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The Aegean in the Neolithic, Chalcolithic and the Early Bronze Age

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CLOSING REMARKS

Thank you for giving me a chance to express my deep thanks and admiration at the end of the lecture part of this symposium. We all agree that this unification of archaeologists from both sides of the Aegean, along with archaeologists from elsewhere in the world, has been most productive, stimulating and encouraging for the future. We are not only thinking of how beneficial it is at the moment to share the experience of talking about our results, plans, questions and open ended situations but there is also the promise of much more in the future, and not just reciprocal visits to and from. We know how inviting the sea is. Looking at the sea everyday from Neolithic and Chalcolithic times on, people could not resist the temptation of the sea and discovering what was on the shores or the islands that were on the horizon. This inviting element of the Aegean Sea or other seas, but especially the Aegean with its many coasts, islands and horizons has always challenged the most enterprising human characters that want to see if there is life on the other side, thinking “Can we make friends?”, “Can we make contact?”, “Can, ultimately, we do things together?”.

People have risen to this challenge from the earliest times. The Epipalaeolithic era people were perhaps floating to the islands to see what was going on, with the possibility that they would never get back. There must have been a certain amount of wild enterprise that some good archaeologist will one day bring back to light, and this will be also an interdisciplinary enterprise.

This unifying promise of the meeting has been supported so liberally here and I know that we are all filled with gratitude for the initiative by the modern *Klazomenians* - if I may call them that.

First of all we have to thank the *Belediye Başkanı*. The Honorable Bülent Baratalı is an example, not just in the Aegean, but anywhere in how to run a promising modern city with a great past that one can be proud of. We all wish that such mayors existed in many places and we certainly want one at every archaeological site. I expect we will all tell our various *Belediye Başkanları* about the marvellous experience we have had here at the privileged site of Liman Tepe.

Secondly, academically, I want to thank Prof. Hayat Erkanal, not just for tackling the enormous challenge of the archaeological entity of Liman Tepe, but of sharing it so liberally, filling us with what is happening via reports and the annual meetings in Ankara, and then inviting us all here and bringing us all together saying, “Have a look at it, let’s discuss this in context of the great exchange of enterprises on both sides of, and also on all the islands and coasts of the Aegean”. We all agree that we will carry this gratitude into our future enterprises and try to respond appropriately. The response will of course be that, as I also hear in the discussions of the Greek side of the Aegean, that indeed there should be a continuation of this kind of meeting and one hopes that the next meeting will take place on Greek shores and that one will look at the same waves as they come across the Aegean. We will have similar kinds of discussion and once again share what has happened, and what new questions, theories, ideas and speculations need to be discussed and looked over.

I now know that there are good staff that we have here, not just academic supporters such as the Rectors of the Universities – official authorities - but also, especially, the next generation of archaeologists which is already active and has already participated in the excavations and has been giving us tours and guidance. I would like to thank these assistants and the younger academics of the Universities for holding our hands, guiding us and helping us get around to see how the program is going to be. They are also communicating much here and we are very grateful for their participation and for their contribution to the excavations. They hold the promise to us that the sites, especially Liman Tepe, are in safe hands with the participation of so many good young archaeologists who can talk about the site with confidence and who respect the difficulty of the problems that are still remaining to be solved.

If I may I would like to bring just one additional topic to the future of our programs. If I look at it from the American side, there are several people from American excavations here. It is very good to have Lerna so well represented. At least Lerna is in good shape – as I gather from the latest report. We need that side and we know that people from Lerna, American Aegean archaeologists, who started on the Greek side of the Aegean Sea, were always tempted to go over the sea to the islands and to the Anatolian coast. The prime example of this is of course the Blegen and Caskey group. They moved to Troy and made that marvellous series of excavations. They were not the first and I also want to pay my respects to one of the pioneers digging on both sides and bringing the history of both sides of the Aegean together. That was Hetty Goldmann. She knew that some of the clues to the mysteries of the Aegean was beyond the coast and we have to go via the caravan routes and the river valleys to inland Anatolia to reach more information, to reach historical traditions which happen to have come to Anatolia earlier than they reached the Aegean.

They could not reach across the Aegean but there was a way they could get contact. We have talked about the contacts of Troy with both the east and the west. We have looked at the jewellery that reflect signs of contact with regions as far away as the Euphrates. A jolly part of life developed in that period – Troy II / Early Bronze Age III - we know that some drinking habits became very popular and somehow the traders who were trading metals and travelling, and poor people who were carrying obsidian on their backs or carrying metal and travelling along the river valleys, also took things back with them. Even some official contacts were established in the Third Millennium BC. We have no problem thinking of Troy as the residence of a thrilling family – a strong power – sitting there as a dynasty in Troy II. Some of the best elements of good living – the eating and drinking, especially the drinking - took place during this period with the depas and the various vessels in which the wine was being distributed and offered.

There are 5 or 6 sites along the Euphrates that have produced a single depas. Unfortunately they are all black or red polished terracota and we have no metal vessels. But apparently depas was a good gift as far as the banks of the Euphrates. Of course it is nice to see these things not just because are they signs of contact but because they also give us a good chronological signal. They must have been distributed during the time they were in actual use. It is also remarkable that in the Gaziantep region, one finds a cremation cemetery of the later Third Millennium BC. with a collection of characteristic vessel types which are also present in Western Anatolia and the Aegean, associated with the various burials.

The land contacts of the East Aegean coastal community were always intact. There was no hostility, there was no competition. But there was a need to go back and forth to trade what was available through the harbours of Western Anatolia, and along the land routes and the long range trade contacts to the Orient.

If one thinks of future meetings about how this will develop in the Second Millennium BC – and that will be my final comment - we will have to extend the very enjoyable interdisciplinary aspect. We need to invite the Hittitologists and Luwianologists, because the more we look at the contacts of the Second Millennium BC. sites, the more likely we are to find the historical texts that will give us names and facts that will, in great detail, explain why and what happens to sites in Western Anatolia. Particularly, one Hittite archive shows us exactly what they wrote to the various governors in the towns on the border of Western Anatolia. This archive also tells us what they planned to do against the people who made too much of their power and their initiatives in making contact with rulers in the west coast towns. We have, of course, the names of some of them. We heard about one of them, about *Millawanda* and we heard about the Second Millennium BC. of Ephesos but we have seen a good start in the Third Millennium BC. We will ultimately have to take daily advice from the philologists and historians as we get better about names.

My final wishes will be that in Liman Tepe more evidence for the Second Millennium BC. will emerge for contacts, not just with the Mycenaeans or if we may call them *Ahhijawa* in Anatolian context, but also for contacts with the land side – with the Hittite power that sits there watching what is going on, being a little frustrated because they have no ships, they can not sail. They may ultimately carry war to Cyprus but you wonder what the Hittite king did if he went on a ship, if he could stand it. They were not sailors and they never became sailors. They were difficult people but had great respect for, and envy and need of, the people along the coast. That shows us why there are great links with the history, with the archives, with the written records that write about the history of this region and about the individuals. The people who were written to, who got letters, had to answer them. It is not just the contact with the Hittites. There is also the Amarna contact and the specifications of what language the letters had to be written in. We know that literacy is just beginning to emerge. If Metropolis also produced a Luwian seal and Troy already has produced one, those are little tokens of promise for the future.

This promise is part of the Symposium of the 2nd Millennium BC. If it takes place in 6 or 10 years from now, we need the historians and we will have a lot more information, a lot more debate and it will not be just a *Trojan War*, there will be a totally different story with what kind of contacts, what kind of exchanges existed in the Second Millennium BC. That we do not know so long as we stay concentrated on the Aegean Sea.

There are, after all, many sources of writing and potential history and the only trouble about the Aegean is that Minoans did not have a lot of interest in taking foreign language into their archive among their scribes and maintaining contacts so that we can break the code.

So I am speculating about the Second Millennium BC. but the story goes on. The present discussions and the present contributions of the excavators and the various specialists,

I think have been an important contribution that Liman Tepe and Klazomenai and “Belediye Başkanı” can be proud of. With deep gratitude I yield the platform to colleagues who will continue the recitation. What we think of this moment is a reflection of the papers and the presentation of the reports and the excursions to sites that have so much to tell us, in an archaeological sense. We have all much enjoyed the trip to Liman Tepe earlier and we look forward to Bakla Tepe and Panaztepe with eager anticipation. Not to mention Troy where some people also will venture but then Troy is in a sort of an eclipse, it looks like a small site as one gets used to looking at the site here at Liman Tepe.

Thank You.

Machteld J. MELLINK