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Prehistoric Archaeology; Classical Archaeology; Cyclades; Insularity

Organized by Erica Angliker and John Tully, the book *Cycladic Archaeology and Research. New approaches and discoveries* (2018) is a major contribution in the field of History and Archaeology of the Cycladic Islands. The proposal is based on the presentation of new data and approach in that area of the Greek world. Born from the recent trend of interest in the studies of the archipelago, the publication approaches the mass of data based in the contemporary perspectives of connectivity, exchanges and circulation in insular context. The importance of the issues is lined by current themes, like culture migrations, natural threat, climatic changes, urbanization, exploration and management of natural resources.

The book was organized to cover a big variety of periods, issues and approaches of the same geographic area, the Cyclades. Thus, articles of the specialists which contributed to the work are displayed in a chronological order. After a general introduction made by the organizers, there is a first chapter, also with an introductory and general characteristic about the potential of the Cycladic history and archaeology, written by Christy Constatankopoulou.

The next pages of the book are distributed in 4 chronological parts –Bronze Age Cyclades, Archaic and Classical Cyclades, Hellenistic and Later Cyclades, Diachronic Approaches.

In the introduction, Erica Angliker and John Tully bring to the reader the circumstances which have heathen the interest in the study of the history and archaeology of the Cyclades, a process that have started in the 1970's. Two main points have triggered and maintained that phenomena. First,

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the recent archaeological discoveries, for example in Kithinos, Kea, Andros and Despotiko. Second, theoretical reformulations that boost insularity subjects, contacts, regional identities and population displacement.

Cycladic landscape gathers the attention of sailors and explores since the XVIII and XIX centuries. In the introduction, the idea that the Cycladic islands have never been isolated from the regional context is stressed, and that is the main issue that guides the book: the presentation of new findings and approaches that evaluate the timeless networks which connected the Cycladic islands with the other areas of the Greek-roman world.

The article by Christy Constatankopoulou, the first of the book, examines the history of the Cyclades in different periods, based in written documents showing evidences of sociopolitical relations in Cyclades of the Classical and Hellenistic times. Topics such, living conditions of workers and slaves in agriculture, violence, management and administration of rural properties, local laws, cult and religion, political dependence, commercial ties and religious Panhellenic contacts are discussed by the author. There is no doubt that it is an approach which has shown the great potential of historical sources for the study of the islands in an internal and external connected way.

The first article related to the Bronze Age, "*Terracotta statues from Ayia Irini, Kea: An experimental replication*", written by Eleni Hasaki and Rachel DeLozier, is an example of the contribution of experimental archaeology to the comprehension of Cycladic society and techniques in the Bronze Age. The main objective of the article is to understand the technique used for molding prehistorical terracotta figurines. The study combined archaeological information with contemporary artists ceramics experience in order to produce a figurine replica of Ayia Irini, chronological related to 1500/1425 B.C.².

Results reveal difficulties due to the lack of knowledge about the primary techniques used by the Bronze Age artisans, especially because the researches only had visual data from the archaeological figurines, most of them was smoothed and erased by workmanship, in the last part of the prehistorical work. Nevertheless, the investigation of those techniques made possible to reflect on the artisan's specialization. The article also has an Appendix, written by Bernice Jones, about proposal of reconstitutions

² The original figurine is held in the Archaeological Museum of Kea, inventory number 139.

of the models, colors and function of the decorations which represented the figurines garments.

Stephanie Martin brings an important study about city abandonment patterns after natural disasters. In that article – *“Abandoning Akrotiri (Thera): A comparative model approach to relocation strategies after volcanic eruptions”*– the author analyses the abandonment and resettlement behaviors of Akrotiri inhabitants, after the volcanic eruption in the island, in 1625 B.C..

The research was conducted by a social answer and behavior model for disasters, elaborated after archaeological and geological data obtained from all over the world. The main factors that have influenced the abandonment and the resettlement decision in the Akrotiki case, was the size and complexity of the society, social contacts previously established with others cities and ambient familiarity with the destiny place.

The next article, *“Coming to terms with Late Cycladic II: Questions of style and stratigraphy at Phylakopi, Melos”*, is an important study about an archaeological stratum, written by Jason W. Earle. The article’s intents to discuss and characterize an archaeological stratum related to Late Cycladic II (1450 to 1300 B.C.). There is a rescue of XXth century discussions about the classification system employed in Cycladic contexts, derived from pottery sequence of Knossos. According to the author, more data is necessary to characterize the Late Cycladic II pottery style. He is reluctant to postulate the existence of a well-established pottery style of the Late Cycladic II, because it’s very similar with the precedent style of Late Cycladic I and also with the contemporary Cretan pottery, creating a gap to be filled in this area of study.

The first article to open the chronological division related to Archaic and Classical times was written by Michael J. Knight and Lesley A. Beaumont and set the debate of an old and contemporary problem: water supply. In *“Water supply and climate change at Zagora on Andros: New approaches and perspectives on the Early Iron Age Cyclades”*, the authors make use of archaeological and climate data, combined with models of water flow and recharge in natural reservoirs and springs to understand how the population of Zagora, on Andros, managed the water supply through the occupation span of Geometric Period (900 – 700 B.C.), handling with climate problems and shortage of water resources.

The contribution of Aenne Ohnesorg and Katarina Papajanni, in the article *“The sanctuary of Despotiko (Cyclades, Greece) The Building with Channel and other enigmatic structures”*, give information about the sanctuary complex

of Apollo, in the Mandra archaeological site, Despotiko island, which has buildings belonging from VIII century to V century B.C.. The authors focus on the description of an archaic building, named "Building with channel", south of the sanctuary. The entire complex has several facilities which could have been used to keep animals and beings, cisterns, drainage areas, ovens and channels where water flows.

The big question refers to the real function of that place. The authors believe, based on the interpretation of the buildings, since no other building like that is known in others publications, that the facility had practical purpose, possibly a place related to food production.

The sanctuary of Despotiko, Mandra archaeological site, is also the context for the article written by Alexandra Alexandridou, "*The 'Lady of Despotiko' reconsidered: Cult image or Cult utensil?*".

The main goal of the article is to discuss the function of a terracotta female figurine found in the course of the excavations of Building A, in 2001 and 2002. The Building A area seems to have been a cultic place since Geometric Period, where the buildings, visible until today, was later build, during VI century B.C. "*Pepina*", how the piece is known, was in a deposit with pottery and metals objects, chronological assigned to Archaic Period. The author analyzed the piece using comparisons with similar figurines and pottery iconography from Cycladic and attic contexts in order to set a chronology between 675 and 650 B.C., and a Parian provenance. Alexandra Alexandridou concludes that the figurine was a vase holder and not a representation of a deity, but a priestess or a common mortal, produced for Despotiko sanctuary.

Dimitris Paleothodoros, made a study about the distribution and reception of attic Black figure pottery in the Cyclades between 600 and 450 B.C., in his article "*The import of Attic Black figure vases in the Cyclades*". The author brings a synthesis of the published material, showing information about chronology, typology and findings contexts. The data point that the Cycladic Islands was a well-established market for Attic pottery since the second quarter of VI century B.C.. On the other hand, the consumers choose a limited number of shapes, probably related to Cult activities.

The article written by Yannis Kourayos, Robert F. Sutton and Kornilia Daifa, "*Miltiades on Paros: New evidence from Despotiko*", is an example of how History and Archaeology can contribute together for the knowledge of the past. The authors published archaeological data that evaluated historical accounts, especially Herodotus, of the invasion of Paros by Miltiades, after the war against the Persians. The material clues of the

invasion are perceptible in the destructions and reconstructions of the Apollon Sanctuary, in the Mandra archaeological site in Despotiko, – island that was under control of Paros at that time – in 490/489 B.C.. Those archaeological evidences, combined with ancient accounts, are strong indications that the destructions of the sanctuary of Despotiko was caused by the Athenians under Miltiades, in an action of vengeance for the collaboration of Paros with the Persians during the First Persian War. That retaliation, authors says, only could happened between 490 and 489 B.C..

In the article *“The cult topography of Paros from the 9th to 4th Century BC: A summary”*, written by Yannis Kourayos, Erica Angliker, Kornilia Daifa and John Tully, the authors made an important and updated topographic analyses of the Parian sanctuaries, integrating different kinds of data. The results can be seen in the big amount of details and the chronology of the sanctuaries from Geometric to Hellenistic times. There is a big display of the data: ceramological, architectural, topographical and organization of temples and cult practices. All the information shows a continuity of the cult and sanctuary topographic, also the links between religion and urbanization.

In *“From the Hellenistic sculpture of Seriphos and Siphnos”*, we have the opening of the subdivision *“Hellenistic and Later Cyclades”*. The author, Anna Maria Anagnostopoulou, contribute with a stylistic analyses of the female sculpture production of Hellenistic times from Seriphos and Siphnos and compared with exemplars from other regions in order to establish chronological and stylistic correlations. The study concluded that the sculptures from the two islands were made in white marble, have proportions under the human measures, what facilitated transportation and cut costs. The production time span extended from Early Hellenistic to the beginning of Roman Era in the Cyclades, mainly destined to dedicatory or decorative function in internal or external places, public or private. Unfinished pieces may have pointed the existence of a workshop in Seriphos. On the other hand, stylistic characteristics are indicative of artistic links with other areas, like Delos, Rhodes, Samos and Asia Minor, something plausible for a workshop placed on the cosmopolite environment of these islands.

The article *“Panathenaic amphorae in Delos and Rhenea in the Hellenistic period”*, from Gilberto da Silva Francisco, analyses multiple significances that the Panathenaic Amphorae could have during the Hellenistic times. Even after the end of the Athenian religious, administrative and economic influence upon Delos and Rhenea, local festivals kept some continental characteristics, like the use and reference to the Panathenaic Amphorae.

According to the author, Athenian Panathenaic Amphoras passed through Delos, where mosaics and frescos decoration can point houses of local athletes who won the prizes, to later been placed in Rhenea as votive pieces to Heracles. Thus, it's possible to think in a connective net between islands and Athens though the athletic memories and cults.

In the article *"Parian marble in Koan statuary and utilitarian artifacts of the Hellenistic and Roman period. Finds at the sanctuary of Apollo at Kardamaina (ancient Halasarna) on Kos"*, the authors, Georgia Kokkorou-Alevras, Eirene Poupaki, Dimitris Tambakopoulos and Yannis Maniatis, aim to identify the provenance of the marble used in sculptures and objects found in the excavations of the Apollo's sanctuary, chronologically attributed to between the III and II centuries B.C., and in the posterior bizantinian settlement, built upon the ancient temple, in Halasarna (Kardamaina), Kos, Dodecanese. The results, obtained by archeometric methods, microscopic and macroscopic, applied in pieces of sculptures and marble objects, shows that the major part of the marble utilized in Halarsana was originated from Paros. Thus, the authors conclude that the marble from Paros was carved in local workshops. It points to the great value given to the Parian marble and the effort of the local elite to spent wealth in such importations. The techniques and archeometric analyses used in this article are examples of the value of that data for provenance studies and localizations of production centers.

The Christianization process of Cyclades is the subject of the article *"The Cyclades in the late antique period. Churches, networks and Christianization"*, written by Rebecca Sweetman, Alice Devlin and Nefeli Pirée Iliou. The strategy adopted by the authors was to gather topographic, funerary, architectural and epigraphic data related to churches during the Late Antiquity (400 to 700 A.D.). The data shows strategies used during the archipelago Christianization, like the preference to build churches near ancient pagan sanctuary and in busy areas, a process which seems to had started by networks between the local populations with another areas in Greece. Later, however, such process got local characteristics, and the churches were built in remote areas of the islands.

In *"The Harbour of Minoa Amorgos during the Roman imperial period"*, Giorgos Gavalas brings again the debate: Cycladic Islands should be approached like a unity or like independent islands? The author's opinion is answered in the study of the importance of the Minoa harbor in the Amorgos island for the Roman exchanges networks in Cyclades between the II and IV centuries A.D.. He organized, for that reason, a topographic and urbanization development of the harbor area. Thus, buildings found along

excavations point to the existence of workshops, ovens, glass workshops, a public baths, sanctuaries, luxury houses, walls and cemeteries in the harbor area. Chronologically placed between the end of the II century and beginning of the VII century B.C., those buildings give us an image of a planned and developed area near the ancient harbor of Minoa. They also show that the island had a significant role for the connections between east and west Mediterranean during Imperial Roman times.

The subsequent articles are under the last division of the book, Diachronic Approaches. The article *"The Irakleia Caves Exploration Project and the importance of cave research for the archaeology of the Cyclades: A brief note"*, written by Fanis Mavridis, Žarko Tankosić and Antonis Kotsonas, open the last bloc. In this article the authors aim to demonstrate the importance of cave studies to the archaeological exploration, showing the partial results of a project named *"Irakleia Caves Exploration Project"*. The Project wants to contribute to the register and study of caves of Irakleia, in Cyclades, because that natural formations was poorly explored in that region if compared with other Aegean places. The questions proposed by the project encompass different periods – from Neolithic to Roman Period – and the uses of the caves, as habitations or ritual purpose, in comparison with others regions, mainly Crete. It's important to evaluate that the article approaches the uses of the Cycladic caves by the insularity issues which is one of the aims of the book, bringing a different and new perspective in comparison with the cave studies in others Aegean regions.

In *"Votive and honorific monument offering practice(s) in Delos. Evolution of a social practice in Apollo's sanctuary from archaic times to the Roman era"*, written by Frederic Herbin, we have a study of dedication inscriptions placed in statue bases of the Apollo's sanctuary, in Delos. The main objective is to comprehend the evolution of the offering practices on the sanctuary, related to the context of the social and political Delian history in the Archaic, Classical, Independence and Athenian and Roman colonial times. The inscriptions have shown information, like the statues donator's and receivers names and provenance, in votives or honorific statues. In some cases there is the name of the artisan and the circumstance of the donation. Through the article the author shows examples of inscriptions together with parallels in political and social context, where we can see changes in the number, kind and propose of the donators.

In the article *"Ancient Paros: New evidence for its topographical development in light of rescue excavations"*, by Yannis Kourayos, the reader can have a glimpse of the development of the ancient Parian polis through the centuries. The data are from XIX's century excavations and 35 years of

rescue excavation made by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Cyclades. The article shows information about the main structures and findings, like habitations, workshops, temples, walls, cemeteries and burials. All data are result of the rescue excavations that bring to light elements of the prehistory and historical periods.

In the article of Lydia Palaiokrassa Koptisa, "*New evidence from the agora of ancient Andros. The city of Andros*", we have new data of the excavations of the ancient homonymous city of the island, Andros, settled in 700 B.C.. The amount of data is big and varied, but the focus is on structures, like temples, churches, walls and buildings from the V century B.C. to the XX century A.D.. That information explains uses and the dynamic of the Agora area through the urban development of Andros.

In the article "*Sensory study of vision in the panegyris of Delos: Seeing the sacred landscape and sensing the god*", the author Matteo F. Olivieri, focus on the reconstruction of the sensorial experience of the pilgrims who participated in rituals of the Delos island. The approach uses the methodology of the sensorial studies and focus mainly in the visual experience and in how that sense shaped a cultural image of the Delian cult. The author uses accounts and data about the sensitive impressions during sea travel to Delos, landscape of Delos, natural island formations, anthropic marks and rituals. Such impressions gave different meanings, concepts and feelings through different periods.

Alexandra S. Sfyroera, in her article "*Naxos, the largest Cycladic island with a single polis. A survey through ancient times*", combines literary and epigraphic data with archaeological contexts which point the existence of a single polis in Naxos during prehistory and Antiquity. The polis of Naxos developed in a continuous habitation since Bronze Age, but urbanization and spatial organization began through Geometric Period, passing, after that, during Archaic times, to the establishment of monumental religious buildings of great civic value. The process was kept during Classical and Hellenistic times, but the polis started to decline as a state during the Roman times, losing its organization.

The last article of the book, entitled "*The island of Pholegandros and the graffiti of Chrysospilia cave*", of Vivi Vassilopoulou, brings the explorations and graffiti synthesis found in a cave in Chrysospilia, Pholegandros island, in 1987 and 1989. There are a lot of graffiti written in Antiquity, with names, dates and even provenance of the visitors. The names are written in ancient Greek, most of them are male names and dates from Archaic until Roman times. The author interprets the place as a ritual and religious ceremonial area in Antiquity, the only one in the Aegean, because until now there is

no reference or publications relating to identical areas. Besides, more research is needed in order to learn about the use and activity period of the cave during Antiquity.

The book *Cycladic Archaeology and Research. New approaches and discoveries* is an excellent option for anyone who wants to explore the multiple archaeological and historical contexts of the Cycladic Islands. The publication offers the reader updated data and approaches, presenting scientific production of specialists from different nationalities. Contemporary issues with parallels in the past, such as identity, immigration, natural resource management, climatic changes, subjectivism, ownership, work, economic and political dependence, conflicts, connectivity, integration, religion, urbanization, among others, are distributed on the book's pages under varied perspectives.

Bibliographic references

ANGLIKER, Erica; TULLY, John (Orgs). *Cycladic Archaeology and Research. New Approaches and Discoveries*. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2018.