



**ANKARA UNIVERSITY**  
**RESEARCH CENTER FOR MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY (ANKÜSAM)**  
**Publication No: 1**

**Proceedings of the International Symposium**

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

**October 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 1997, Urla - İzmir (Turkey)**

**Edited by**

**Hayat Erkanal, Harald Hauptmann,  
Vasif Şahoğlu, Rıza Tuncel**

**Ankara • 2008**

**ANKARA ÜNİVERSİTESİ / ANKARA UNIVERSITY**  
**SUALTI ARKEOLOJİK ARAŞTIRMA ve UYGULAMA MERKEZİ (ANKÜSAM)**  
**RESEARCH CENTER FOR MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY (ANKÜSAM)**

**Yayın No / Publication No: 1**

- Ön kapak:** İzmir - Höyücek’de ele geçmiş insan yüzü tasvirli bir stel. M.Ö. 3. Bin.  
**Front cover:** A stela depicting a human face from İzmir - Höyücek . 3rd Millennium BC.  
**Arka kapak:** Liman Tepe Erken Tunç Çağı II, Atmalı Biçimli Bastiyon.  
**Back cover:** Early Bronze Age II horse-shoe shaped bastion at Liman Tepe.

**Kapak Tasarımı / Cover Design :** Vasıf Şahoğlu

**ISBN: 978-975-482-767-5**

**Ankara Üniversitesi Basımevi / Ankara University Press**

İncitaşı Sokak No:10 06510 Beşevler / ANKARA

Tel: 0 (312) 213 66 55

Basım Tarihi: 31 / 03 / 2008

## CONTENTS

Abbreviations .....	xi
Preface by the Editors .....	xiii
Opening speech by the Mayor, Bülent BARATALI .....	xxiii
Opening speech by Prof. Dr. Ekrem AKURGAL .....	xxv
Opening speech by Prof. Dr. Christos DOUMAS .....	xxvii
LILIAN ACHEILARA	
Myrina in Prehistoric Times .....	1
VASSILIKI ADRIMI – SISMANI	
Données Récentes Concernant Le Site Préhistorique De Dimini: La Continuité de l’Habitation Littorale depuis le Début du Néolithique Récent jusqu’à la Fin du Bronze Ancien .....	9
IOANNIS ASLANIS	
Frühe Fortifikationssysteme in Griechenland .....	35
PANAGIOTA AYGERINOÜ	
A Flaked-Stone Industry from Mytilene: A Preliminary Report .....	45
ANTHI BATZIOU – EFSTATHIOU	
Kastraki: A New Bronze Age Settlement in Achaea Phthiotis .....	73
MARIO BENZI	
A Forgotten Island: Kalymnos in the Late Neolithic Period .....	85
ÖNDER BİLGİ	
Relations between İkiztepe by the Black Sea Coast and the Aegean World before Iron Age .....	109
TRISTAN CARTER	
Cinnabar and the Cyclades: Body modification and Political Structure in the Late EB I Southern Cyclades .....	119
CHRISTOS DOUMAS	
The Aegean Islands and their Role in the Development of Civilisation .....	131
ANTHI DOVA	
Prehistoric Topography of Lemnos: The Early Bronze Age .....	141
NIKOS EFSTRATIOU	
The Neolithic of the Aegean Islands: A New Picture Emerging .....	159
HAYAT ERKANAL	
Die Neue Forschungen in Bakla Tepe bei İzmir .....	165
HAYAT ERKANAL	
Liman Tepe: A New Light on the Prehistoric Aegean Cultures .....	179
JEANNETTE FORSÉN	
The Asea Valley from the Neolithic Period to the Early Bronze Age .....	191
DAVID H. FRENCH	
Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Pottery of Southwest Anatolia .....	197

NOEL GALE	
Metal Sources for Early Bronze Age Troy and the Aegean .....	203
BARTHEL HROUDA	
Zur Chronologie Südwestkleinasiens in der 2. Hälfte des 3. Jahrtausends v. Chr .....	223
HALİME HÜRYILMAZ	
1996 Rettungsgrabungen auf dem Yenibademli Höyük, Gökçeada / Imbros .....	229
ERGUN KAPTAN	
Metallurgical Residues from Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Liman Tepe .....	243
ANNA KARABATSOLI and LIA KARIMALI	
Etude Comparative Des Industries Lithiques Taillées Du Néolithique Final Et Du Bronze Ancien Egéen : Le Cas De Pefkakia .....	251
NECMİ KARUL	
Flechtwerkgabäude aus Osttrakien .....	263
SİNAN KILIÇ	
The Early Bronze Age Pottery from Northwest Turkey in Light of Results of a Survey around the Marmara Sea .....	275
OURANIA KOUKA	
Zur Struktur der frühbronzezeitlichen insularen Gesellschaften der Nord- und Ostägäis: Ein neues Bild der sogenannten “Trojanischen Kultur” .....	285
NINA KYPARISSI – APOSTOLIKA	
Some Finds of Balkan (or Anatolian) Type in the Neolithic Deposit of Theopetra Cave, Thessaly .....	301
LAURA LABRIOLA	
First Impressions: A Preliminary Account of Matt Impressed Pottery in the Prehistoric Aegean .....	309
ROBERT LAFFINEUR	
Aspects of Early Bronze Age Jewellery in the Aegean .....	323
KYRIAKOS LAMBRIANIDES and NIGEL SPENCER	
The Early Bronze Age Sites of Lesbos and the Madra Çay Delta: New Light on a Discrete Regional Centre of Prehistoric Settlement and Society in the Northeast Aegean .....	333
YUNUS LENGERANLI	
Metallic Mineral Deposits and Occurrences of the Izmir District, Turkey .....	355
EFTALIA MAKRI – SKOTINIOTI and VASSILIKI ADRIMI – SISMANI	
Les Sites Du Néolithique Récent Dans Le Golfe Pagasetique : La Transformation Des Sites De L’age De Bronze En Sites Urbains (Le Cas De Dimini) .....	369
ELSA NIKOLAOU, VASSO RONDİRİ and LIA KARIMALI	
Magoula Orgozinos: A Neolithic Site in Western Thessaly, Greece .....	387
EMEL OYBAK and CAHİT DOĞAN	
Plant Remains from Liman Tepe and Bakla Tepe in the İzmir Region .....	399

DEMETRA PAPACONSTANTINO Looking for ‘Texts’ in the Neolithic Aegean: Space, Place and the Study of Domestic Architecture (Poster summary) .....	407
ATHANASSIOS J. PAPADOPOULOS and SPYRIDOULA KONTORLI – PAPADOPOULOU Some thoughts on the Problem of Relations between the Aegean and Western Greece in the Early Bronze Age .....	411
STRATIS PAPADOPOULOS and DIMITRA MALAMIDOU Limenaria: A Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Settlement at Thasos .....	427
DANIEL J. PULLEN Connecting the Early Bronze I and II Periods in the Aegean .....	447
JEREMY B. RUTTER Anatolian Roots of Early Helladic III Drinking Behaviour .....	461
VASIF ŞAHOĞLU New Evidence for the Relations Between the Izmir Region, the Cyclades and the Greek Mainland during the Third Millennium BC .....	483
ADAMANTIOS SAMPSON From the Mesolithic to the Neolithic: New Data on Aegean Prehistory .....	503
EVANGELIA SKAFIDA Symbols from the Aegean World: The Case of Late Neolithic Figurines and House Models from Thessaly .....	517
PANAGIOTA SOTIRAKOPOULOU The Cyclades, The East Aegean Islands and the Western Asia Minor: Their Relations in the Aegean Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age .....	533
GEORGIA STRATOULI Soziale und ökonomische Aspekte des Chalkolithikums (spätneolithikum II) in der Ägäis aufgrund alter und neuer Angaben .....	559
GEORGE TOUFEXIS Recent Neolithic Research in the Eastern Thessalian Plain, Greece: A Preliminary Report .....	569
RIZA TUNCEL IRERP Survey Program: New Prehistoric Settlements in the Izmir Region .....	581
HANNELORE VANHAVERBEKE, PIERRE M. VERMEERSCH, INGRID BEULS, BEA de CUPERE and MARC WAEKENS People of the Höyüks versus People of the Mountains ? .....	593
KOSTAS VOUZAXAKIS An Alternative Suggestion in Archaeological Data Presentations: Neolithic Culture Through the Finds from Volos Archaeological Museum .....	607
Closing Remarks by Prof. Dr Machteld J. MELLINK .....	611
Symposium Programme .....	615
Memories from the Symposium .....	623



# Looking for 'Texts' in the Neolithic Aegean: Space, Place and the Study of Domestic Architecture

## (Poster Summary)

Demetra PAPACONSTANTINO

**ABSTRACT:** The summary focuses on the study of domestic architecture, and indicates the need for a holistic approach to the material, that would go beyond merely descriptive accounts of archaeological evidence and examine structures from a contextual perspective. The word 'text' is used here as a metaphor, and refers to the recent theoretical debate in archaeology, according to which the archaeological record should be approached and examined like a 'text' full of meaning. Based on evidence from the Neolithic Aegean, the discussion highlights the potential of the archaeological record to deal with holistic questions and points to the fact that archaeologists themselves create part of the 'text' they are invited to 'read'.

The present contribution is a short comment on recent theoretical debates about the nature of the archaeological record, and the impact these might have on the study of domestic architecture in archaeology.

The idea that the archaeological record should be approached as a "text" was initially introduced to the field in the 1980s, by a new theoretical movement, known as 'contextual/post-processual archaeology'<sup>1</sup>. The use of this metaphor was meant to give emphasis to the interactive nature of material culture and stress the importance of the social and cultural context which gives meaning to it:

"...context can be taken to mean 'with-text' and so the word introduces an analogy between the contextual meanings of material culture traits and the meanings of words in a written language. The argument is that objects are only mute when they are out of their 'texts'; but in fact most archaeological objects are, almost by definition, situated in place and time in relation to other archaeological objects. This network of relationships can be 'read', by careful analysis..."<sup>2</sup>

Despite the criticism which the above statement received in succeeding years<sup>3</sup>, there are still certain aspects of it which worth further

analysis and could help better clarify the nature of the archaeological record.

If we accept that there is an analogy between 'a text' and 'the archaeological record', then we should also accept that stratigraphic context in archaeology is called upon to play the role *syntax* plays in a text. It is therefore *stratigraphy* which gives meaning to material culture and not an abstract concept of *context*.

Stratigraphy however is not something to be taken for granted. Apart from being related to the archaeological record 'almost by definition', it is also the product of archaeological practice and the responsibility, at least partly, of archaeologists.

While past societies have been the *authors* of the archaeological record ('text'), archaeologists, in their attempt to make sense out of what they excavate, act upon the record as *editors* and they have a good share in its creation. Stratigraphy, contextual information in particular, is 'discovered' and 'reconstructed' by archaeologists in the field and is preserved for the whole archaeological community in the form of a 'real text': i.e. the publication of each archaeological site. The role of the archaeologists therefore, is more that of the editor, than that of the 'innocent reader' of the archaeological record.

The implications from the above process are obvious: without syntax (stratigraphic

---

<sup>1</sup> Hodder 1985; 1986.

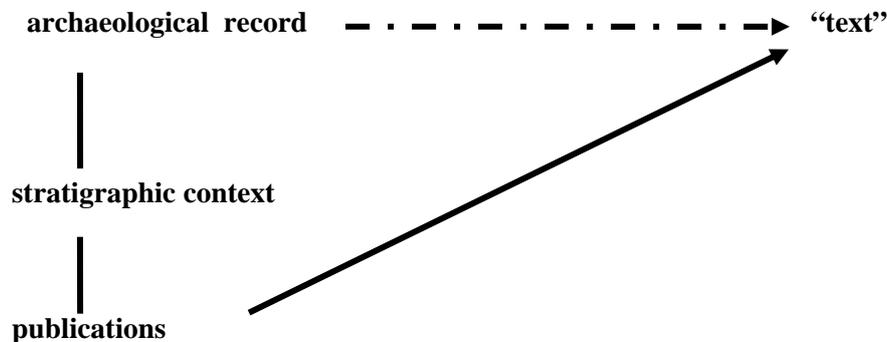
<sup>2</sup> Hodder 1986, 153.

<sup>3</sup> Johnsen & Olsen 1992; Barrett 1995.

context) there can be no language and therefore no text; and without editors (excavations-publications) there can be no book and therefore no reading.

Archaeological record is not what we excavate but what we publish and it is therefore archaeological publications which constitute the 'text' for archaeology and through which archaeological information becomes available to research.

On this basis, the relationship between the archaeological record and its metaphor as a text is much more complicated:



For the study of domestic architecture, in particular, this different perspective in what really constitutes archaeological evidence is of vital importance. Traditionally, archaeological publications use stratigraphic context as a frame, which helps them situate artefacts in place and time. This approach, however, although necessary for the production of chronological charts and typologies, results in a fragmented rather than holistic view of the archaeological record, and is of little help to more synthetic questions regarding behavioural patterns and the use of domestic space.

If we are to move *beyond* traditionally descriptive accounts of architectural remains into discussions about space as a place of human action, which would refer to the complexity of socio-cultural processes and would require an equally complex analysis and synthesis of the archaeological evidence, then our approach to the record should be different. It should examine the material in units (e.g. floors or structures) and focus on the

Such an analysis brings theory down to the core of archaeological practice, which is stratigraphy, and demonstrates, in the best way, the artificial nature of the dichotomy between archaeological method and theory. Furthermore, if archaeological record lies not so much in the field but in our writings, then one should expect that archaeologists would probably have to account for many of its shortcomings.

association between architecture and material culture.

The Neolithic record is probably one case in which this task would be most difficult due to its fragmented nature. However, precisely because of this 'inadequacy', the necessity to view material and extract information from a different perspective in the Neolithic period is even more demanding. The evidence from the Neolithic Aegean is rather limited when it comes to contextual information, but enough in order to show the great potential of the record in relation to the particular subject.

The characteristic structures of Nea Nikomedeia which were built at the same location phase after phase<sup>4</sup>, the different spatial arrangements in the site of Sesklo<sup>5</sup>, the shift of activities from open areas into structures in Achilleion<sup>6</sup> and the relative standardisation in

<sup>4</sup> Pyke & Yiouni 1996.

<sup>5</sup> Kotsakis 1994.

<sup>6</sup> Gimbutas *et al.* 1989.

the use of space in the Late Neolithic at Knossos<sup>7</sup>, are all examples which indicate behavioural patterns worth pursuing.

Furthermore, the recent publication of Nea Nikomedeia<sup>8</sup>, which re-examines and evaluates material known previously only from preliminary reports, is another indicator of how a detailed examination can help fix and change long established assumptions in the literature.

All these examples point to questions, which could bring archaeology closer to the understanding of human societies and behaviour. An attempt to review the evidence from Neolithic settlements in the wider area of the Eastern Mediterranean<sup>9</sup>, already indicates important changes in abandonment processes, discard practices and the definition of concepts such as private vs. public, inside vs. outside, or dirty vs. clean, from site to site. These could be new fields of inquiry for the discipline of archaeology, and apart from examining material from a different perspective, could also offer a better ground for communication with anthropology.

From a methodological point of view, a contextual approach to the material, would of course, require emphasis on stratigraphic sequences and the association between finds and features, availability of this information in the publications, and extensive excavations. Although some of these 'prerequisites' are not always attainable in archaeology (especially when it comes to the necessity for extensive excavations), it is important to keep in mind that they touch upon very important issues of archaeological practice. Furthermore, they help us reconsider the nature of questions we ask and the problems we should expect to face.

The above discussion has attempted to stress the difference between the limits inherited by the very nature of the archaeological record and those 'created' by archaeological practice itself. The potential of the archaeological record and its stratigraphic context is much greater than merely providing a temporal and regional frame for artefacts, and

indicates a much more dynamic picture of the past than the one we usually assume.

**DEMETRA PAPACONSTANTINO**

171 Ag. Meletiou St.

GR- 104 45 Athens - GREECE

---

<sup>7</sup> Evans 1928.

<sup>8</sup> Pyke & Yiouni 1996.

<sup>9</sup> Papaconstantinou 1997.

**Bibliography:**

- Barrett J. 1995**, "Some Challenges in Contemporary Archaeology". *Archaeology in Britain Conference 1995*. Oxbow Lecture 2: 1-12.
- Evans A. 1928**, *The Palace of Minos*. Vol. II: part 1. London.
- Gimbutas M., S. H. Winn & D. Shimabuku 1989**, *Achilleion. A Neolithic Settlement in Thessaly, Greece, 6400-5600 BC*. Monumenta Archaeologica 14, Institute of Archaeology, University of California: Los Angeles.
- Hodder I. 1985**, "Post-Processual Archaeology". in: *Schiffer M.B. (ed.) 1985, Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory*, vol.8: 1-26. London:.
- Hodder I. 1986**, *Reading the Past*. Cambridge University Press.
- Johnsen H. & B. Olsen 1992**, "Hermeneutics and Archaeology: on the Philosophy of Contextual Archaeology". *American Antiquity* 57(3): 419-436.
- Kotsakis K. 1994**, "The Use of Habitational Space in Neolithic Sesklo". in: *La Thessalie. Quinze années de recherches archéologiques, 1975-1990, Bilans et Perspectives*. Vol. A. Actes de colloque International Lyon, 17-22 Avril 1990. Athens, 125-130
- Papaconstantinou D. 1997**, *Identifying Domestic Space in Neolithic Eastern Mediterranean: Method and Theory in Spatial Studies*, Unpublished Ph.D. University of Edinburgh.
- Pyke G. & P. Yiouni 1996**, *Nea Nikomedeia I: the Excavation of an Early Neolithic Village in Northern Greece 1961-1964*. The British School at Athens: Athens.