

REVIEWS

- Μανιάτης, Γ., Κ. Κωτσάκης, and P. Halstead 2012. Παλιάμπελα Κολινδρού. Νέες χρονολογήσεις της Αρχαιότερης Νεολιθικής. Αρχαιολογικό Έργο στη Μακεδονία και Θράκη (υπό εκτύπωση).
- Moore, A.M.T., G.C. Hillman, and A.J. Legge 2000. *Village on the Euphrates. From foraging to farming at Abu Hureyra*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stefani, E., N. Merousis, and A. Dimoula (eds) 2014. *A Century of Research in Prehistoric Macedonia*. Thessaloniki: Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki.
- Tzevelekidi, V. 2012. *Dressing for Dinner: Butchery and Bone Deposition at Late Neolithic Toumba Kremastis Koiladas, Northern Greece* (British Archaeological Reports International Series 2451). Oxford: Archaeopress.
- Vitelli, K.D. 1993. *Franchthi Neolithic Pottery I. Classification and Ceramic Phases 1 and 2, Excavations at Franchthi Cave, Greece, fasc. 8*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
- 1999. *Franchthi Neolithic Pottery II: The Later Ceramic Phases 3 to 5, Excavations at Franchthi Cave, fasc. 10*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
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Philip P. Betancourt (ed.). *Temple University Aegean Symposium: a compendium*. pp. x+623. 2015. Philadelphia (PA): INSTAP Academic Press. ISBN 978-1-931534-82-6 £20.

This work forms a compilation of the typewritten texts prepared by the speakers and copied, to be bound into volumes for distribution to attendees at the Aegean Symposium held annually at Temple University, Philadelphia, from 1976 to 1985. Thus they vary somewhat in font and spacing on the page, and since the texts could not be edited minor errors like typos are noticeable, but they are not common. Some are the equivalent of articles, but others are so short that one imagines they can only have been intended as guides to what the speaker was going to say. Usually there are bibliographies, and often footnotes, and some are illustrated with line drawings, which may be reproductions of previously published illustrations and plans, or prepared for the seminar paper.

The themes of the seminars vary considerably. Some are quite precisely targeted, focusing on e.g. the site of Gournia, Minoan foreign relations at the beginning of the LBA, or the Mycenaean ‘empire’ (reviewer’s quotation marks). Others have more general, catch-all titles, e.g. *Studies of little-known material from the Aegean Bronze Age*, or *The Aegean Bronze Age: an interdisciplinary approach*. The number of contributions also varies from year to year, generally 7–8, once 9, but in the last three years only 6. The majority focus on or have a strong link to Minoan Crete, but some are concerned with specifically Mycenaean or Cycladic topics, or general themes like chronology or metal sources and metallurgy.

But, granted the popularity of the Symposium at the time, what is the point of publishing these seminar texts now? The symposia took place thirty to forty years ago; the continuing fast pace of discovery and discussion, and the changes in scholarly approach, have made the majority of them effectively obsolete (e.g. who needs the first reports of carbon-14 dates from Akrotiri?). Some are still worth reading as important contributions to a debate, e.g. Jerry Rutter’s plea for the abandonment of the term ‘Submycenaean’, Jim Wright’s *Umpiring the Mycenaean empire*, and Mark Cameron’s discussion of theoretical principles in fresco restoration. The whole Gournia section is of continuing value, particularly Harriet Blitzer Watrous’s study of the ground stone implements (a class of material that rarely gets much attention), Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier’s identification of fine quality Gournia *rhyta* and jugs at Akrotiri, and Pamela Russell’s careful analysis of the evidence for dating the Gournia shrine. But others cannot help but seem thoroughly outdated in their approach, at best having some historical interest as examples of modes of thought and argument that were once prevalent, such as the tendency to think of ‘Minoan’ and ‘Mycenaean’ as homogeneous cultural blocs, with unified artistic and technological traditions, so that e.g. precious vessels can only belong to one or the other. In one or two cases, as with Iakovidis’s *Royal shaft graves outside Mycenae*, the reviewer feels that to publish is a positive disservice to the scholar’s memory.

Perhaps the best use for the volume (which, it has to be said, is very reasonably priced) would be as a training ground for beginners in postgraduate research in Aegean prehistory, to see if they can identify arguments based on once prevalent but questionable assumptions, or conclusions about material that have been called into question, if not made obsolete, by new finds, or challenge them to come up with counter-arguments that have simply not been considered to hypotheses advanced. The

range of topics considered offers quite a wide choice of examples where this could be beneficial.

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Evangelia Stefani, Nikos Merousis and Anastasia Dimoula. *A century of research in prehistoric Macedonia 1912-2012*, (International conference proceedings, Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, 22-24 November 2012). pp. 718. 2014. Thessaloniki: Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki Publications. ISBN 978-960-9621-14-4 €40.

This volume is the fruitful outcome of an international conference dedicated to a century of prehistoric research in Macedonia. The conference was held within a wider framework of commemorations on the occasion of the centenary since the liberation of Thessaloniki from the Ottoman rule. The conference was organised by the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, its director Polyxeni Adam-Veleni and a large team of the Museum's archaeologists as well as Archaeology Professors from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The volume, edited by Evangelia Stefani, Nikos Merousis and Anastasia Dimoula, presents a rich overview of prehistoric investigations conducted within the geographical area corresponding to the region of Macedonia in northern Greece. It comprises in total sixty papers written mostly in Greek (12 amongst them are written in English), with English abstracts, occasionally of substantial extent.

The book opens with the keynote speech by the late Professor Chourmouziadis (pp. 23–37) to whom the volume is dedicated. With his provocative, *avant garde* at times heretic thoughts and approaches, Chourmouziadis inspired generations of students of Greek prehistory, researchers, and museum curators. By always challenging established ways of seeing into the archaeological record he sowed many seeds that sprouted and bloomed. His paper in this volume challenges the stereotypic image of prehistory as a period of 'needy' humans striving to survive, an image that we often see firmly established in the minds of our undergraduate archaeology students. Rather than being a foreign land, prehistory, in the eyes of Chourmouziadis, emerges as a quest for the historical content of prehistory: understanding and interpreting a cultural continuum between History and Prehistory.

The volume is organised in seven parts. It starts with a section entitled 'The history of prehistoric research in Macedonia: historical and critical approaches' (pp. 31–122) comprising reviews of the history of prehistoric research in Macedonia. The next section, 'Reviews' (pp. 125–178) consists of papers providing overviews of the current state of the art and future perspectives of prehistoric research in Macedonia organised in chronological terms and covering the Palaeolithic, the Neolithic and the Iron Age. More site- or case-specific or research question-oriented studies constitute the remaining four sections, 'Chronology-Sites and Eras' (pp. 181–312), 'Space and its Meanings' (pp. 315–398) 'Paleoenvironment, Archaeobotany, Zooarchaeology, Physical Anthropology' (pp. 401–488), 'From objects to ideas: Technologies-Artefacts-Communications' (pp. 491–670), and 'Museology-Social Archaeology' (pp. 673–706).

The first section of the volume consists of eight papers which provide an overview of the history of research as regards prehistoric explorations, starting from the pioneering excavations and surveys conducted in the 19th and early 20th centuries, often within the context of the 1st and 2nd World Wars (K. Rhomiopoulou, pp. 31–36), including the contribution of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A. Papaefthymiou-Papanthimou, pp. 37–43), the British School in Athens (K. Wardle, pp. 45–56 and M. Pappa, pp. 101–112) and the French School in Athens (R. Treuil, pp. 57–65). The particular circumstances of the first collection of archaeological finds destined to form the 'nucleus of a local Macedonian museum, instead of being transferred to Athens or any other museum' (p. 93) but ending up at the British Museum are unfolded in the paper by Kanatselou and Shapland (pp. 91–100). Kourtessi-Philippakis views the history of research in the region through a specific artefact category, that of stone tools (pp. 113–122). Excavations at sites such as Nea Nikomedeia, Servia, Sitagroi, Assiros and Dikili Tash became landmarks of prehistoric archaeology in Macedonia and continue to serve as major points of reference for recent, ongoing work in unexplored regions. The overview on prehistoric research on the island of Thassos (S. Papadopoulos and N. Nerantzis, pp. 67–90) provides a multifaceted approach to prehistoric research on this island, covering not only the history of research but also recent investigations as well as the diffusion of prehistoric research to the wider public. Meanwhile, excavations at Dispilio, Vergina, Mandalo, Toumba Thessalonikis, Archondiko, Paliambela and Makri, led by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Professors, opened up new pathways of research in the area. It is through this fruitful collaboration between the Ministry of Culture, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Foreign