thought that perfect forms have an actual metaphysical existence.

Plato divided the human mind into three parts: the rational part, the will, and the appetites. Ideally the will supports the rational element, which in turn controls the appetites. If the rational element is not developed, the individual behaves immorally, hence immorality is a consequence of ignorance. Furthermore, Plato distinguished between two kinds of conscious thought: opinion and knowledge. He said that all assertions about the outside world are necessarily based on sense experience, and are therefore only opinions. In contrast, he described knowledge as a higher form of awareness, because it is gained from reason rather than from sense experience.."

(<http://www.thebigview.com/> ®)

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Archaeometry

- June 2006 -

Nr. 64

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οστεολογικού υλικού: Δυνατότητες και Περιορισμοί», Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο
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Olive branch solves a Bronze Age mystery, Discovery rewrites history of ancient Mediterranean civilizations, By Kathleen Wren, Science page 28



ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ - CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

THE SEVENTH BIENNIAL, SHIFTING FRONTIERS IN LATE ANTIQUITY CONFERENCE, “THE POWER OF RELIGION IN LATE ANTIQUITY”, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER, 22 – 25 MARCH 2007

The Society for Late Antiquity announces that the Seventh Biennial Conference on Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity will be held at the University of Colorado at Boulder, March 22 - 25, 2007 on the topic of "The Power of Religion in Late Antiquity" [ca. 200 - 700 AD].

In a world that is witnessing a rebirth of the power of religion at the level of politics, social practice, and intellectual discourse, the study of Late Antiquity can offer considerable illumination on the dynamic between power and religion. With its rich pool of sources, its notoriety as a focal point in world history, and its intricate mix of pagan, Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions, Late Antiquity also offers some of the most fertile ground for religious inquiry of any period. The focus of the conference will be the interplay between power and religion. As a form of social discourse, religion is itself part of the broader currency of power in every society. As its own system of knowledge, however, religion interacts with other power discourses in ways that sometimes borrow capital from these sources to augment its own power and sometimes redeploy religious capital to augment other forms of power. In the crudest terms, when an emperor retails himself as divine, the first obtains; when a holy man commandeers military force against heathen opponents, the second. Possible contributions focused around this subject might deal with topics related to (1) the power wielded by religious authorities or religious hierarchies (priests, bishops, rabbis, mullahs); (2) the intersection between religious authorities and civic or political leaders; (3) the role of ritual, prayer, and liturgy in shaping communities of power; (4) the spiritual and worldly power of magic or mysticism; (5) the personal or charismatic power of holy man or holy woman in a social or political context; or (6) the power of texts in their contemporary context; (7) the power of religious images, structures and places and their manipulation by authority figures.

As in the past, we will be particularly concerned to bring together scholars who represent different methodological, disciplinary, geographical, and chronological perspectives. New approaches that perhaps are not subsumed under any of these topics, or that incorporate several of them at the same time, are most welcome. In addition to proposals from specialists in religious studies, history, and classics, we would be particularly happy to receive proposals from persons working in fields such as Near-Eastern or West-Asian studies, linguistics, anthropology, and the history of art and architecture. Proposals should be clearly related to the theme of the conference and

should state clearly both the problem being discussed and the nature of the new discoveries, insights, or conclusions that will be presented. Abstracts of not more than 500 words for 15-minute presentations may be submitted via e-mail to Prof. Noel Lenski, lenski@colorado.edu (Department of Classics, UCB 248, University of Colorado, Boulder CO 80309-0248, USA). Deadline for submission of abstracts is November 1, 2006. Please note that there is no guarantee of travel funding for participants and that the submission of an abstract carries with it a commitment to attend the conference should the abstract be accepted. For other matters relating to the conference, contact either Prof. Lenski or Prof. Andrew Cain, andrew.cain@colorado.edu.

Conference Schedule:

November 1, 2006: Abstracts due

November 15, 2006: Program set and presenters notified

January 1, 2007: Pre-registration begins

March 22-25, 2007 Conference assembles



EAA SESSION ON POTTERY PROCESSING

Dear colleagues,

It seems that in the recent years the Annual Meetings of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), as well as the UISPP Congresses started to attract also the attention of Aegean prehistorians. For that reason, I would like to draw your attention to a methodological Session on pottery processing organized as part of the upcoming EAA meeting in Krakow (Poland) this September. The session is not intended as purely Aegean, or Bronze Age, but Aegean archaeologists are more than welcomed. Please, pass on this information also to archaeologist working with Classical, Hellenistic or Roman pottery.

The session is co-organized by Dr. Barbara Horejs and Dr. Reinhard Jung (Vienna). For full abstract check out the following link, please, but do not hesitate to contact me, or them, for any further information: http://cracow2006.e-a-a.org/pavuk_horejs_jung.pdf

A list of other sessions, which might be of interest for you, can be found here: <http://cracow2006.e-a-a.org/programme.htm>

<http://www.e-a-a.org/>

PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS OF LARGER AMOUNTS OF POTTERY FROM CLOSED CONTEXTS.

The use and limits of different statistic methods. (a short abstract)

The purpose of the session is to discuss modern approaches to processing larger amounts of ceramic finds from secure contexts in settlement and necropolis excavations. The focus will be on archaeological praxis and more specifically, on factors that determine the methodological choices made by the researchers under their specific working conditions. In other words: which methodological approach is appropriate for which kind of ceramic material and for which kind of stratigraphic context, especially if the analysis is supposed to be finished in a reasonable amount of time?

We would like to encourage colleagues to present case studies with material of closed complexes illustrating the following points:

- problems of categorization of different pottery types and the implications that those categories have on the analytical process (decorated fine or special wares, utilitarian wares, coarse wares etc.)
- methods for answering chronological questions (meaningfulness and limits of different methods)

- methods for answering social and economic questions and the problem of the representativeness of a given sample
- application of different statistical methods, problems in definition of parameters, degree of subjectivity that influences the construction of a database
- treatment of different functional types of deposits and/or of various depositional processes present on a given site and their incorporation into an overall statistics

Organisers: PETER PAVÚK (Department of Archaeology, Program in Classical archaeology, Comenius University, Gondova 2, SK-81801 Bratislava); BARBARA HOREJS (Schönburgstraße 50/23, A-1040 Wien); REINHARD JUNG (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Mykenische Kommission, Dr.-Ignaz-Seipel-Platz 2, A-1160 Wien).

Since this is an EAA Meeting, the deadlines are short, for everything has to be always prepared on annual basis anew and usually within a short period of time. The 300 Words abstracts should be submitted till the end of May and will be evaluated before summer 2006. The speakers will eventually be asked to make changes, if necessary, in order to shape the half-day session into a meaningful unit. The contribution itself should not exceed 20 minutes.

Best greetings and hope to see you in Cracow!

Peter Pavuk

Barbara Horejs

Reinhard Jung

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31ST INTERNATIONAL P M R
CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 13-15, 2006,
STRUCTURE, SPACE, AND MEANING: THE
WALLS AND PORTALS OF PREMODERN
WORLDS, CALL FOR PAPERS

The PMR invites *Papers, Panels, or Sponsored Sessions in all areas and topics* in LATE ANTIQUITY/PATRISTICS, BYZANTINE STUDIES, MEDIEVAL STUDIES, ISLAMIC STUDIES, JEWISH STUDIES, and RENAISSANCE/REFORMATION STUDIES. We especially encourage papers addressing the plenary theme, *Structure, Space, and Meaning*, but all areas are open.

See more details at <http://www3.villanova.edu/augustinianinstitute/PMR.htm>

*Abstracts and Panel Proposals must be postmarked or emailed by **May 15, 2006** to be considered.* Notice of papers accepted will be made by **June 15, 2006**

Villanova University invites you to participate in its 31st International P M R Conference, October 13-15, 2006, Structure, Space, and Meaning: The Walls and Portals of Premodern Worlds Featuring

[Annabel J. Wharton](#)

William B. Hamilton Professor of Art and Art History,
Duke University

AND

[Richard Kieckhefer](#)

Professor of Religion and History,
Northwestern University

How does space structure meaning? How do the spaces we inhabit shape our habits of thought? And why do we imagine our thought itself in terms of space, from ‘mystical arks’ to ‘interior castles’ and ‘memory palaces’? We invite papers that will reflect on architecture and space as ‘meaning-making’ AND/OR on the use of structural or architectural metaphors in premodern cultures.

Kevin L. Hughes, Ph.D.

Director, Patristic, Medieval, Renaissance Studies Conference

Associate Professor, Theology & Religious Studies

Villanova University

800 Lancaster Avenue

Villanova, PA 19085

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Kevin.Hughes@villanova.edu



**THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE STUDY
GROUP, THE 2006 WORKSHOP,
THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH, 2006, BEN-
GURION UNIVERSITY, BEERSHEVA**

Dear all,

Please find attached the invitation and schedule for the Middle Bronze Age Study Group 2006 meeting, which will be held in Ben-Gurion University (BGU), Beersheba, on Thursday, June 8th, 2006. Exact details on the location of the meeting in BGU will be sent in the next few days.

Please note that the lectures will be in English.

Please feel free to pass this on and to post it on bulletin boards.

See you in Beersheba,

The organizers,

Aren, David, Ezra, Joe.

<http://www.biu.ac.il/js/le/mb/index.htm>

Prof. Aren M. Maeir

Chair, The Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology

Director, The Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project

Bar-Ilan University

Ramat-Gan, 52900 ISRAEL

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aren@maeir.com; maeira@mail.biu.ac.il email :

www.dig-gath.org project website :

<http://gath.wordpress.com> project weblog :

The Middle Bronze Age Study Group The 2006 Workshop

Thursday, June 8th, 2006
Ben-Gurion University
Beersheva

9:00 Gathering

Session I: 9:30 – 10:50

Chair: **David Ilan**

9:30-10:00 – **Ross Voss**: The Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware from Ashkelon

10:00-10:30 – **Ezra Marcus**: 14C Dating from MB II Canaan and 2nd Mill. Egypt

10:30-10:40 – **Naama Shetflowitz**: Respondent

10:40-10:50 – Discussion

10:50-11:15 – Break

Session II: 11:15 – 12:35

Chair: **Eliezer Oren**

11:15-11:45 – **Joe Uziel**: The MB II at Yavneh Yam: A Fresh Look *

11:45-12:10 – **Aren Maeir**: *Domus* and *Urbius* – The MB II Baby Jar-Burials as a Reflection of Urbanization

12:10-12:20 – **David Ilan**: Respondent

12:20-12:30 – Discussion

12:30-13:30 – Lunch Break

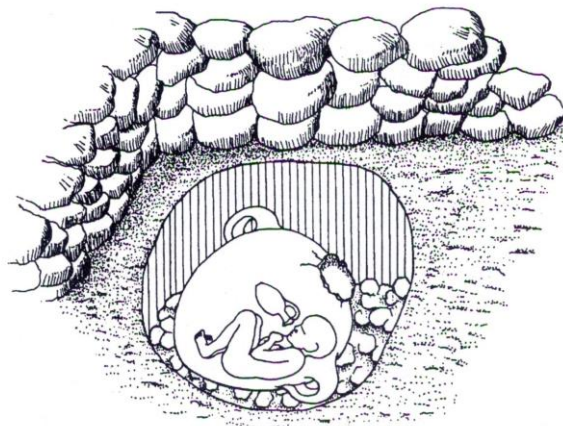
Session III – Pottery Display: 13:30-15:00

Ashkelon: **Ross Voss**

Tel Nagila: **Joe Uziel**

Tel Haror: **Eliezer Oren**

Rishon Lezion: ?



**I - QMDAA, INTERNATIONAL SUMMER
SCHOOL IN QUANTITATIVE METHODS
AND DATA ANALYSIS IN
ARCHAEOLOGY, VILLA LANZI,
CAMPIGLIA MARITTIMA (ITALY),
SEPTEMBER 10-17, 2006, UNIVERSITY
OF SIENA, UNIVERSITY OF PARMA**

Second Call for Participation

<http://www.archeogr.unisi.it/qmdaa/>
qmdaa@unisi.it

AIM

The archaeological research, from diagnosis to publication, represents a scientific process that involves, on different scales, the application of quantitative and analytical methods. This aspect of the archaeological discipline has been greatly improved and enhanced by the introduction of computer applications, and more specifically their use in archaeological data storage, manipulation and analysis. Despite advances in computational techniques, formalization and correct application of quantitative methodological procedures remain, nevertheless, a fundamental requirement for a rigorous and strict methodological approach. In other words, "*data analysis*" remains a central issue for almost every archaeological research process: excavation, landscape archaeology and materials and remains studies.

The School is aimed at students, postgraduate students, researchers and professionals in the archaeological field interested and/or committed in the field of computer applications in archaeology that wish to strength and consolidate their methodological and theoretical expertise and knowledge in the fields of quantitative methods and data analysis. The School is organized by the Archaeology Department of the University of Siena, under the auspices and with the collaboration of the Department of Mathematics of the University of Parma. The I-QMDAA is part of the International Summer School in Archaeology of the University of Siena.

SCHOOL OUTLINE

The courses aim to provide the students a comprehensive and basic introduction to methodological concepts in the areas of descriptive statistics, explorative analysis of archaeological data, computer science concepts and tools for data analysis, GIS applications for study and analysis of spatial data and artificial intelligence applications in the archaeological research process.

The school will run for 6 consecutive days. The daily schedule consist of 8 hours split into 2 hours lectures. A good familiarity and knowledge of computer systems and

applications will be required. The official language of the school is English. Students may also request to the organizers a final test as a certificate for the acquisition of postgraduate program credits.

PROGRAMME & LECTURERS

Roberto Bagnara, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Parma

/Computer Science Concepts for Archaeologists/

Antonio Moro, Facoltà di Ingegneria, Università di Firenze

/Spatial Data and Complexity/

Juan A. Barcelo, Departament de Prehistoria, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

/Explaining the Shape, Size, Texture and Composition of Archaeological Artifacts: A Neurocomputational Approach/

Hans Peter Blankholm, Institutt for arkeologi, Universitetet i Tromsø

/The State of the Art of Intra-site Spatial Analysis/

Mark Lake, Institute of Archeology, University College of London

/Agent-based Modelling in Archaeology/

Benjamin Ducke, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

/G.I.S. and Predictive Modelling in Archaeology/

Kenneth Kvamme, Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas

/Archaeological Predictive Modelling/

Giancarlo Macchi, Dipartimento di Archeologia e Storia delle Arti, Università di Siena

/Spatial Analysis: Human Settlement Pattern Analysis/

THE VENUE

The I-QMDAA Summer School is to be held in the congress centre of Villa Lanzi, near Campiglia Marittima (South Tuscany). This facility is located in the middle of the outstanding Archaeological-Mines Park of San Silvestro. The central feature of the park is the medieval castle of San Silvestro excavated during the eighties and nineties by the Archeology Department of the University of Siena.

ACCOMMODATION

The sleeping facility for the Summer School will be Palazzo Gowett, a nice hostel few meters far from Villa Lanzi and from the castle.

REGISTRATION & FEES

The participation fees amount to a total of *540 euros*, for registrations and payments made before July 1st, 2006, and *640 euros*, for late registrations and payments.

The fees cover the lectures, course notes, full board accommodation from the 11th to 16th September and social events. Accommodation is in double room (i.e., no single rooms are available) and includes breakfast, lunch and evening meal. The social events include a tour to the Baratti Gulf Area and Populonia excavations, and a Social Dinner. Be aware of the fact that students will have to cover personal travel costs and personal additional expenses.

APPLICATIONS

The number of participants is limited to 26. If the number of applicants exceeds this limit, applicants will be accepted on the basis of the submitted Curriculum Vitae. In order to have a balanced attendance from different countries, national distribution may also be taken into consideration, in case of equally valid CVs. The application request, as well as Curriculum Vitae, must be sent to qmdaa@unisi.it.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance within one week from application. Application will be considered complete only upon payment of the participation fees.

NOTE: as of May 22th, 2006, 16 applications have already been accepted; prospective students are thus advised to register as soon as possible.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Roberto Bagnara

Department of Mathematics, University of Parma

<http://www.cs.unipr.it/~bagnara/>

Prof. Riccardo Francovich

Archaeology Department, University of Siena

<http://arceologiamedievale.unisi.it/NewPages/DOTT/riccardo1.html>

Dr. Giancarlo Macchi

Archaeology Department, University of Siena

<http://www.archeogr.unisi.it/asiaa/>

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information and updates, please see

<http://www.archeogr.unisi.it/qmdaa/>

or contact the School Organizers at the email address

qmdaa@unisi.it

POCA 2006 - ISLAND DIALOGUES: CYPRUS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK

Second Call For Papers

Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland-UK) is proud to be hosting the sixth annual POCA (Postgraduate Cypriot Archaeology) conference on the 27th and 28th of October 2006.

This event is an international forum for postgraduates and new scholars of Cypriot archaeology and cognate subjects, and is an opportunity for the developing research community to present work, exchange new ideas, and meet in an informal context. Interested scholars from archaeology, classics, and related disciplines studying the prehistory and later periods of Cyprus are invited to attend, or participate by submitting abstracts for POCA 2006.

On the evening of Friday 27th of October there will be a plenary lecture by Dr Susan Sherratt. Dr Gordon Thomas and Dr Demetra Papaconstantinou will close the conference proceedings with lectures on their newly published work.

The call for papers is available on the conference website at: www.arcl.ed.ac.uk/poca2006/callforpapers.htm

POCA 2006 will also be hosting three workshops in addition to the general session.

I. "Formal ritual practices in Cypriot antiquity: internal social phenomena and complex external dialogues".

Convener: Vasiliki Koutrafoura (vasiliki.g.k@gmail.com)

II. "The archaeology of Cyprus and other Mediterranean islands at the outset of the 21st century: issues of development, communication and cultural heritage management".

Convener: Dr. Anastasia Leriou (nleriou@yahoo.gr)

III. "Iron Age Cyprus: Materiality, Socio-political Structures and Cultural Complexity".

Convener: Dr. Katerina Kolotourou (kkolotourou@yahoo.com)

The call for papers for these workshops can be found at: <http://www.arcl.ed.ac.uk/poca2006/sessions.htm>

The proceedings of the conference will be published through the University of Edinburgh's 'Archaeology Occasional Papers' series.

The POCA 2006 committee kindly request that you alert any persons within your research community who would be interested in participating at POCA 2006 by forwarding this email.

If you have any queries please contact us at; poca2006@arcl.ed.ac.uk.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES OF THE
AMERICAS SYMPOSIUM 2006, ABSTRACTS
FOR INDIVIDUAL POSTERS, PAPERS, AND
COMPUTER SIMULATION STATIONS DUE
JUNE 1, 2006, SEPTEMBER 13 - 16, 2006, THE
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, USS ARIZONA
MEMORIAL UNION, TUCSON, ARIZONA, USA**

More info and registration forms available online at: <http://asas06.ltc.arizona.edu>

Applications for student travel scholarships, field trips, and vendors recently updated.

The organizing committee of the Archaeological Sciences of the Americas Symposium is pleased to solicit contributions for 2006. ASAS encourages regular and sustained collaboration between archaeological, conservation, and natural scientists in the Americas. The meeting will be hosted by graduate students in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona. The Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Program in Archaeological Sciences at the University of Arizona will co-sponsor this event.

The Biennial Symposium will focus on studies, techniques, and approaches that emphasize the analysis and interpretation of prehistoric and historic materials, human cultures and ecology. Researchers at all levels of experience and training are invited to participate. A special invitation is extended to colleagues from Canada, Mexico, Central America, and South America. Conceptual and methodological contributions that transcend geographic boundaries of research are also encouraged; applications need not be confined to the Americas. In recognition that archaeological science represents an interdisciplinary effort, six major themes will be represented at the meeting:

- 1) Geoarchaeology
- 2) Conservation Studies and Ephemeral Remains
- 3) Spatial Analysis and Remote Sensing
- 4) Chronometry
- 5) Human-Environmental Interaction
- 6) Material Culture Studies

Abstracts for individually-submitted papers, posters, and computer simulations are due June 1, 2006 and are limited to 250 words. Proposals of organized sessions (5-6 papers and one discussant) were due May 15, 2006, but the organizers are still willing to accept sessions on a case by case basis. Application fees are \$60(US) for students and \$90(US) for professionals. Checks are to be made out to the University of Arizona. Please note that none of the application fee is tax deductible.

For more information, explore the sidebar links or contact one of the organizing committee members directly: R. Emerson Howell (rhowell@email.arizona.edu) or AJ

Vonarx (ajvonarx@email.arizona.edu). We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you in Tucson in September 2006!

AJ Vonarx
Graduate Student - University of Arizona
Anthropology/Archaeological Science
Haury Building
Tucson, AZ 85721
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ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ
ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

ΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ – ΣΕΜΙΝΑΡΙΟ
«ΜΕΛΕΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΝΟΥ ΟΣΤΕΟΛΟΓΙΚΟΥ
ΥΛΙΚΟΥ: ΔΥΝΑΤΟΤΗΤΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙΟΡΙΣΜΟΙ»
ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ ΒΟΛΟΥ,
ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ 2 ΙΟΥΝΙΟΥ 2006

Β' ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Σας ενημερώνουμε για το πρόγραμμα της ημερίδας που οργανώνει το Αρχαιολογικό Ινστιτούτο Θεσσαλικών Σπουδών του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού με θέμα: «Μελέτη του ανθρώπινου οστεολογικού υλικού: Δυνατότητες και Περιορισμοί» την Παρασκευή 2 Ιουνίου 2006 και ώρα 9 πμ στην αίθουσα εκδηλώσεων του Αρχαιολογικού Μουσείου Βόλου.

9πμ Χαιρετισμοί

- 9.10 *Ανθρώπινα οστά: ένα υλικό που κρύβει απαντήσεις ...*
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JOB VACANCIES/FELLOWSHIPS

THE MEDITERRANEAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST GRANTS
TO ASSIST PUBLICATION

The Mediterranean Archaeological Trust, set up in 1959 for the promotion of the study of archaeology, invites applications for grants, made on a competitive basis, for expenses in 2007-8 in the preparation for publication of material from archaeological fieldwork in the Mediterranean world, excluding subventions to publishers. Within the terms of the Trust, priority may be given to Bronze Age subjects. Grants for any amount, however small, will be considered, provided they expedite publication. The grants do not normally exceed GBP 3000.

Applications comprising a 2000-word-maximum description of the proposed work and an outline budget, together with two referees' names, should be sent no later than *15 JANUARY 2007*, to:

Professor R.R.R. Smith
(Mediterranean Archaeological Trust)
Ashmolean Museum
Oxford OX1 2PH

The references (which are essential) should be sent direct by the referees to arrive before the deadline, or accompany the application in a sealed envelope. Successful applicants will be informed by around the end of MARCH 2007.

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΕΙΣ - ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLLECTION OF STUDIES ON MILLSTONES IN ANTIQUITY - AEGEAN AREA, CALL FOR PAPERS

Scholars specialized on millstones in the Aegean area are warmly invited to collaborate to the collection of studies "Macine nell'antichità: dalla Preistoria all'età romana", promoted by Ufficio Beni Archeologici, Bolzano-South Tyrol.

The invite is particularly extended to young scholars of any nationality. Contributions in English, German, Italian French and Spanish will be considered.

For more details please contact:

Dr. Alessandra Kolosimo
alessandrakolosimo@libero.it

PHAISTOS DISC PROPOSED FOR UNICODE

Dear colleagues,

The symbols on the Phaistos Disc have been proposed for inclusion in the international character encoding standard Unicode (and ISO/IEC 10646). The proposal (see link below) was approved for balloting by the International Organization for Standardization's working group on character sets (WG2) two weeks ago. By being included in the international standard, it will be possible to search on the various symbols on the Phaistos Disc within documents and across the Internet.

The proposal is located at: <http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n3066.pdf>

Please send any comments on the proposal itself to the author, Michael Everson, at: everson@evertype.com

If you have opinions on whether it should be included in this international standard, please send me a note to this effect (stating your affiliation).

With best wishes,

Debbie Anderson

Deborah Anderson
Researcher, Dept. of Linguistics, UC Berkeley
Proj. Leader, Script Encoding Initiative
<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/sei>
NOTE NEW Email: dwanders@sonic.net
(or dwanders@berkeley.edu)

ΝΕΕΣ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ – NEW PUBLICATIONS

THREE NEW BOOKS FROM PAUL ÅSTRÖMS FÖRLAG

R. Hope Simpson and D.K. Hagel, Mycenaean Fortifications, Highways, Dams and Canals (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology vol. CXXXIII), Paul Åströms förlag, Sävedalen, 324 pp., 16 figs, 43 plates.

E. Ostby (ed.), Ancient Arcadia. Papers from the Third International Seminar on Ancient Arcadia, Held at the Norwegian Institute at Athens, 7-10 May 2002 (Papers from the Norwegian Institute at Athens 8), Athens 2005, 558 pp., richly illustrated. Contains e.g. articles by M. Cultraro, The LH IIC Period in Arcadia and Imports from Southern Italy, and E. Salavoura, Mykenaïké Arkadía: Apotímese ton gnóseón mas.

A. Westholm, "De fantastiska åren på Cypern". Brev från föräldrarna 1927-1931 (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology Pocket-book 168), 440 pp., illustrated. (In Swedish).

Distributed by paul.astrom@bredband.net

DIPLMACY BY DESIGN: LUXURY ARTS AND AN "INTERNATIONAL STYLE" IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST, 1400-1200 BCE

The University of Chicago Press is pleased to announce the publication of *Diplomacy by Design: Luxury Arts and an "International Style" in the Ancient Near East, 1400-1200 BCE*

By Marian H. Feldman

Art and international relations during the Late Bronze Age formed a symbiosis within the unprecedented cultural exchanges of the Near East and Mediterranean. Diplomacy in these new political and imperial relationships was often maintained through the exchange of lavish art objects and luxury goods. The items circulating during this time shared a repertoire of imagery that modern scholars call an International Style of art.

Marian Feldman's *Diplomacy by Design* examines the profound connection between art produced during this period and its social context, revealing inanimate objects as catalysts--or even participants--in human dynamics. Feldman's fascinating study shows the ways in which the exchange of these works of art actively mediated and strengthened political relations, intercultural interactions, and economic negotiations. Previous studies of this international style have focused almost exclusively on stylistic attribution at the expense of social contextualization. Written by a specialist in ancient Near Eastern art, *Diplomacy by Design* provides a much broader consideration of the symbolic power of material culture and its centrality in the construction of human relations.

Marian H. Feldman is assistant professor of ancient Near Eastern art in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

Cloth \$60.00
ISBN 0-226-24044-4

For more information about *Diplomacy by Design*, or to purchase the book, please visit the University of Chicago Press Web site at: <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/hfs.cgi/00/162101.cfl>

CRETA ANTICA 6, 2005

The Centro di Archeologia Cretese is pleased to inform that the new issue of Creta Antica 6, 2005 has just been published.

The summaries can be read in our web.site: <http://www.unict.it/cac-ct/pub.htm>

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Indietro

ΕΙΔΗΣΕΙΣ - NEWS RELEASE

TREASURE DIG THREATENS BOSPHORUS RAIL LINK

By Sarah Rainsford, BBC News, Istanbul



The port has been uncovered at the site designated for a railway hub

It's been called the project of the century: a mission to connect two continents with a \$2.6bn rail-tunnel running deep beneath the Bosphorus Straits.

The idea of linking the two sides of Istanbul underwater was first dreamt of by Sultan Abdul Mecit 150 years ago.

Now that Ottoman dream is finally being realised.

But the modern version of that vision has hit a historical stumbling block.

Istanbul archaeologists have uncovered a 4th-Century port at the site where engineers plan to build a 21st-Century railway hub. The Marmaray project cannot even begin work in the area until excavations are complete.

Out in the middle of the Straits, marine engineers are now working day and night to compensate in advance for any delays. Boring beneath the waves, they are preparing the ground for the deepest tunnel of its kind.

"We are strengthening the soil by injecting concrete into the seabed so we can place the tubes easily and take measures to counter earthquakes in the area," an engineer explains, shouting above the din of an enormous drill working non-stop behind him.

Parts of the Marmaray tunnel will eventually run just 6km (3.7 miles) from the active North Anatolian fault line.

"This is the best way to link the European and Asian sides of Istanbul. There is no space for a third bridge," he argues.

The Istanbul authorities hope the Marmaray project will ease congestion in a sprawling and increasingly overcrowded city. The rail link should carry well over a million passengers a day, significantly reducing boat traffic on the Bosphorus and car congestion on land.

But the railway was supposed to be running by 2010. Now its managers are not so sure.

Ancient port

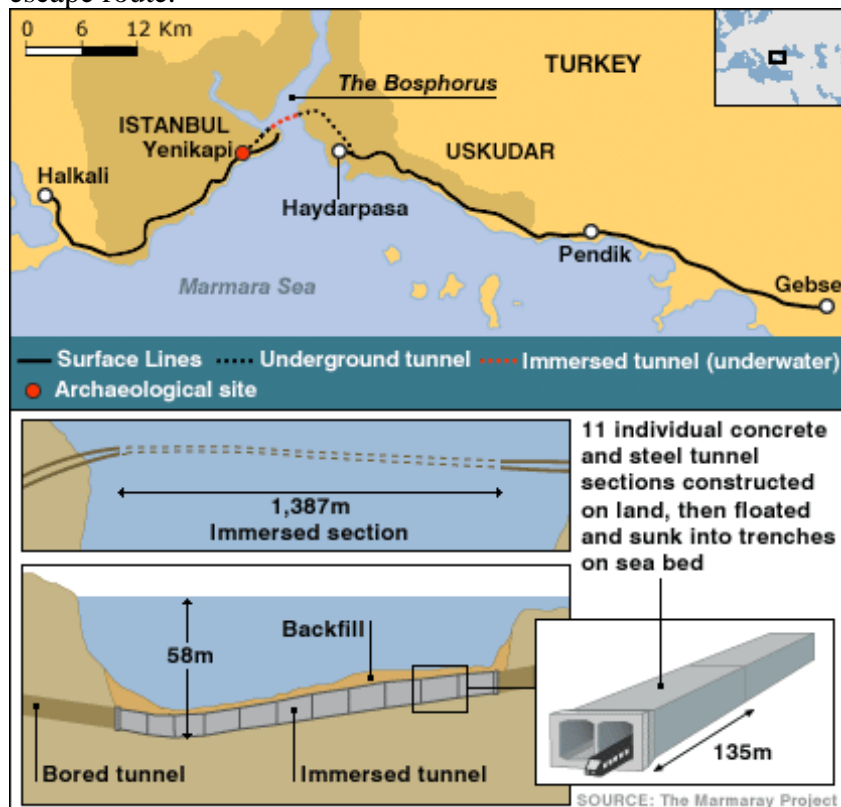
Yenikapi on the European side of the city was selected to house a state-of-the-art train station. But when shanty homes were cleared from the site, archaeologists uncovered treasures beneath of a kind never before discovered here.

Just a few metres below ground, they found an ancient port of Constantinople - named in historical records as the Eleutherios harbour, one of the busiest of Byzantium.

"We've found 43m of the pier so far," chief archaeologist Metin Gokcay explains, pointing to a line of wooden stakes emerging from a green pool of water. He says the Marmaray site has yielded the most exciting finds of his long career.

"We believe there used to be a platform on those sticks - down there is where the horses were unloaded."

"We've also found lots of things that tell us about the daily life of the city in the 4th Century," Mr Gokcay enthuses, standing close to a tunnel he suspects was an ancient escape route.



"We found leather sandals, for example, with strings through the toes and around a thousand candle-holders and hairbrushes. I've done many digs in Istanbul, but there are many things here I've never seen before."

As well as the stone remains of the harbour itself, Mr Gokcay and his team have uncovered perfectly preserved ancient anchors and lengths of rope. Dozens of men are still scrubbing the mud of centuries from

hundreds of crates of artefacts, for assessment.

But perhaps the site's most treasured find is stored beneath a large protective tent.

Inside, dozens of jets spray water to preserve a wooden boat that is more 1,000 years old. Its base, about 10m long, was discovered intact beneath what was once the sea.

The dig has uncovered eight boats in total - another first for Istanbul - and archaeologists believe there are more to come.

It's a dream discovery for them, but a nightmare for the Marmaray management.

"It's true I lose sleep over this. I worry we won't make it on time," admits Marmaray Project Manager Haluk Ozmen. He says the dig is only delaying work at the Yenikapi site for now, but warns it will soon affect the entire project.

"The dig is the only thing that can delay the Marmaray project. That's why we're working 24 hours a day to meet our deadline. Everything is in the hands of the archaeologists now."

Engrossed in their task, those archaeologists refuse to be rushed by commercial concerns. Their work was scheduled to finish four months ago, but they now reject all talk of deadlines.

"The Marmaray team cannot spread their cement or tunnel any deeper here until we finish," states a determined Mr Gokcay. "They have to wait for us. And I will continue my work here until the last artefact made by human hands is found. It's impossible to accept anything else."

In addition to the Eleutherios harbour, the dig teams have exposed a long section of the city wall from the days of Constantine I - the first time the wall has ever been uncovered. At a site as rich as this, there's no telling what else could turn up.

Please visit the site: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4949862.stm>

OLIVE BRANCH SOLVES A BRONZE AGE MYSTERY, DISCOVERY REWRITES HISTORY OF ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS

By Kathleen Wren, Science

WASHINGTON - Compared to the well-studied world of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the civilizations that flourished in the eastern Mediterranean just before Homer's time are still cloaked in mystery.

Even the basic chronology of the region during this time has been heatedly debated. Now, a resolution has finally emerged -- initiated, quite literally, by an olive branch.

Scientists have discovered the remains of a single olive tree, buried alive during a massive volcanic eruption during the Late Bronze Age. A study that dates this tree, plus another study that dates a series of objects from before, during and after the eruption, now offer a new timeline for one of the earliest chapters of European civilization.

The new results suggest that the sophisticated and powerful Minoan civilization (featured in the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur) and several other pre-Homeric civilizations arose about a century earlier and lasted for longer than previously thought.

The new timeframe also downplays Egypt's role in the region, suggesting that the cultures of the Levant, the stretch of land that includes Syria, Israel and Palestine, may have been a more important outside influence.

The pair of studies appears in the 28 April issue of the journal *Science*, published by AAAS, the nonprofit science society.

During the Late Bronze Age, large building complexes appeared on Crete and later on mainland Greece as part of the Minoan "New Palace" civilization. At its high point, this civilization seems to have been the dominant cultural and economic force across the region, as the result of trade rather than military strength.



Sturt Manning

This collapsed main staircase is one of the remains uncovered at Akrotiri, once a major prehistoric settlement on Santorini.

On Santorini, a major prehistoric settlement called Akrotiri was buried by the Minoan eruption, preserving what's often called "the Pompeii of the Aegean." Archeologists have uncovered three- and four-story houses and many other finds there, including an

extraordinary collection of wall paintings that offer a glimpse into Minoan life. Women apparently played important civic and religious roles, including joining men in the sport of “bull-leaping,” which seems to have been religiously significant and as dangerous as the name implies.

The people of the Shaft Grave culture on mainland Greece, meanwhile, are known for burying their rulers with an eye-catching array of weapons, tools, pottery and other gold-rich ornaments. One grave contained a face mask that was originally identified as that of Agamemnon, the legendary king of Mycenae who led the Greeks against Troy in the *Iliad*.

The new findings suggest that it belonged to an earlier chief or king instead.

Also around the same time, major new coastal political systems were growing on Cyprus, fuelled by the island’s important copper industry that supplied the metal-hungry civilizations in the east Mediterranean.

Rethinking the timeline

It’s generally thought that these cultural developments in the eastern Mediterranean occurred during the 16th century B.C., along with the New Kingdom period in Egypt, when Egypt expanded its influence into western Asia.

The new studies suggests that these developments probably took place instead during the preceding “Second Intermediate Period,” when Egyptian power was weak and a foreign Canaanite dynasty even conquered northern Egypt for a while.

According to the new chronology, the Late Bronze Age civilizations in the Aegean and on Cyprus may have developed in association with 18th- and 17th-century Canaanite and Levantine civilizations and their expanding maritime trade world. These cultures were very different from the Egyptians’ in terms of culture, language and religion.

“If the papers published this week in *Science* are correct, then a critical new historical context may explain aspects of the development, languages, literature, religion and mythology of the Aegean and the later Classical worlds,” said Sturt Manning of the Cornell University and the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, who is the lead author of one of the studies.

The great debate

For more than a century, archaeologists have developed the chronology for this region by painstakingly comparing the various civilizations’ artifacts and artistic styles, such as how spirals were painted on pots or how metalwork was done. To pin the cultural periods to calendar dates, they then linked them to the accepted dates for the Egyptian pharaohs.

Since the 1970s, scientists have been measuring radiocarbon dates from the same areas, which don’t match with this artifact-based timeframe. Because of uncertainty about the dating methods, however, the radiocarbon results haven’t been convincing enough to overturn the archaeologists’ conclusions.

“It’s probably the biggest controversy in eastern Mediterranean archeology,” Manning said.

There has also been an inertia factor. Manning noted that if the existing chronology were wrong, it would mean rewriting the dates in museums and textbooks. And, it would have a more far-reaching effect, requiring a rethinking of some of the basic assumptions about the origins of European history.

“You would have a concertina effect, since you can’t move one part without upsetting the whole apple cart. Thus, it has been said that rewriting the chronology is impossible,” Manning said.

The 'Pompeii of the Aegean'



Science

Scientists found this branch from an olive tree that buried in its living position by the volcanic ash.

During the Minoan eruption, the volcano on what is now Santorini spewed ash and rocky debris up to hundreds of kilometers around. It was one of the largest eruptions in recorded history, and some researchers have even proposed that it was the basis for the legend of Atlantis.

The widespread volcanic ash layer offers a reference point that could potentially help line up the ages of various sites in the eastern Mediterranean, but researchers have not been able to date the layer precisely enough until now.

A remarkable solution to the problem emerged when Walter Friedrich and his graduate student Tom Pfeiffer, both of the University of Aarhus in Denmark, found the branch of an olive tree that was buried in its living position by the ash. The remains of the tree’s bark, leaves and twigs showed that the tree was still alive at the time of the eruption.

“I’ve been working on Santorini for 30 years and this is the first time I have seen such a thing,” Friedrich said.

By analyzing and dating the tree rings, Friedrich’s research team was able to pinpoint the age of the eruption more precisely than ever before, since the outermost ring was formed in roughly the same year that the volcano erupted.

The new timeframe for the eruption is between 1627 and 1600 B.C., a century earlier than archaeological studies have suggested.

“This was one of the biggest eruptions known to mankind, and now we have a precise date for the first time,” Friedrich said.

Before and after the eruption

The new age for the eruption fits in neatly with a much larger series of radiocarbon dates put together by Sturt Manning and his colleagues.

Manning’s team collected a large number of seeds and some tree-ring samples from a 300-year time span that included the Minoan eruption. They put together sets of data in a

known sequence from before, around, and after the eruption and used sophisticated statistical methods to define new, more precise dates than before.

Given past controversy, they took a number of precautions, such as analyzing the seeds at two separate labs, to reduce the uncertainty of the earlier radiocarbon studies. The picture now from the radiocarbon seems fairly clear, according to Manning, but in conflict with the established dates and history.

Overall, the radiocarbon results indicate that the formation and high point of the New Palace period of Crete, the wall paintings of Akrotiri, the Shaft Grave period of the Greek mainland, and the political changes on Cyprus all occurred before approximately 1600 B.C. This is not only about 100 years earlier than thought; it also implies that the overall cultural era involved lasted much longer than researchers had assumed.

The new chronology makes the world of New Palace Crete even more important and interesting, Manning said, turning the later 18th and 17th centuries B.C. into an exciting new “cultural cauldron” from which significant elements of European history may have originated.

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Please visit the site: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12502996/>
