

Cyprus and the Near East

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Cypriote archaeology has flourished during the period, particularly at the Göteborg University and the Museum of Mediterranean Antiquities in Stockholm, and monographs and articles on Cypriote sites, pottery, chronology, religion, iron artefacts etc. have appeared.

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The grand old man of Cypriote archaeology, Einar Gjerstad, passed away in 1988. Three of his students have summarized his achievements: Åström (1988c, 1988i, 1988l, 1989c), Gierow (1988a-b) and Styrenius (1988).

The first volume of the late professor J. R. Stewart's *magnum opus*, his corpus on Early Cypriote artefacts, edited by Eve Stewart and Paul Åström, has appeared posthumously with commemorative words by the latter (Åström 1989j). Monographs on Cypriote excavated sites have appeared on Aya Paraskevi and Vasilia (Hennessy, Eriksson & Kehrberg 1988) and on Katydhata (Åström 1989h). Pottery from earlier excavated, Cypriote sites has been re-examined: Nitovikla by Hult 1989 and Kalopsidha by Sjödin 1988. A great number of prehistoric Cypriote skulls have been examined in a monograph from a medico-anthropological, archaeological and micro-chemical point of view by Peter M. Fischer (1986).

General studies have appeared on prehistoric Cyprus (Åström 1987c, 1990b) and its foreign relations and trade (Åström 1986c, Åström 1989i), especially with Anatolia (Åström 1989b), the Dodecanese (Åström 1988k), Greece (Åström 1987i) and Egypt (Jacobsson 1987).

The results of the Swedish excavations at the Late Cypriote Bronze Age site at Hala Sultan Tekke have been published in a

monograph (Åström, Eriksson *et alii* 1989) and in a number of articles. General syntheses on the results (Åström 1986b, 1986f, 1989g, 1990c) and annual reports have appeared (Åström 1986a, 1987a, 1988a, 1988d, 1988e, 1988f, 1988g, 1989a, 1989d, 1989e, 1989f, 1990a; cf. Eriksson 1987).

The chronology of the Middle Cypriote Bronze Age has been treated by Åström (1986e, 1987b). The discovery of a Cypriote White Painted Pendent Line Style jug in Kültepe IB is particularly important for synchronisms with other areas where this pottery style has been found.

In a study of the Late Cypriote shaft graves Karin Niklasson-Sönnerby (1987) has discussed the burial customs in the last phase of the Bronze Age.

A number of articles on Cypriote religion have been published by Paul Åström in the *Journal of Prehistoric Religion* and elsewhere. He has treated the universal phenomenon of inverted vases (1987g), intentional destruction of grave-goods (1987f), votive deposits in the Late Bronze Age (1987l) and triton shells in East Mediterranean cults (Åström & Reese 1990). He has also discussed the interpretation of a cult scene on a Red Polished terracotta model (Åström 1987h, 1988b). Jan Bergman (1987) has written a review of Sophocleous' *Atlas de représentation chypro-archaïques des*

divinités. Cecilia Beer discusses the religious significance of the so-called temple-boys (1987).

In a series of studies Eva Rystedt (1986, 1987a, 1988a-c, 1990) has interpreted the scenes and motifs on Mycenaean pictorial vases and identified their painters; many of their products have been found by the Swedish Cyprus Expedition in Cyprus and are now in the Museum of Mediterranean Antiquities in Stockholm. Taking a vase in the shape of a hedgehog in the same museum as a starting point, she has also listed a number of similar, Mycenaean and later vases, two of which come from Cyprus (1987b). An unusual pictorial vase from Hala Sultan Tekke of Late Cypriote III - "the Hippocampus krater" - was published by Paul Åström (1988h). A bibliography on Mycenaean pottery in Italy, Asia Minor, Cyprus and the Near East was compiled by Åström (1986d).

Enamel defects in teeth from a prehistoric Cypriote population have been studied by Fischer and Norén (1986). Fischer (1989) and Fischer and Lodding (1987) have shown the use of secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) in archaeometry and proposed a new dating method based on the penetration of fluorine in teeth. Åström and Fischer (1987) demonstrate the use of metal-detector in scientific excavations in Cyprus and Greece. Kleiner and Åström (1989) have shown that it is possible to register sounds in clay and to play up the sounds after firing; they illustrate their article with the

wheel-marks of a Cypriote amphora.

Analyses of Red Polished black-topped knob lug bowls suggest that the vases were placed upright in sand on a kiln floor and fired reducingly (Waern-Sperber 1988 and Makundi, Waern-Sperber & Ericsson 1989). Kathryn Eriksson demonstrates how Red Lustrous Wheel-made pilgrim flasks were manufactured (1988).

Claude Björk (1990) proposes to attribute to the same painter a number of Bichrome vases dating from Cypro-Geometric II to Cypro-Archaic I and decorated with birds.

An analytical study by Åström, Maddin, Muhly and Stech (1986) showed that the 11th century B.C. artefacts from Idalion were thoroughly carburized, quenched and sometimes tempered. A study of the funerary contexts of iron by the same team shows that iron usually occurs in rich tombs and is fairly frequently associated with gold in the Cypriote Iron Age.

Örjan Wikander (1986) has commented on two Corinthian pan-tiles dating from the Classical period, found by the Swedish Cyprus Expedition at Marion.

A major new archaeological expedition at Tell Abu-Kharaz in Jordan has been initiated by Peter M. Fischer. In the first campaign in 1989 a sanctuary and town walls from the Early and Late Bronze Ages and from the Iron Age were discovered (Åström 1990a: 3-4).

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