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Sebastiano Tusa who initiated this project, is entitled ‘The Battle of the Aegates Islands, 241 BC. Mapping a naval encounter, 2005–2019’. The battle on 10 March 241 BC ended the First Punic War with a Roman defeat of the Carthaginian forces and eventually the turning of Sicily into a Roman province (except for the kingdom of Syracuse). The underwater marine research has brought to light 23 bronze rams, as well as helmets and swords, and as the authors write: “It is evident that the battle site contains enough material for many generations of archaeologists.” The project is a collaboration between the Sicilian Soprintendenza del Mare, the RPM Nautical Foundation, the Global Underwater Explorers and the University of Malta.

For the Roman period in Sicily, R.J.A. Wilson is the main authority. Here he analyses the excavations of a Roman estate at Gerace, near Enna. Uniquely, the mosaic in the *frigidarium* gives the name of the estate: *praedia Philipianorum*. Four contributions in this book deal with Sicily in a *longue-durée* perspective. The first, an article concentrating on the Syracusan colony of Akrai, focuses on the impact of humans on the natural landscape. It is a collaboration between the University of Warsaw and the Soprintendenza di Siracusa. The Marzamemi Maritime Heritage Project is a study of human interaction from prehistory to the modern period in north-eastern Sicily. The participating institutions are among others the Soprintendenza del Mare, Stanford University and the Canadian Brock University. The *longue-durée* perspective in western Sicily is the subject of two contributions: one from Northern Illinois University and the Regione Siciliana concentrating on the region of Salemi, and the Arizona Sicily Project surveying archaeological remains between Marsala and Mazara del Vallo.

Finally, a project to create a digital epigraphic corpus for ancient Sicily (7th century BC–7th century AD) with the name *I.Sicily* has been initiated by Jonathan R.W. Prag. At the time of writing, the *I.Sicily* website contained 3.305 texts, almost all on stone.

I can only congratulate the organizers for a well-organized conference and a very beautifully printed volume. The work by foreign researchers in Sicily is very impressive and holds good hopes for the future, for a lively and successful archaeology in Sicily—in collaboration with Sicilian authorities. It seems to me that the energetic work of 1950s is about to bloom again!

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B. Eder & M. Zavadil, eds., *(Social) Place and space in early Mycenaean Greece. International discussions in Mycenaean archaeology, October 5–8, 2016, Athens* (Mykenische Studien, 35), Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press 2021. 626 pages. ISBN 9783700188544
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Recent fieldwork at Kakovatos in the region of Triphylia provides the background for this valuable and focused volume presenting the proceedings from a conference on early Mycenaean Greece. The volume aims at presenting the latest research within the field of the formation of Mycenaean society. The editors, Birgitta Eder and Michaela Zavadil, were also the organizers of the conference in which 51 contributors participated. The volume contains 29 of these contributions. The volume presents a wide range of topics, sites and materials. The title of both conference and volume pays tribute to Henri Lefebvre and his work on *The production of space* (1991, the French original appeared in 1974). Lefebvre wrote the maxim: “(Social) space is a (social) product” and the editors explain that accordingly, every society produces its own social space through social practice, which affects relations between subjects and objects.

The focus is the formative period of Mycenaean society. The editors explain that the second half of the Middle Bronze Age was characterized by a series of processes that reshaped Middle Helladic (MH) traditions and created a new political landscape. This period is characterized by the increasingly elaborate, and sometimes monumental tombs. The period is also characterized by a strong Minoan influence. The various contributions paint a very vivid and clear-cut picture of a society in transformation with competing elite groups, emulating Cretan fashion and displaying their ability to amass wealth and position themselves above other societal groups.

The keynote article sets the scenario for the formation of Mycenaean society (James C. Wright), where an outline is suggested for interpreting the archaeological evidence in order to understand the origins of Mycenaean society. Across the Mainland, community leaders emerged that were engaged with islanders on Kythera and Aigina, and in the Cycladic towns and Minoan palace centres. The roots of these contacts were already established in the 3rd millennium BC. These interactions continued throughout the Middle Bronze Age and as a result, Mainlanders were established in the islands. The Thera eruption resulted in a political turmoil, which eventually led to the overthrow of the Minoan palace centres.

In the following, almost the entire volume is organized according to the evidence of various regions in the Peloponnese, which in various ways responded to the innovations and influences from abroad. New social practices were established,

which are reflected in various fields of cultural expressions. No fewer than 13 papers are dedicated to the early Mycenaean remains in Triphylia, the Ionian islands and Messenia. Thus, case studies of early Mycenaean tombs and residential sites in the south-western Peloponnese form the first part of the volume and are supplemented by ten papers covering the other areas of the Peloponnese and adjacent islands: Lakonia and Kythera, Achaia, Arkadia, the Argolid, and Aigina. A final group of four papers covers aspects that are more general and explores questions of pottery production and consumption, issues of religious emulation and adaptation, and the development of a mortuary landscape in early Mycenaean Greece.

In **Triphylia**, the recent excavations at *Kakovatos* in 2010–2011 revealed remains of an early Mycenaean residential complex (Birgitta Eder & Georgia Hadzi-Spiliopoulou). The building complex, situated on a hill, was set apart spatially and was clearly visible above the Triphylian Plain. The authors state that the local élite made a conscious choice when elevating themselves above the rest of the population and that this practice emulates élite behaviour in other regions on the Peloponnese. The earlier excavated tombs at the site are also examples of élite emulation, since they rival the wealthiest burials of their time on the Greek Mainland (Christine de Vreé). Another contribution explores the regional and interregional connections in analysing pottery from *Kakovatos* (Jasmin Huber *et al.*). The preliminary results suggest a rather intricate pattern of supply and consumption with local and imported pots. Two main lines of connections could be distinguished that link *Kakovatos* with Crete on the one hand and with other regions of the Peloponnese, especially the Argolid, on the other. *Kleidi-Samikon* is a coastal early Mycenaean site with both habitation and burial remains north of *Kakovatos*. The site's place within the local Mycenaean society is discussed (Kostas Nikolentzos & Panagiotis Moutzouridis).

Middle Helladic and early Mycenaean site evidence from the **Ionian islands** is presented in connection with recent landscape archaeological research on the island of *Zakynthos* (Gert J. van Wijngaarden *et al.*).

The construction of a new roof over the Main Building of the *Palace of Nestor* in **Messenia** necessitated limited excavations, which resulted in interesting new evidence (Anna Vasiliki Karapanagiotou *et al.*) that confirms and strengthens earlier indications of a strong Minoan influence in early Mycenaean times. There is thus new evidence of, for example, cut-stone masonry of a Minoan ashlar style in use from the start of the Late Helladic (LH) period; painted plaster from the MH III/LH I–II period (Emily C. Egan) and the discovery of a section of the early Mycenaean fortification wall, which supports Carl Blegen's conclusion that the early Mycenaean acropolis was indeed fortified. Moreover, a pottery deposit from the site indicates that feasting activities similar to the ones practised during the final Mycenaean Palatial period were

performed already during LH IIB (Salvatore Vitale *et al.*). Mortuary rituals seem to have changed dramatically in early Mycenaean Pylos with the construction of tholos tombs close to the site of the later palace. Joanne M.A. Murphy argues, in her contribution, that the creation of the tombs broke with the older ideology and funds of power, and stressed the lineal family's connection with the past, present and future. The nearby chamber tomb cemetery at *Chora-Volimidia* was also founded in early Mycenaean times and the study of pottery finds from the cemetery points to a local production, but with external elements (Andreas G. Vlachopoulos). The settlement of *Iklaina* has been identified with one of the district capitals in the Mycenaean state of Pylos. One of the most striking features at the site is its monumental architecture, which includes at least two large buildings, two paved roads, a paved piazza, and massive built stone drains (Michael B. Cosmopoulos). Two papers discuss prestige expressions connected with burial practices in Messenia and the south-western Peloponnese. Vassilis Petrakis focuses on the shift in patterns of élite behaviour in early Mycenaean times and Michaela Zavadil argues that the tholos tombs seem to have been rather few and unimpressive architecturally during the LH I period, even though the grave goods could be luxurious. In LH II, there is a peak in the distribution of tholoi with luxury goods and in the following period there is a decrease in number and many of the tholoi were abandoned.

Ayios Vasileios in **Lakonia** is treated in two contributions. One deals with the evidence of the early Mycenaean burials in the North Cemetery and the changing perceptions of space in the cemetery, and shifting social relations (Sofia Voutsaki *et al.*). The other contribution brings forward the foundation system at the recently discovered palace at the site (Adamantia Vasilogamvrou *et al.*). A large court was surrounded by very wide porticoes and was probably strongly influenced by Minoan palatial architecture.

With two Minoan-type peak sanctuaries, **Kythera** seems to have belonged exclusively to the Cretan-style culture during the transitional phase between the Middle and Late Bronze Age. The intensive field-survey results for this period reveal a landscape with a dispersed rural settlement pattern and a potentially urban zone at coastal *Kastri* (Evangelia Kiriati & Cyprian Broodbank).

Another example of a settlement which was founded and rose to local prominence during the formative early Mycenaean period is *Mygdalia* in **Achaia** (Lena Papazoglou-Manioudaki & Constantinos Paschalidis).

Arkadia, the mountainous inland of the Peloponnese, was separated but not isolated from the rest of the peninsula. Due to its position, the region was an inevitable passage for anyone moving along or across the peninsula. Eleni Salavoura's contribution makes a survey of prehistoric sites in the region and concludes that its local centres seem to have played a sec-

ondary role, but nevertheless contributed to the formation of the later Mycenaean *koiné*. In early Mycenaean times there is evidence of ritual activity associated with the ash altar on the summit of *Mount Lykaion*. The cult place evidently attracted people from the surrounding communities. The most prominent site may have been *Analipsis*, featuring the only tholos tomb in the region.

The early Mycenaean **Argolid** underwent wide-ranging transformations, in which no doubt Mycenae played a leading role. However, there were at the same time differences and divergences within the Argolid. Sofia Voutsaki compares burial records from *Asine* and *Mycenae*, which show that each site fashioned their own traditions. At each funeral and for each burial decisions and choices had to be made. Mycenae also comes into play, when assessing the development of *Argos*, which was one of the most important Middle Bronze Age settlements in the Argive Plain (Anna Philippa-Touchais *et al.*). It is proposed that one group of inhabitants moved away from Argos in order to settle at Mycenae, since part of the Aspis settlement area was abandoned at this time, i.e. MH III. On the road connecting the central Argive Plain with the eastern Argolid lies the tholos of *Kazarma* indicating the importance of this route in the early Mycenaean period (Stefanos Keramidas *et al.*). Most likely built in LH IIA, it remained in use at least throughout LH IIB. Three shafts with intact burials contained rich funeral gifts in the form of amethyst jewellery, seals, precious metal vessels and a range of weapons that seem to conform to the standard élite burial assemblage of the period. However, neither residential nor funerary evidence dating to the same period has been confirmed close by. This is unusual, since tombs were usually placed in association with other tombs and settlements. Thus, the existence of a settlement in the surrounding area of the tholos or on the acropolis, situated *c.* 300 m away to the north should seriously be considered. The finds from the Mycenaean cemetery at *Dendra*, close to Midea, are re-evaluated in another contribution (Eleni Konstantinidi-Syvridi) and in particular it is the valuable finds from the tholos that are considered. The undisturbed tholos was excavated in 1926 by the Swedish archaeologist Axel W. Persson together with his team. Three burials were found in pits beneath the chamber floor of the tholos: a man and a woman in one pit and in another, a young woman. The wealth of the accompanying finds led Persson to name them “king”, “queen” and “princess”. The pits held an unusually large number of silver and gold vessels, jewellery of gold, ivory, stone, glass and faience, as well as gold-hilted bronze swords and exotic items. These valuable finds are stored in the National Museum of Athens and a number of them are here presented anew, with detailed photographs and discussions of manufacturing techniques, raw materials, design and symbolic meanings.

In the contribution about *Kolonna* on **Aigina** (Walter Gauss), an overview of research and excavations is provided. There seems to have been a continuous development at the site throughout the Middle and early Late Bronze Age. Moreover, the local pottery production is discussed and how the ceramic “Mycenaeanization” replaced the earlier “Minoanization”.

Apart from the contributions dealing with specific sites and/or regions, the volume ends with contributions on general Peloponnesian themes, such as **pottery**. Oliver Dickinson presents the significant developments in the Peloponnesian pottery over the Middle to Late Helladic transition. In another contribution, it is stated that “Near the end of the Middle Helladic era, a wave of polychromy swept over the ceramic repertoires of the central and southern Greek mainland” (Michael Lindblom & Jeremy B. Rutter). This phenomenon was rather short-lived, however, and the authors seek the reasons behind this new way of decorating pottery in multiple colours and why it then disappeared. Another general Peloponnesian theme is the early Mycenaean adoption of Minoan cult symbols and the development of Mycenaean **religious iconography** (Jörg Weilhartner). These new developments had an impact on the performance of cult practices on the Mainland. There was not a radical change in the religious world view, but rather a fundamental change in the way that religious ideas were expressed and how actual ritual practices were performed. The conclusion is that “They dressed existing cult practices in new, much more elaborate shoes”. A third general theme concerns the **mortuary landscape** (Yannis Galanakis). Funerary structures and their associated burials—tholoi and chamber tombs—suggest complex social strategies. It is argued that funerary monumentality in tholos and chamber tomb architecture helped to create competing and complementing social narratives and long-lasting mnemonic landscapes that were important for materializing ideology and negotiating power in the early Mycenaean period.

This volume is thus a comprehensive and welcome contribution for expanding our understanding about the intriguing transition between the Middle and Late Bronze Age. The various contributions paint a uniform picture of a society with complex élite manifestations. A concluding chapter, evaluating and using the evidence brought forward from the many scenarios, discussing the evidence according to the theoretical framework of space, place and mobility set up in the beginning of the volume, would have been even more welcome and would have resulted in a picture even more apparent and comprehensive.

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