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# Contents

**Editorial: Volume 1** ........................................................................................................................................... v
John Bintliff

**Prehistory and Proto-History**

The Palaeolithic settlement of Lefkas Archaeological evidence in a palaeogeographic context.... 1
Nena Galanidou, Giorgos Iliopoulos and Christina Papouli

The Argos Plain through its ages and my ages ............................................................................................. 33
John Bintliff

‘Manly hearted’ Mycenaeans (?): challenging preconceptions of warrior ideology in Mycenae’s Grave Circle B .......................................................................................................................... 45
Kristin E. Leith

Cypriot ritual and cult from the Bronze to the Iron Age: a *longue-durée* approach .................... 73
Giorgos Papantoniou

**Archaic to Classical**

‘Greek colonisation’ and Mediterranean networks: patterns of mobility and interaction at Pithekoussai ......................................................................................................................... 109
Lieve Donnellan

Euboean towers and Aegean powers: insights into the Karystia’s role in the ancient world..... 149
Chelsea A. M. Gardner and Rebecca M. Seifried

On identifying the deceased in two-figured and multi-figured scenes of classical Attic funerary reliefs ........................................................................................................................................ 177
Katia Margariti

The nature of early Greek coinage – the case of Sicily ............................................................................. 193
Keith Rutter

Encounters with death: was there dark tourism in Classical Greece? .............................................. 211
Carrie L. Sulosky Weaver

**Hellenistic**

Brick makers, builders and commissioners as agents in the diffusion of Hellenistic fired bricks: choosing social models to fit archaeological data ........................................................................... 233
Per Östborn and Henrik Gerding

Different communities, different choices. Human agency and the formation of tableware distribution patterns in Hellenistic Asia Minor ..................................................................................... 271
Mark van der Enden

**Medieval**

The current state of the research and future perspectives for the methodology and the interpretation of Byzantine pottery of the 11th and 12th centuries AD ................................................................. 313
Anastasia G. Yangaki
The medieval towers in the landscape of Euboea: landmarks of feudalism .......................... 331
Chrystalla Loizou

Post-Medieval to Modern

A boom-bust cycle in Ottoman Greece and the ceramic legacy of two Boeotian villages ....... 353
Athanasios K. Vionis

Methodology issues of forensic excavations at coastal sites ..................................................... 385
Maria Ktori, Noly Moyssi, Deniz Kahraman and Evren Korkmaz

Reviews ........................................................................................................................................ 403

Prehistory

Elizabeth C. Banks. Lerna, a preclassical site in the Argolid, Volume VII, the Neolithic settlement . 403
Kostas Kotsakis

Philip P. Betancourt (ed.). Temple University Aegean Symposium: a compendium ..................... 405
Oliver Dickinson

Evangelia Stefani, Nikos Merousis and Anastasia Dimoula. A century of research in prehistoric
Macedonia 1912-2012 .................................................................................................................. 406
Soultana Maria Valamoti

Volume I. Excavation and finds ..................................................................................................... 420
Sylviane Déderix

Corien Wiersma. Building the Bronze Age: architectural and social change on the Greek
mainland during Early Helladic III, Middle Helladic and Late Helladic I .................................. 424
Anastasia Dakouri-Hild

Archaic to classical

John Boardman, Andrew Parkin and Sally Waite (eds) On the fascination of objects: Greek and
Etruscan art in the Shefton Collection .............................................................................................. 428
Robin Osborne

Allison Glazebrook and Barbara Tsakirgis (eds) Houses of ill repute: the archaeology of brothels,
houses, and taverns in the Greek world .......................................................................................... 428
Anna Meens

Thibault Girard. L'oblique dans le monde grec. Concept et imagerie .......................................... 431
Diana Rodríguez Pérez

Alan Greaves. The land of Ionia: society and economy in the Archaic period ............................ 437
Elif Koparal

Erich Kistler, Birgit Öhlinger, Martin Mohr and Matthias Hoernes (eds). Sanctuaries and
the power of consumption. Networking and the formation of elites in the Archaic western
Mediterranean world ....................................................................................................................... 440
Lieve Donnellan
Gocha R. Tsetskhladze, Alexandru Avram and James Hargrave (eds). The Danubian lands between the Black, Aegean, and Adriatic Seas (7th centuries BC–10th century AD) .................. 440
Lieve Donnellan

Janett Morgan. Greek perspectives on the Achaemenid Empire: Persia through the looking glass . 446
Elif Koparal

Hellenistic

Nancy Bookidis and Elizabeth G. Pemberton. The sanctuary of Demeter and Kore, the Greek lamps and offering trays ................................................................. 450
Mark van der Enden

Volker Grieb, Krzysztof Nawotka and Agnieszka Wojciechowska (eds). Alexander the Great and Egypt: history, art, tradition .......................................................... 452
Judith M. Barringer

Maja Miše. Gnathia and Related Hellenistic Ware on the East Adriatic Coast .................. 455
Mark van der Enden

Roman

Theodosia Stefanidou-Tiveriou. Die lokalen Sarkophage aus Thessaloniki ...................... 458
Ben Russell

Eleni Papagianni. Attische Sarkophage mit Eroten und Girlanden .............................. 458
Ben Russell

Medieval

Rosa Bacile and John McNeill (eds). Romanesque and the Mediterranean, Points of contact across the Latin, Greek and Islamic Worlds, c.1000- c.1250 ........................................... 465
James Crow

Postmedieval to Modern

Gerald Brisch (ed). The Dodecanese: further travels among the insular Greeks. Selected writings of J. Theodore and Mabel V.A. Bent, 1885-1888 ........................................ 466
Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory

Multiperiod

Pablo Aparicio Resco. Entre Aidós Y Peitho. La iconografía del gesto del velo en la Antigua Grecia ................................................................. 470
Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones

Kerstin Droß-Krüpe (ed.). Textile trade and distribution in antiquity/Textilhandel und -distribution in der Antike ................................................................. 471
Ben Russell

Iosif Hadjikyriako and Mia Gaia Trentin (eds). Cypriot cultural details: proceedings of the 10th Annual Meeting of Young Researchers in Cypriot Archaeology ................................. 475
Paraskeva Charalambos
Mary Harlow and Marie-Louise Nosch (eds). *Greek and Roman textiles and dress. An interdisciplinary anthology* .......................................................... 479
Glenys Davies

Margaret M. Miles (ed.) *Autopsy in Athens. Recent archaeological research on Athens and Attica* 481
Franziska Lang

Rosa Maria Motta. *Material culture and cultural identity: a study of Greek and Roman coins from Dora* .......................................................... 487
Keith Rutter

Zetta Theodoropoulou Polychroniadis and Doniert Evely (eds). *AEGIS. Essays in Mediterranean archaeology presented to Matti Egon by the scholars of The Greek Archaeological Committee*. 487
Oliver Dickinson

Apostolos Sarris (ed.). *Best practices of geoinformatic technologies for the mapping of archaeolandscapes* .......................................................... 490
Chris Gaffney

Peter Schultz and Ralf Von den Hoff (eds). *Structure, Image, ornament: architectural sculpture in the Greek world* .......................................................... 492
Ruth Allen

David Stuttard. *Greek mythology: a traveller's guide from Mount Olympus to Troy* ........... 494
Gary Vos
Editorial: Volume 1

John Bintliff

Why another new journal? Since my PhD research I have specialised in Landscape Archaeology in the Mediterranean, and over the decades this field has broadened in a totally unpredictable fashion. Originally it was developed to locate places mentioned in Classical texts, then Prehistory was added by the end of the 19th century, with occasional mention of Medieval sites. With the advent of intensive survey in the late 1970s, field-by-field study of the Mediterranean landscape inescapably recorded pottery scatters of every age up to the Post-Medieval era, although it has been a slow progression for post-Roman sites to be given the same attention as earlier eras. The serious study of deserted Medieval and Early Modern villages and farms could be added to the well-known Roman villas and Classical farmsteads recognised from the start of intensive survey programmes. Then the survival of substantial ruined buildings on post-Roman sites called for their documentation and contextualising into similar buildings still rarely observable in existing communities. Just as ancient texts had been invaluable from the beginning of landscape archaeology, so now Medieval and later sources could be brought in to give depth to ceramics and houses in the countryside.

A parallel development can be observed in the archaeology of towns and museum collections. Ever greater prominence was given in recent decades to the post-Roman buildings and artefacts, offering a bridge too to longer-existing but usually disconnected ethnographic and folklore records and museum collections.

Yet publication in journals and textbooks ran up against a long tradition of compartmentalisation by period and academic institutions. Greek and Roman studies had a plethora of periodicals and works of synthesis, Prehistory was divided into a niche within the Classical field or employed its own set of journals ad book series. Medievalists published generally apart, and the Post-Medievalists had little scope for their own research. Individual periodicals have nonetheless increasingly introduced occasional insertions outside their main period interest, for example *Hesperia* and the *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*.

For anyone with the widest interest in the archaeology of the Greek World from the Palaeolithic through to the 21st century, including all the countries outside the Aegean where Greeks and Greek culture took root, there has not been a single journal where key papers, reviews and works of synthesis can appear. Given the expansion of Mediterranean rural and urban archaeology into all the periods of the human past, it is indeed opportune to launch such a periodical. The potential of such a *longue durée* approach to the Aegean Greek past has already been explored in a textbook (Bintliff 2012) and an edited conference volume (Bintliff ed. 2015), but already in this first JGA volume we have been able in the articles, not only to cover all our desired timescale, but also extend our geographical net beyond Greece to include Italy, Anatolia, Cyprus and the Levant. Our reviews have the same time-breadth and cover the entire world of Greek culture—except for the migrant communities of Early Modern Australia and the United States (a gap to be filled in the future).

We have kept our policy of an English-language journal with the exception of one book review; haste in getting Volume 1 out on its promised deadline left this still untranslated.

This volume was aided immensely by the support of our Editorial Board, mostly at Edinburgh University, and the many members of our worldwide distinguished Advisory Board. Vital aid to the Editor came from the Editorial Assistant Fiona Mowat, financed by a grant from the Leventis Foundation. The encouragement and continual hard work by our production-publication team at
Archaeopress must be acknowledged as without parallel in my publishing experience – Rajka, David, Gerry and Patrick.