



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM



# ISLAND, MAINLAND, COASTLAND AND HINTERLAND

CERAMIC PERSPECTIVES ON CONNECTIVITY IN THE ANCIENT  
MEDITERRANEAN

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>CONFERENCE ABSTRACT</b>  | 4 |
| <i>Keynote Address</i>  | 5 |
| <i>Pottery, politics, and persistent landscapes in the Mediterranean</i><br>(Andrew BEVAN)  | 5 |
| <b>CONNECTIVITY &amp; STYLE</b>   | 6 |
| <i>1.1. Network theory and the circulation of ceramics</i>  | 6 |
| <i>1.1.1. Aegean amphoras, regional styles, and network theory</i><br>(Mark LAWALL)   | 6 |
| <i>1.1.2. Barbarian ware strikes again. Problems and potential significance of a particular ceramic assemblage for understanding past networks</i><br>(Kimberley A.M. VAN DEN BERG) | 7 |
| <i>1.1.3. Tracing the Mundane. Circulation of Coarse Cream Ware in Central Italy between the 6th and 4th centuries BC.</i><br>(Martina REVELLO LAMI)                                | 7 |
| <i>1.1.4. Spatial and Chronological Trends in the Distribution of African Red Slip Ware in Late Antique Boeotia</i><br>(Dean PEETERS)   | 7 |
| <i>1.2. STYLING HYBRIDITY</i>   | 8 |
| <i>1.2.1. Mixing traditions – mixing cultures. ‘Kampos group’ pottery in prepalatial Crete</i><br>(Eleni NODAROU, Yiannis PAPADATOS)  | 8 |
| <i>1.2.2. The Lion, the Sphinx and the Deer. Cultural connections and local identities in Geometric Crete</i><br>(Antonella PAUTASSO)   | 8 |
| <i>1.2.3. Adaptation, rejection and transformation: orientalising motifs on Cretan pottery from the 9th to 7th centuries BC</i><br>(Ann-Sofie DIENER)                               | 9 |
| <i>1.2.4. Ceramic hybridity in (non-)colonial context: the North Aegean perspective</i><br>(Petya ILIEVA)   | 9 |
| <i>Keynote Address</i>  | 9 |
| <i>Shifting perspectives: ceramics and connectivity in the central Ionian Islands</i><br>(Catherine MORGAN)   | 9 |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>CONNECTIVITY &amp; REGIONS</b>   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>2.1. CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE REGION (PART I)</b>   | <b>10</b> |
| 2.1.1. <i>Short scale connectivity and large scale geosources: the case of northern Apulia, Italy</i>                                 | 10        |
| (Elisabetta GLIOZZO)  |           |
| 2.1.2. <i>Intra-island connectivity: a case study from ancient Zakynthos</i>  | 10        |
| (Nienke PIETERS)  |           |
| 2.1.3. <i>Mining the hinterland. Ceramic assemblages and material connections in Roman Cyprus.</i>                                    | 11        |
| (Kristina WINTHER-JACOBSEN)   |           |
| 2.1.4. <i>From Neapolis' harbour to the Apennines: coast-hinterland dynamics in AD 472 Campania</i>                                   | 11        |
| (Caterina Serena MARTUCCI - Girolamo DE SIMONE)   |           |
| <b>2.2. NETWORKING COASTLANDS AND MAINLANDS</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| 2.2.1. <i>Social networks of the Late Bronze Age Euboean Gulf: the ceramic evidence</i>   | 12        |
| (Margaretha KRAMER)   |           |
| 2.2.2. <i>Terrestrial communications in Thessaly and the materiality of Attic pottery</i>   | 12        |
| (Katerina VOLIOTI)  |           |
| 2.2.3. <i>Connections near and far: Classical and Early Hellenistic Pottery in Ionia</i>  | 13        |
| (Ireen KOWALLECK)   |           |
| 2.2.4. <i>Shifting notions, changing patterns: a diachronic case study on Rhodes and the Dodecanese archipelago</i>                   | 13        |
| (Irene NIKOLAKOPOULOU)  |           |
| <b>2.3. HYBRIDIZATION AND ACCULTURATION</b>   | <b>14</b> |
| 2.3.1. <i>Shaping insularity: patterns of acculturation and hybridisation in the NE Aegean between the Middle and Late Bronze Age</i> | 14        |
| (Luca GIRELLA, Peter PAVÚK)   |           |
| 2.3.2. <i>East Cretan ceramics during the advanced Late Bronze Age: Assessing regional traditions and interaction network</i>         | 14        |
| (Charlotte LANGOHR)   |           |
| 2.3.3. <i>Connectivity vs. insularity: reading the ceramic record from Early Iron Age Cyprus</i>                                      | 15        |
| (Anastasia LERIOU)  |           |
| <b>2.4. CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE REGION (PART II)</b>  | <b>15</b> |
| 2.4.1. <i>Early pottery technology and production. The case of Thessaly</i>   | 15        |
| (Anastasia DIMOULA)   |           |
| 2.4.2. <i>To change or to exchange? The formation of ceramic landscapes in Neolithic Thessaly</i>                                     | 16        |
| (Areti PENTEDEKA)   |           |
| 2.4.3. <i>Mediterranean networks and Euboean connectivity. Phantasies, theories and some sherds</i>                                   | 16        |
| (Lieve DONNELLAN)   |           |
| 2.4.4. <i>Diachronic network analysis: turning Bronze Age sequences into historical trajectories in the Italian peninsula</i>         | 17        |
| (Erik VAN ROSSENBERG)   |           |

**CONNECTIVITY & SITES** \_\_\_\_\_ 18

**3.1. NODES IN NETWORKS** \_\_\_\_\_ 18

3.1.1. *Interconnections in central Greece. Examining the ceramic assemblages from the early island settlement of Kephala (Skiathos, Sporades)* \_\_\_\_\_ 18  
(Alexandra ALEXANDRIDOU)

3.1.2. *A Greek island in the Delta? Analysing the ceramic assemblage from Naukratis* \_\_\_\_\_ 18  
(Alexandra VILLING)

3.1.3. *Local, Import and Imitation Pottery at Cerveteri. New Perspectives on early Etruscan Connectivity in Italy and in the Eastern Mediterranean* \_\_\_\_\_ 19  
(Orlando CERASUOLO)

3.1.4. *Pottery circulation and urban supply in Rome in the I century BC. New data from the Horti Lamiani area (Esquiline Hill)* \_\_\_\_\_ 19  
(Antonio F. FERRANDES)

**3.2. CONNECTIVITY VERSUS ISOLATION** \_\_\_\_\_ 20

3.2.1. *Insularity and Cosmopolitanism in Ayia Irini, Kea* \_\_\_\_\_ 20  
(Natalie ABELL, Evi GOROGIANNI)

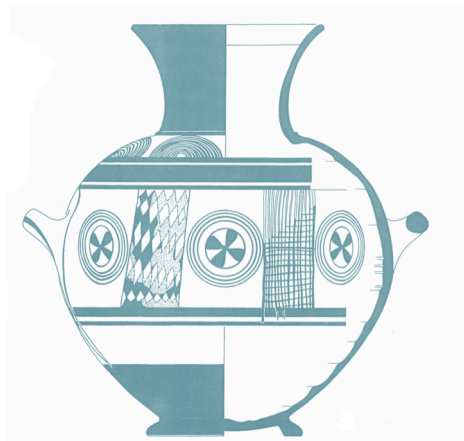
3.2.2. *Up, up and away? Remoteness and connectivity in the Cretan mountains- a ceramic perspective from the Neopalatial period* \_\_\_\_\_ 20  
(Sebastian TRAUNMÜLLER)

3.2.3. *Pottery Distribution in the Sanctuaries: Evidence of Archaic Painted Pottery from the Sanctuary of Kythnos* \_\_\_\_\_ 21  
(Maria KOUTSOUMPOU)

**NOTES** \_\_\_\_\_ 22

**PARTICIPANTS** \_\_\_\_\_ 26

**ORGANISATION** \_\_\_\_\_ 28



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## ISLAND, MAINLAND, COASTLAND AND HINTERLAND

### CERAMIC PERSPECTIVES ON CONNECTIVITY IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

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#### *Conference Abstract*

The geographical or topographical setting of archaeological sites is often acknowledged as an important factor in their significance or role within the cultural landscape. But to what extent do categories such as “ island”, “ coastland”, “ mainland” or “ hinterland” influence our ideas on the dynamics of ancient communities? Are communities on islands inherently more connected than those with mainland settings? Does geographical isolation equate to cultural insularity? Although we acknowledge that multiple categories of evidence play major roles in creating networks of interactions, this conference will explore the relationship between physical setting and connectivity by primarily focusing on the study of ceramic assemblages.

We propose that characterizing ceramic assemblages with respect to activities such as production, distribution and consumption, provides us with a unique insight to the behaviours and interactions of particular communities across multiple sites. For example, the identification of ceramic imports has long been the primary indicator for identifying connections between different sites and regions. Yet this has fostered a presence /absence diagnosis for contact between different communities. We argue that the nature of connections – the number, length, strength and direction of interactions – has rarely been used for characterizing past connectivity, though a few recent approaches, such as the study of ceramic “ hybrids”, post-colonial perspectives and network analysis, are now beginning to offer more powerful and complex means of considering past interactions.

This conference welcomes PhD, early career and established scholars working on dynamic interactions within the ancient Mediterranean, from prehistory to the Roman Imperial period. We invite theoretically informed papers embracing the following themes (but not restricted to):

- the relationship between geographical setting, ceramic assemblages and degree of connectivity between different countries;
- the role geographical and/or socio-political entities such as “ hinterland” or “colony” play in interpreting ceramic assemblages;
- how can we interpret stylistic or technological ceramic “ hybrids” with respect to the movement of people, artefacts and ideas?
- can we identify in the ceramic record deliberate participation within or rejection/resistance to wider socio-cultural phenomena?

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Pottery, politics, and persistent landscapes in the Mediterranean*  
ANDREW BEVAN

The Mediterranean boasts one of the most densely explored and long-lived records of complex human societies in the world. Moreover, curious combinations of regional connection and fragmentation mark at least its last five thousand years, whether we are referring to political structures, landscape ecologies or material culture. These interactions or their absences have also led to a picture of Mediterranean life that swings between images of abundance and scarcity, opportunity and isolation, utopia and dystopia. In academic terms, these extremes have been matched by a healthy to and fro between minute attention to the detail of Mediterranean evidence on the one hand, and more sweeping synthetic statements on the other, both over time and space. Bearing in mind this need to address both the rough and the smooth patterning of Mediterranean life, and to think strategically about when we lump or split the scope of our own research, this talk explores a range of model- and artefact-based approaches to Mediterranean interactions and their consequences.



### 1.1. NETWORK THEORY AND THE CIRCULATION OF CERAMICS

#### *1.1.1. Aegean amphoras, regional styles, and network theory.*

MARK LAWALL

Two interrelated features of Aegean amphoras are intimately connected with any efforts to consider these ceramics as indicators of connectivity. First, shapes of Aegean amphoras tend to correspond to regions of varying size, from (rarely) individual poleis to (more often) multiple political territories including both mainland areas and nearby islands. Second, distribution of many amphora types is predominantly localized to the general region of production. And yet, certain very narrowly defined regions (e.g., Chios, Rhodes, Knidos), at certain times did in fact produce distinctive amphora shapes.

Network theory is used here to explore the impact of different parameters on styles of amphora production and the distribution of those jars, and hence explain such anomalies. These parameters include willingness to innovate on the part of the potters; connections between potters and exporting shippers; costs and risks of long distance shipping; suppliers accessible to a given consumer; the roles of the jars themselves in facilitating transactions; and the range of shapes known to the potters. Adjusting such parameters allows the simulation of the mix of amphora types ending up at consumer sites. Comparison between simulated and archaeologically-attested assemblages highlights those settings for the parameters more likely to have been in operation in antiquity.

Once models of amphora production and distribution are defined in terms of these parameters, we return to the anomalous cases noted above and consider two hypotheses: 1) that location-specific amphora types are symptomatic of the isolation of islands, or 2) that location-specific amphora types attest to greater connectivity.

#### *1.1.2. Barbarian Ware Strikes Again: Problems and Potential Significance of a Particular Ceramic Assemblage for Understanding Past Networks.*

KIMBERLEY A.M. VAN DEN BERG

Network theory is increasingly used for discussing connectivity in the ancient Mediterranean. It has inspired innovative analyses of various past networks and present datasets, including ceramic groups. Whether or not a certain assemblage is suitable for a network approach, however, depends on the scale of analysis and the questions we ask. Barbarian or Handmade Burnished Ware (HBW) offers a case in point. Its appearance in the Late Bronze Age Aegean constitutes a dramatic departure from other contemporary locally produced ceramic traditions in the region. For this reason, HBW remains one of the most highly-debated ceramic classes in Aegean prehistory.

Most recently, it has been argued that HBW actually encompasses several types of unrelated pottery, and that one of these types might be the product of small groups of immigrants moving from Italy to the Aegean. In this respect, the assemblage offers some potential for understanding past networks. However, 'Italian' HBW is not an isolated phenomenon. Contemporary with its presence in the Aegean, several types of bronzes possibly connected to Italy appear in the Aegean as well. Some scholars suggest that these bronzes are related to 'Italian' HBW on the basis of distributions on a regional scale. However, at a more detailed level of analysis this correlation breaks down.

Through a re-evaluation of the evidence, the paper seeks to demonstrate that it is problematic to envisage the 'Italian' HBW and bronzes as expressions of the same network, suggesting the possibility that these assemblages represent different sets of connections.

*1.1.3. Tracing the Mundane. Circulation of Coarse Cream Ware in Central Italy between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC.*

MARTINA REVELLO LAMI

Most discussion about exchange networks in Central Italy during the Archaic period has focused on luxury items, such as wine, oil, unguents and perfumes, mainly following the path of *amphorae* and decorated fine wares. However, these artifacts are not the only surviving fragments of ancient trade networks: everyday household wares were often circulating on the same geographical routes, and the wide diffusion of Coarse Cream Ware provides an exemplary case study.

Coarse Cream Ware mortars, basins and bowls were produced in southern Etruria and *Latium Vetus* between the 6th and 4th BC and were extensively distributed from their main manufacturing centers towards the hinterland alongside navigable river routes, and northwards along the Tyrrhenian coast up to the French shoreline. This pattern reproduces a distribution model already identified for transport *amphorae* and *bucchero kantharoi*, both commonly associated with wine consumption. Conversely, the role of the more mundane Coarse Cream Ware vessels in such trading networks is quite unclear: they remain, indeed, in the realm of multifunctionality, and seem thus hard to connect to specific market demands. With particular reference to the Latial area, I will discuss the distribution map of these objects and their functional properties. My aim is to assess whether mundane categories such as Coarse Cream Ware can still be interpreted as subsidiary goods following the trading stream of their more highly prized travelling companions, or whether they should possibly be associated with a different distribution pattern, which gives new insights on trading and consumption patterns as well.

*1.1.4. Spatial and Chronological Trends in the Distribution of African Red Slip Ware in Late Antique Boeotia.*

DEAN PEETERS

The presence of African Red Slip Ware (ARSW) is a common phenomenon on sites spread all over the Mediterranean and beyond during the 1<sup>st</sup> till 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. Regardless this large spatial distribution of ARSW, the relative strict dating of this exotic ware can provide us important insights regarding economy and connectivity in Late Antiquity. The region of Boeotia in Central-Greece is used as a case-study to show the potential of the study of ARSW in regional archaeological research. The distribution of ARSW shows large regional differences that are typical for Late Antique Greece. In this context the city of Tanagra was the only (studied) Boeotian city that flourished until the end of Late Antiquity and it is argued that this was the result of its favourable geographical setting. Apart from the large amounts of amphorae that were encountered in this region, the presence of large percentages and amounts of ARSW reinforce this view. On the basis of the distribution of ARSW, the Boeotian cities and their hinterlands show similar patterns: the (relative) amount and different forms of ARSW found in the cities are reflected on their hinterland. At the same time the availability of local products, that seem to be complementary and contemporary to this Tunisian tableware, seemed to influence the import of ARSW in individual regions. ARSW not only turned out to be an indicator for long-distance trade, but also provides us important insights in the last, local, phase of the redistribution of Roman trade.



## 1.2. STYLING HYBRIDITY

### *1.2.1. Mixing traditions – mixing cultures' Kampos group' pottery in prepalatial Crete.*

ELENI NODAROU - YIANNIS PAPADATOS

This presentation deals with the so-called 'Kampos group' pottery in Crete (Greece), dated to the end of the Early Bronze I period (c. 2800 BC). Although it is encountered in many sites across the north Cretan coastline, it is considered of Cycladic origin on the basis of pottery shapes and technology of manufacture. From this point of view the 'Kampos group' pottery constitutes a key element in the debate concerning the relationship between Crete and the Cyclades, the presence of islanders in Crete, and the character of the 'International Spirit', a "panaegean *koine*" that characterizes the Aegean Early Bronze Age.

The combined typological and analytical study of the 'Kampos group' pottery assemblage from the cemeteries of Gournes on the north central and Livari on the south east coast contributes new evidence and allows a reconsideration of the existing interpretations. Both cemeteries produced pottery of the 'Kampos group' alongside vessels following the Minoan repertoire. The typological study reinforced the Cycladic character of the 'Kampos group' vases but it revealed also deviations from the Cycladic prototypes and a 'hybridism' of Cycladic and Cretan typological and technological features.

On the basis of recent theories about the social aspect of technology, it is suggested that these phenomena of hybridism seem to represent a conscious effort of the potters to express in a materialistic way the mixture of Cycladic and Cretan cultural elements. Within this context, the problem of the 'Kampos group' pottery seems far more complex than the simple pseudo-dilemma of the Cycladic vs. the Cretan origin of the vessels and/or the potters.

### *1.2.2. The Lion, the Sphinx and the Deer. Cultural connections and local identities in Geometric Crete.*

ANTONELLA PAUTASSO

The cultural connections witnessed by the archaeological record of Iron Age Crete and their impact on material culture is a broad field of research increasingly developed over the few past decades. Within this broad theme, pottery studies form an essential part. The richest assemblages from Iron Age Cretan necropoleis (primarily Knossos and Eleutherna) highly embody the complexity of cross-cultural interactions and their effect in shaping identities.

The present paper concerns a class of vases, dating back to Geometric Period, coming from the Siderospilia necropolis (Priniàs), and presented here for the first time. They include several huge kraters, and probably a few closed vases, showing a new shape in the Priniàs repertoire and an elaborated figured decoration unparalleled in Crete thus far. The shape - with a large and deep bowl (about 1 m high with the conical foot) and elaborated handles - recalls Attic Geometric counterparts (known also in Knossian tombs, but not with so "elephantine" size), while figured decoration depends on Near-Eastern models and recalls the repertoire of Mt. Ida bronzes: lions, sphinxes, deers and wild goats as well. Minor spaces on the walls are filled in with local simple motifs. The study of this "hybrid" pottery class in its manifold aspects – such as style, technic, iconography, context, function and so on – will lead to consider various issues such as local identity and craftsmen mobility.

*1.2.3. Adaptation, rejection and transformation: orientalising motifs on Cretan pottery from the 9th to 7th centuries BC.*

*ANN-SOFIE DIENER*

This paper is partly based on a current PhD thesis. One of its aims is to compile the examples of Cretan pottery decorated with motifs that are considered as ‘orientalising’. This dataset is analysed in terms of the chronological developments of single motifs, the relationship between particular motifs and shapes, as well as their geographical distribution on the island. Further, some case studies will explore in how far specific motifs and styles can indeed be traced to available Near Eastern models, either directly or indirectly. It also reveals how changing interests in Near Eastern prototypes can affect the appearance of popular designs. Special attention will be paid to the class of polychrome pithoi, which is particularly well suited for a discussion on the adaptation and rejection of certain motifs, on the local knowledge of orientalising ceramic wares of other Greek regions, as well as on the multi-layered approaches to achieving ‘oriental’ appearances. Finally, the paper will investigate possible motivations and self-perceptions behind this adaptation process, the potential significance of other local orientalising material such as bronze items, and the choices made by the potters, painters and especially their clients.

*1.2.4. Ceramic hybridity in (non-)colonial context: the North Aegean perspective*

*PETYA ILIEVA*

The notion of hybridity in material culture as marking the creation of new types seems to be usually understood in the context of the Greek colonisation which brought together things and individuals in a colonial “middle ground”. Identifying the original homeland of the various elements is instrumental in untangling the hybrid types providing the archaeologists with a tool for tracing the movement of people, artefacts and ideas.

The repertory of shapes of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. BC North-Eastern Aegean G 2-3 Ware, which will provide the relevant case study, indicates that ceramic hybrids may reflect multiple and complex modes of human interaction outside the colonial realm. It reproduces entire shapes or combines features of Mycenaean and LBA Anatolian pottery with some elements from the contemporary ceramic tradition of the southeast Balkans and numerous borrowings from EIA (Protogeometric and Geometric) Greek (Attic, Euboian) and northwest Anatolian (Gray Ware) table wares. The non-Greek (Tyrrhenian at that time) island of Lemnos, one of its main centres of manufacture, is an example of a non-colonial setting in which the hybrid repertory of the G 2-3 Ware shapes appears to emerge. To complicate the matter, the lack of imported prototypes of the shapes indicates that influx of ideas and shared knowledge of the products of leading earlier and contemporary ceramic workshops was instrumental for the creation of this local ware rather than the physical arrival of people and artefacts.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Shifting perspectives: ceramics and connectivity in the central Ionian Islands*

*CATHERINE MORGAN*

### 2.1. CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE REGION (PART I)

#### *2.1.1. Short scale connectivity and large scale geosources: the case of northern Apulia, Italy* ELISABETTA GLIOZZO

Archaeometry applied to ceramic studies can play a critical role in solving provenance issues. The ease with which combined analytical techniques can be performed has greatly contributed to both the characterization of numerous ceramic classes and the localization of raw material sources. In the framework of archaeological and archaeometric studies of northern Apulia ceramic productions, a large collaborative effort (1) was needed to provide a historical and archaeological reconstruction of their production and exchange, between the fourth and the seventh centuries AD.

The scenario involved a production pattern organized at multiple production sites, both rural and urban, that exploited analogous deposits for the supply of the raw materials and exchanged goods at a regional scale, including imported goods from the northern Adriatic coast. A major problem faced by the research was -and still is- the close geological similarities of the area under examination. The latter includes the territories of Canusium, San Giusto, Posta Crusta, Herdonia and Faragola. Clayey sediments suitable for ceramic production outcrop for miles and miles (large scale geosources), without significant differences from a chemical or mineralogical or petrographic perspective. It follows that the ceramics productions multiply within geologically-indistinct areas.

Although still on-going, this case study shows the value of using both coarse and fine pottery classes for discriminating between similar ceramic production sequences within a single, homogeneous topographic setting. This methodology offers great potential for addressing the current oversimplification of intra-regional connectivity within northern Apulia.

#### *2.1.2. Intra-island connectivity: a case study from ancient Zakynthos* NIENKE PIETERS

The connectivity of islands has been extensively discussed in recent literature on the Mediterranean. Much less attention has, however, been paid to intra-island connectivity. In my paper I engage with this issue using ancient Zakynthos (from the Neolithic to the Roman period) as a case study. Based on the finds from 28 sites identified by the Zakynthos Archaeology Project (ZAP), I approach ceramic production and distribution at three different spatial levels: the site; the micro-regions (identified with the research areas of the ZAP); and the region (meaning the island). My aim is to pinpoint the location and intensity of 'local' ceramic production and to determine what is imported in Zakynthos, as well as map and comprehend major patterns in the circulation of ceramics within the island. Particular emphasis is placed on a technological approach to survey ceramics, including fabric analysis on macroscopic and microscopic levels, combined with data from raw material prospection. This method and approach enables an in-depth study of intra-island mobility of pots and people.

*2.1.3. Mining the hinterland. Ceramic assemblages and material connections in Roman Cyprus.*  
*KRISTINA WINTHER-JACOBSEN*

Skouriotissa was one of the largest ancient copper mines in Cyprus. The mine is located in the hinterland of the city-centre of Soli on the north coast of the island. The Troodos Archaeological and Environmental Survey Project was designed to investigate the mine and study its hinterland in order to understand the long term effect of this resource on the settlement pattern and hierarchy. The distribution pattern of different types of pottery at different types of sites suggests different processes connected the settlements in the hinterland with each other, the coastland, the rest of the island and the mainlands surrounding it during the Roman period. The paper investigates ceramic assemblages in the hinterland, coastland and mainland exploring the material connections between the different communities against the backdrop of the copper mine. A similar project, The Sydney Cyprus Survey Project investigated the hinterland of the great copper mines at Tamassos associated with one of the islands few inland city-centres. The paper will explore how the different geographical settings affected the contact between communities.

*2.1.4. From Neapolis' harbour to the Apennines: coast-hinterland dynamics in AD 472 Campania*  
*CATERINA SERENA MARTUCCI - GIROLAMO DE SIMONE*

Beyond *Pompeii* and *Herculaneum*, life continued on the slopes of Vesuvius, until another eruption stroke in AD 472. Similarly to the Pompeian eruption, the later one offers a sharp chronological marker and a vivid snapshot of the trade patterns around the volcano.

At that time, important transformations were taking place in the economy of the Mediterranean basin. Despite the Vandal conquest, the commercial network from northern Africa was still in place, but regional productions became more relevant. In Campania, most of the micro-regional products seem to be related to several workshops scattered in the Vesuvian countryside, while others might be compared with vessels attested in the Apennines. For each class, this paper provides fabrics' visual and archaeometric characteristics, typology, and distribution.

Archaeometric analyses, matched with quantification studies, suggest new patterns of trade, which move beyond the traditional coast-hinterland economic model. In particular, overseas goods were traded following a hierarchical pattern that marginalised small centres, while local products hint to tight connectivity and preference for particular shapes, which were not attested in the cities. A third route linked the Apennines with the Vesuvian plain and shows interdependency between the two areas.

These distributional routes are mirrored by different cultural areas: among these the most relevant one is that on the slopes of Vesuvius, because it shows overall similarities with the city, but also the presence of both peculiar shapes not attested in *Neapolis*, and shapes peculiar of the Apennines.

## 2.2 NETWORKING COASTLANDS AND MAINLANDS

### *2.2.1. Social networks of the Late Bronze Age Euboean Gulf: the ceramic evidence*

MARGARETHA KRAMER

Examination of Late Bronze Age pottery from Chalkis and other sites along the Euboean Gulf coasts allows for the reconstruction of ever shifting networks of interaction. The Euboean Gulf coastal sites form a 'small world': the Euboean Gulf is at all points narrow enough that coastal sites look towards sites on the opposite coast, rather than to sites deeper in the interior that are invisible due to ranges of hills and low mountains. It might therefore be expected that Euboean Gulf coastal sites display a high degree of connectivity, visible by the presence of a ceramic *koine*. However, ceramic evidence such as the spread of LH I lustrous ware or the distribution of LH IIIC pictorial pottery suggests that in fact only during the prepalatial and especially the post palatial periods the Euboean Gulf sites form a dense interaction network and benefit from maritime long distance links.

During the palatial period earlier coastal hubs become marginal. Distribution of e.g. "giant alabaster" suggests that a new network, emanating from Thebes and land-based, undermines and temporarily replaces the "natural" coastal networks. This disruption of the Euboean Gulf interaction network provides a compelling explanatory model for the apparent marginalization of the North Euboean Gulf coasts during the palatial periods. After the collapse of the palaces, the coastal networks are re-formed creating a LH IIIC coastal *koine*. A strong warrior ethos, visible in the themes of pictorial pottery, suggests a deliberate rejection of palatial norms.

### *2.2.2. Terrestrial communications in Thessaly and the materiality of Attic pottery.*

KATERINA VOLIOTI

Scholars have associated the distribution of Archaic and Classical Attic wares mostly with maritime trade. For Thessaly, they have discussed interchangeably its alleged social backwardness and geographical isolation owing to Thessalians' limited access to the sea.

In this paper, I challenge these scholarly clichés by examining findspots of Attic pottery in the Thessalian hinterlands. Drawing from theories of materiality, I envisage the interactions between people, pottery, and the physical and man-made landscape. In particular, I examine Attic pottery that was decorated in a less refined manner and dates from 500-450 BC, when the volume of Attic imports increased in Thessaly and other locations of mainland Greece. For each findspot, I consider its immediate and wider topographical setting, and the possible routes that people travelled in transporting Attic wares.

I argue that the flood-prone rivers and plains, as well as the mountains that surround Thessaly from all sides, were not a constant barrier to communications. Notwithstanding the limitations of deficient survey, excavation, and publication, the existing distribution pattern of Attic pottery supports a model of intense and multi-directional interactions, which affected the materiality of this pottery. City-based elites may have organised the export and import of heavy cargoes over major rut roads. People who visited or lived in Thessaly, nonetheless, could have also used additional infrastructure such as mountain trails and semi-permanent river crossings. Terrestrial communications offered Thessalians the opportunity to be informed about and procure proactively Attic shapes that were popular in locations beyond Thessaly.

2.2.3. *Connections near and far: Classical and Early Hellenistic Pottery in Ionia*  
IREEN KOWALLECK

A new series of stratified deposits from the Classical and Early Hellenistic periods were recently excavated on Panayırdağ in Ephesos. The material from these deposits reveals for the first time invaluable information about a period of history, that has, until now, remained elusive (not only for the city of Ephesos, but also for Ionia). In particular, two stratified pottery assemblages from the excavations in the area within the Classical fortification wall and the neighbouring sanctuary of Meter have produced new evidence for occupation and ritual activities in this area. In this paper, I will analyze the range and character of these pottery assemblages, in terms of fabrics, wares, forms, and types. The discussion focuses on the import of Attic pottery as well as its impact on the local pottery production.

The distinction between Attic imports and the local Ephesian production of Atticizing black glazed wares is based on a systematic microscopic classification of the fabrics. The result of this classification is then supplemented with chemical analysis of representative samples by Neutron Activation Analysis (NAA). These NAA results have already proved for the first time that - along different types of imported ceramics from Athens-, Atticizing black glazed pottery was produced at Ephesos from the late 6<sup>th</sup> until the late 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. Moreover, in the final part of the paper, the evidence for Ephesos is contrasted by first results of parallel studies I have initiated for Classical Miletos. In the light of this, interregional differences concerning the production and consumption pattern of both Ionian poleis will be discussed.

2.2.4. *Shifting notions, changing patterns: a diachronic case study on Rhodes and the Dodecanese archipelago.*  
IRENE NIKOLAKOPOULOU

Due to their geographical position, in the southeastern border of the Aegean archipelago stretching along the Asia Minor coastline, the Dodecanese island communities have witnessed a long history of shifting affiliations and cultural interactions traceable back to the late Neolithic period. Rhodes certainly played a focal role within the cultural landscape of any given period, reflecting changing patterns of connectivity and network integration. In this context, notions of physical settings, such as “island”, “mainland”, “coastland” and “hinterland”, evidently call for a more flexible and variable approach, inherently linked to prevailing socio-economic circumstances and political administration.

This paper seeks to touch upon facets of interaction of the Dodecanese island communities with those of the surrounding (but also farther away) “mainlands” through time, focusing mainly on the Bronze Age and the Hellenistic period. For the most part of the Bronze Age period, material culture manifestations, with pottery at the epicentre, remain the main guide for this approach, with specific references to the landmasses of Asia Minor and Crete. On the other hand, the ample evidence from literary sources and pottery for Rhodes in the Hellenistic period serves to exemplify how an island *polis* dominates over segments of the opposite mainland, which acts as the “*peraia*”, the *Lebensraum* for the nearby islands. The emerging picture suggests that island communities, such as in Rhodes and Crete, occasionally assumed primary role in island-mainland networks of interaction, thus defying rigid schemes of geographical categories and negative definitions of insularity attributes.

## 2.3. HYBRIDIZATION AND ACCULTURATION

### *2.3.1. Shaping insularity: patterns of acculturation and hybridisation in the NE Aegean between the Middle and Late Bronze Age.*

LUCA GIRELLA - PETER PAVÚK

Due to the exiguous archaeological evidence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium BC, the NE Aegean area has only intermittently been explored in the archaeological research. Two main questions remain open: firstly, the role of the NE Aegean islands and their interaction with the surrounding continental masses (namely Western Anatolian coast and Northern Greece); secondly, the understanding of the progressive interaction of this region with the southern Aegean 'world' (mainly the Cretan one) during the MBA and early LBA, as well as with the Greek mainland throughout the whole of LBA, known otherwise through the labels of Minoanisation and Mycenaeanisation.

Focusing on the above-outlined problems the paper will show: (a) how the concept of insularity for this area, as a result of the interaction with the nearby continental masses and the 'foreign worlds', was differently shaped over several centuries and led to construction of different 'histories'; (b) how, compared to other areas of the Aegean (such as the Dodecanese and the Cyclades), the interaction with the Minoan and Mycenaean worlds produced a rather different and less compelling picture, which however cannot be reduced, as was often previously the case, to an image of isolation .

By commenting mostly upon pottery production, distribution, and consumption, we shall argue how in the NE Aegean the active selection, adaptation and incorporation of technological innovations and foreign material culture features into local landscapes, was a process varying both geographically and chronologically. It will be further attempted to shown that the development along the line from (1) an imitation to (2) a hybrid creation, was not homogeneous and actively responded to cultural preferences and social strategies.

### *2.3.2. East Cretan ceramics during the advanced Late Bronze Age: Assessing regional traditions and interaction networks.*

CHARLOTTE LANGOHR

Recent studies acknowledge Mycenaean cultural and political interference as well as continuous acculturation processes and hybridization phenomena in an effort to reconstruct Late Minoan II-IIIB Cretan society through an analysis of its material culture and interactions with the Mycenaean Mainland. This paper proposes to investigate the sociocultural characterisation of Cretan communities during the advanced Late Bronze Age from an East Cretan perspective. Based on a diachronic typological and stylistic analysis of ceramic assemblages from different sites of this region (Palaikastro, Mochlos, Petras, etc.), the degree of regional connectivity and variation in pottery consumption is assessed. Such an approach allows to examine local and regional ceramic traditions in terms of pottery exchange and cultural interconnection. It also informs on the maintenance and/or transformation of sociocultural identities within and between regional communities in the wider context of Mycenaeanization processes of the island. The more specific recognition of interaction networks at both intra- and inter-regional scales will be preliminarily considered.

### 2.3.3. *Connectivity vs. insularity: reading the ceramic record from Early Iron Age Cyprus* ANASTASIA LERIOU

Until the 1970s, stylistic and technological affinities in ceramics were considered as the primary type of evidence for substantiating the existence of cultural groups. This was particularly so for island societies, which were considered as isolated and idiosyncratic, due to the boundedness characterising their physical environments (insularity). Consequently, the identification in insular archaeological records of locally-crafted pottery types associated with the ceramic production of particular regions in the mainland or other islands was considered as indicative of the presence of 'foreign' cultural groups from those regions; this was attributed to drastic population movements such as migrations or colonisations. Theoretical developments in the last decades, however, have demonstrated that a) pottery cannot be directly associated with peoples and b) insularity is not a permanent condition, as it changes due to a variety of factors (technological progress, climatic change, socio-political shifts etc.). Indeed, research focussing on LBA Cyprus has demonstrated that sea holds both uniting and dividing powers and the potential to contribute towards the establishment of cultural boundaries, as well as facilitate connection between peoples. Moreover, the established archaeological narrative of the Mycenaean migration to Cyprus has been reconsidered, as the ceramic evidence thought to substantiate the Aegean presence has been associated with a situation of advanced connectivity evidenced in the extended network of maritime routes connecting the Aegean and the island for at least two centuries before the end of the LBA.

The present paper aims at extending this investigation into the Early Iron Age, a period characterised by the island's gradual involvement and dynamic contribution to the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean trade network, as well as the establishment of the Phoenicians. The degree of Cyprus' insularity and/ or connectivity during this period will be re-evaluated on the basis of the theoretical developments mentioned above and will be set against the story told by local ceramics. Thus, I hope to provide some insight into the dynamics of pottery's multifaceted and ever-changing role in the interaction between people bearing distinctively different cultural identities.

## 2.4 CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE REGION (PART II)

### 2.4.1. *Early pottery technology and production. The case of Thessaly.*

ANASTASIA DIMOULA

Early pottery technology and production are issues that have been subjected to intense research, though confined by the boundaries of specific theoretical trends. The latter are firstly related to the views regarding the origins of the Neolithic in Greece (*import or local phenomenon*), secondly to the approaches to pottery as an aspect of material culture (*one-sided or multi-faceted phenomenon*) and lastly to the more strict interpretations of early pottery production (*household-based or mobile phenomenon*). Contemporary archaeological research and intellection has shifted the interest to issues concerning the social role of pottery, through agency, the formation of perspectives, relationships, traditions, individual and group identities, in particular regarding the early Neolithic, a period characterized by innovations and social reformations.

Early pottery technology and production is re-examined and approached through the interdisciplinary study (combination of macroscopic study and petrographic analysis) of pottery, deriving from the earliest excavation contexts of an array of sites in Thessaly (namely



Theopetra cave, Sesklo, Achilleion, Argissa Magoula, Otzaki Magoula, Soufli Magoula, Magoula Melissochori). Through the reconstruction of the of the CHAÎNE OPÉRATOIRE involved in pottery manufacture and its assignment in the general contexts of the area and the era, is speculated how the phenomenon of pottery emerged, developed and became a tradition, as well as how its elements transmitted or were rejected, through the mobility of people, artefacts and ideas, among the early Neolithic communities of Thessaly in the mid-7<sup>th</sup> Millennia B.C.

#### *2.4.2 To change or to exchange? The formation of ceramic landscapes in Neolithic Thessaly, (Greece)* ARETI PENTEDEKA

Thessaly, situated in the heart of the Greek mainland, comprises a diverse landscape, combining mountain formations, flat plains, river valleys, lacustrine environments and coastland in harmony. It was a densely populated area during the Neolithic, the majority of settlements forming tells, others being extended, while cave habitation is also attested. A rich and rather uniform pottery production characterises the entire region throughout the Neolithic period, forming a robust typology that has heavily influenced our view of the Neolithic of Central and Northern Greece, while until recently it was widely accepted that Neolithic pottery did not circulate, and when it did, this concerned only highly decorated finewares, which acted as rare goods.

A large-scale research programme on the archaeometric analysis of both coarse- and finewares attested in Neolithic Thessaly is in progress, focusing on potting traditions and regional connectivity, and including pottery deriving from a large number of settlements in Thessaly and combining excavation and surface/survey contexts. The detection of a) different production centres, most frequently ware-specific, b) the parallel activity of different exchange networks, and c) the variability of distribution patterns of the pottery produced, have significant connotations for the unravelling of the complex relations developed between settlements situated in different micro-environments and the recognition of inter-regional diversification in Thessaly. The study of exchange and its networks reveals a new perception of the Thessalian landscape within the Neolithic "cosmos", which appears less uniform and more segmented, yet more "human" than originally considered.

#### *2.4.3. Mediterranean networks and Euboean connectivity. Phantasies, theories and some sherds.* LIEVE DONNELLAN

The paper discusses the relation between connectivity, identity and pottery assemblages in the early Iron Age, between Euboea and the so-called Euboean West.

In a much-cited paper on identity and Greek colonisation, John Papadopoulos suggested more than a decade ago that the Euboeans in the West had been phantoms. The low percentages of the Euboean pottery in the assemblage of a site like Pithekoussai would suggest, in Papadopoulos' view, that the term "Euboean" was wrongly applied and that one should emphasise more the Corinthian involvement.

Drawing on theories and methods of quantitative analysis as well as social network analysis (SNA), this paper proposes a different reading of the pottery evidence in the so-called Euboean west and its role in Early Iron Age Mediterranean networks. Rather than looking at absolute quantities of pottery, it is advocated in the paper that one has to look at quality as well: the variety in pottery assemblages of sites connected to "Euboean colonisation" in the West is quite significant and suggests that potters acquainted with the Euboean repertoire lived and worked outside Euboea proper.

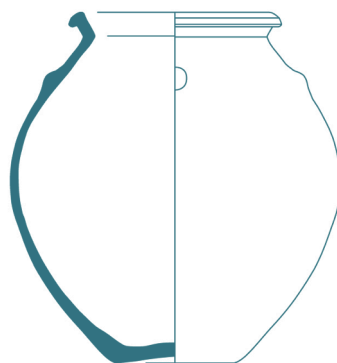
Claims of identity will always remain elusive; the connectivity of a region through pottery assemblages can be documented, and informs us at least of what was fashionable among

consumers. Although this element is only a small part of a wide spectrum of personal and social identities, indications of connectivity through consumption are significant.

#### *2.4.4. Diachronic network analysis: turning Bronze Age sequences into historical trajectories in the Italian peninsula*

*ERIK VAN ROSSENBERG*

In this paper I'd like to put typochronological networks (in short, 'typo-networks') forward as a means to get to grips with Bronze Age sequences in the Italian peninsula in terms of connectivity and network changes. 'Typo-networks' constitute a form of network analysis that visualises the relationships between site assemblages emerging from (but often remaining implicit in) typological classification of ceramics. In the case of the Bronze Age sequences in the Italian peninsula it highlights regional differentiation in terms of the presence or (virtual) absence of ceramics attributed to particular (sub)phases. Instead of taking a lack of ceramic connectivity at face value (either a past reality or a research bias) I will interpret 'gaps' as a strong indication of regional differentiation in Bronze Age sequences. Consequently, particular (sub)phases cannot be regarded as consecutive in Bronze Age sequences, because the spatial dimensions of their 'typo-networks' are complementary. This indicates such a high degree of overlap that contemporaneity of (sub)phases is likely (in the sense of regional traditions of ceramics). Chronological overlap requires 'time-transgressive' mapping, in order to get networks and trajectories right. This does not only shed a different light on the course, but also on the pace of network changes that make up Bronze Age trajectories in the Italian peninsula. In particular, 'time-transgressive' mapping of 'typo-networks' gives a better impression of changes in land-based networks and their relation to seaborne connectivity.



### 3.1 NODES IN NETWORKS

#### *3.1.1. Interconnections in central Greece Examining the ceramic assemblages from the early island settlement of Kephala (Skiathos, Sporades)*

ALEXANDRA ALEXANDRIDOU

This paper aims at presenting the ceramic material discovered at the early settlement of Kephala situated at the northeast side of Skiathos, an island which belongs to the North Sporades of the central Aegean. The pottery, discussed here, was discovered during the recent three-year survey at the site (2009-2011) and the subsequent systematic excavation in 2012.

Based on the first assessment of the collected pottery, the fortified settlement of Kephala seems to have flourished during the Early Iron Age, namely from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the middle of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, while seventh-century activity is well-represented too. The absence of Early Iron Age or early archaic evidence from the neighbouring islands of the Sporades assigns to the site a particular importance and allows for the exploration of a number of questions concerning its position within its wider geographical setting at the time.

The ceramic assemblages unveil a dynamic Early Iron Age site which was closely linked to its neighbouring areas and in particular Thessaly and Euboea. In addition, the finds indicate that it played a significant role within a trading network which connected the southern and central Greece with the northern areas. This active role seems to have been maintained during the seventh century with a number of changes observed.

The paper intends to trace through the available ceramic evidence the degree of connectivity that Kephala developed with each of its surrounding areas. Moreover, the impact of the geographical position of the site on these relations, as well as their development over time will be accessed.

#### *3.1.2. A Greek island in the Delta? Analysing the ceramic assemblage from Naukratis.*

ALEXANDRA VILLING

In antiquity as in modern times the Nile Delta was a contact zone between Egypt and the Mediterranean world. The ports of the Delta permitted a flow of people, goods and ideas into this northern part of Egypt. One of the most influential aspects was the Greek presence in the Delta from the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC. Naukratis, the Greek trading port on the Nile (inland, yet 'Mediterranean' in outlook) was the main long-term hub or gateway for this contact.

The plentiful and varied pottery from the site is a crucial category of evidence for this, but the assemblage recovered from the site in excavations between 1884-1903 is based on highly skewed selection practices and has been subject only to highly selective studies. Since 2002 a project at the British Museum has been aiming for the first time to reconstruct the archaeology and the history of the site in a more comprehensive manner. But how can a compromised assemblage from 19<sup>th</sup> century excavations be made usable for modern-day methods? The proposed paper will discuss past and present approaches to the pottery of Naukratis and critically evaluate their feasibility and usefulness. Drawing on the large body of material and related information now assembled by the project, it will propose nuanced ways for analysing the assemblage in the context of both Mediterranean and local Egyptian networks, and present

preliminary conclusions about the site's development and the way it both shaped, and was shaped by, Egyptian/Mediterranean cultural and geographical landscapes.

### *3.1.3 Local, Import and Imitation Pottery at Cerveteri; New Perspectives on early Etruscan Connectivity in Italy and in the Eastern Mediterranean*

ORLANDO CERASUOLO

In the 8th and 7th century BC the Etruscan city of Cerveteri, lying along the Tyrrhenian coast, was one of the major centres of the Mediterranean. It was placed next to a main river which branches inland and gives a direct link towards the Bracciano Lake and the Tiber valley communities.

The advantageous position allows the aristocratic rulers of the town to establish an intense network of commercial connections, proved by the funerary pottery assemblages themselves and by their ritual use. In this paper I will re-examine the material evidence, with focus on imports, imitations and hybrid pottery at Cerveteri and on Caeretan products abroad, so to illustrate attentively the nature of the three-fold interactions of the Caeretans.

*-The Tyrrhenian coastal route.* Cerveteri played a great role in the coastal routes linking the Northern mining area of Populonia to the Greek colonies of Pithekoussai and Kyme, and trading with the local communities of Rome, Praeneste, Lavinium and Satricum, until to Capua and Pontecagnano.

*-The Tyrrhenian-Adriatic link.* One of the best connection between the two opposite shores of central Italy is that one linking Cerveteri to the Ager Picenus (ie. the modern towns of Tolentino and Matelica), passing through the Ager Faliscus and the Tiber valley.

*-The overseas connections.* A large-scale exchange with the Phoenicians and the Greeks was set in the 7th-8th century BC, so to connect Cerveteri with the Central Mediterranean (i.e. Sardinia, Sicily and Magna Graecia) and the Eastern Mediterranean (mainland Greece, Euboea, Crete, Rhodes, Cyprus and the Near East).

### *3.1.4. Pottery circulation and urban supply in Rome in the 1 century BCE. New data from the Horti Lamiani area (Esquiline Hill).*

ANTONIO F. FERRANDES

The period between the end of the Second Punic War and the Augustan age constitutes an obscure moment for the history of urban supply, both as regards some goods (wine, olive oil, fish sauces) and ceramic artifacts. Although there are stratigraphies edited for this particular time, contemporary materials from their contexts are rather small, and not enough to reconstruct the history of urban supply in late Republican age. The recent discovery – in the area later occupied by the Horti Lamiani, on the Esquiline Hill – of a context datable around the mid-1st century BCE allowed us to fill at least part of this vacuum and to get an idea of the circulating assets in Rome between the ages of Sulla and Caesar. It was thus possible on the one hand to reconstruct the network of exchanges that linked Rome to the most important production centres of fine wares (especially *Arretium* and Neapolis, but also Tibur and some cities of Asia Minor) and of some foodstuffs (mainly the Tyrrhenian and Adriatic coast of Italy, but also the area of *Massalia*, the *Baetica* and *Tarraconensis*, the North Africa and some comparts of Aegean and Asia Minor), and the other hand identify more local production of fine pottery (black- and red-gloss wares and, probably, lamps).

The comparative study of imports and local production has allowed to carry out some considerations about the characters of urban supply system in relation to geographical location, infrastructures network and the political role played right now by Rome, and finally to raise new questions to which future research must respond.

## 3.2 CONNECTIVITY VERSUS ISOLATION

### *3.2.1. Insularity and Cosmopolitanism in Ayia Irini, Kea.*

NATHALIE ABELL- EVI GOROGIANNI

Even though archaeology routinely promotes geographical setting as one of the most important factors in explaining a site's importance and its connectivity (or lack thereof), recent literature has underlined that notions of insularity or connectedness are culturally and situationally defined. The Cycladic island of Kea is an excellent example that reinforces this concept. Kea is an island, yet it is very close and closely connected to the mainland, and during its history has gone from an important node in the Aegean network (i.e., during the Middle and Late Bronze Age) to a place on the periphery (under classifications by the modern Greek state bureaucracy). This paper proposes to explore the relationship between the ceramic assemblage of Ayia Irini, a prehistoric settlement on the island, to its geographical setting, and trace the ebb and flow of its conceptual distance from the actual mainland as well as from the centres of socio-political power over time. More specifically, the paper focuses on the relationship between insularity and cosmopolitanism, from the Middle to the end of the Bronze Age, tracing the geo-political and economic realities that constantly redrew the notional map of the Aegean and affected the fortunes of the site.

### *3.2.2 Up, up and away? Remoteness and connectivity in the Cretan mountains- a ceramic perspective from the Neopalatial period.*

SEBASTIAN TRAUNMÜLLER

For long Minoan archaeology has mainly focused on the large coastal settlements and their lowland surroundings. Only more recently have several studies started to fully appreciate and embrace the most prominent characteristic of the Cretan landscape: the mountains.

The discovery of a large Minoan building of Neopalatial date at Zominthos, located c. 1200 m up in the Psiloritis-Mountains, during the 1980s by Yannis Sakellarakis consequently arose much interest among the scholarly community. The remote location of the largest Minoan rural *Villa* discovered so far raised numerous questions concerning the relationship between the settlement and its microregional setting as well as its connection to the well-established network of sites during the Late Bronze Age on the island of Crete.

Based on the pottery assemblage from a ceramic workshop located within the *Villa* at Zominthos, the present paper seeks to explore these connections and relationships between the mountaineous hinterland of Minoan Crete and its coastal centres and Aegean contacts. Particular attention shall also be given to the diversity of the landscape and its ecological, economic and social significance, using geographical, anthropological and archaeological sources of information.

Further, the characteristics of the pottery group may allow to pose additional questions concerning the topographical, and possibly also socio-cultural, remoteness of the site and its influence on the local pottery style itself.

### 3.2.3. Pottery Distribution in the Sanctuaries: Evidence of Archaic Painted Pottery from the Sanctuary of Kythnos.

MARIA KOUTSOUMPOU

According to the literary sources, the island of Kythnos, like most of the Cycladic islands, was poor, unimportant, uninteresting. However, the archaeological data has shown a totally different picture: the recent excavations on the position Vryokastro of the island (conducted under the direction of Professor Al. Mazarakis-Ainian in collaboration with the 21st Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities) have revealed a Sanctuary with thousands of dedications originating from many workshops of the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean, some of which as yet unidentified. The finds correspond to a dynamic and “open” society showing once more that “insularity” does not mean isolation.

This paper will focus on analyzing some groups of archaic painted pottery from the Sanctuary, trying to evaluate them as testimonia for connectivity between different regions/sites. We investigate their origin, but also their use and quantity in the Sanctuary, to find out if they correspond to established relations or rather to random contacts. In this context we highlight a group of 7th century BC “hybrid” vases that could lead us to interesting conclusions.

Kythnos, a provincial center of the Aegean, is ideal as a case study for the significance of geographical position on the developing networks and maritime trade routes of the archaic Aegean Sea.



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