

A parte i punti discutibili, il libro costituisce un buon prodotto di ricerche interdisciplinari, tra letteratura, storia, storia delle religioni e archeologia. Un tale approccio è indispensabile per affrontare questioni come quella di Diana Aricina, e il talento dell'A. ha ben compreso come i risultati migliori possano essere conseguiti superando le barriere delle singole discipline.

Verona

Attilio Mastrocinque

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Colin Renfrew: *Excavations at Phylakopi in Melos 1974–1977*. Co-edited by Neil Brodie, Christine Morris and Chris Scarre with contributions by R. L. N. Barber, John F. Cherry, Jack L. Davis, Alec Daykin, R. K. Evans, Lyvia Morgan, P. A. Mountjoy, Sarah J. Vaughan, David Williams and Nick Winder and also Allyson Shepard Bailey, William Brice, Mark Cameron, O. T. P. K. Dickinson, Elizabeth French, Clive Gamble, M. S. F. Hood, Richard E. Jones, Y. Maniatis, Jonathan H. Musgrave, Z. Stos-Gale, M. S. Tite, Dorothy and Charles Vitaliano, Todd Whitelaw and John G. Younger. London: The British School at Athens 2007. XVI, 521 S. zahlr. Textabb. u. Pläne. 62 Taf. 4°. (Suppl. 42.) 123 £.

This detailed volume completes the publication trilogy of the Phylakopi excavations and investigations into Melos conducted under the directorship of Colin Renfrew between 1974 and 1977. As such, it is an essential compendium to the already published volumes 'An Island Polity: The Archaeology of Exploitation in Melos' (Renfrew & Wagstaff, 1982) and 'The Archaeology of Cult: The Sanctuary at Phylakopi' (Renfrew, 1987). Unlike these two heavily theorised books, this excavation report focuses on the essentials and provides a comprehensive blow-by-blow account of the excavation strategy, stratigraphy as well as catalogues of pottery, painted plaster and other small finds.

With extensive excavations already undertaken between 1896 and 1899 and subsequent work carried out a decade later, key architectural structures and the overall site layout of Phylakopi were already well-known. The aims of Renfrew's excavations therefore were to fill gaps in our knowledge and clarify specific chronological questions. The key research foci were: 1) a comprehensive understanding of the full stratigraphic sequence with particular focus on the LH III pottery development; 2) quantification of pottery wares and shapes; and 3) confirmation of the stratigraphy and dating of the fortification wall and the Megaron.

Having set the scene to the excavations in Chapter 1, Chapter 2 briefly outlines the work undertaken in the four excavation seasons, the sampling strategies employed (with an interesting experiment reported in Appendix A) and provides a convenient synopsis of the basic phasing of each trench and synchronisms across the site. In doing so, Renfrew touches upon one of the real limitations of the excavations and the drawbacks of such a targeted approach to understanding chronological issues: the small size of trenches and the lack of linking stratigraphic layers between the various trenches prohibits the establishment of synchronisms across different sections of the site. Instead, chronological correlations were established on the basis of the pottery. While this limitation should be born in mind when discussing the dating of layers or features and temporal relationships between different architectural structures, solid statistical procedures

were applied by Davis and Cherry (Chapter 7) to overcome these disadvantages and create a pottery sequence that offers a low-resolution alternative to the missing settlement-wide stratigraphic sequence.

Chapter 3 offers a description of each excavated trench, always with due reference to the previous excavators' work, plans and interpretations. This is not an easy task and, while the whole chapter is not particularly reader-friendly, it provides a great amount of textual detail, maps, plans and layer diagrams to comprehend each trench's sequence. More importantly, this chapter offers answers to many of the key chronological questions posed by the excavator: 1) the Megaron was not a single-phase building but a two-phase structure consisting of a LH IIIA Megaron and a LB I Mansion. The two joining fragments of a clay tablet bearing Linear A signs discovered near the Mansion can also be dated to the LB I period. 2) The frescoes, assigned by the original excavators to the MBA, can now be shown to belong to the LB I period. 3) The construction of the fortification wall, previously dated to the MBA with subsequent strengthening and repairs in LBA, can now be assigned to the LM IA phase. A second fortification wall was built in the LH IIIB period.

With pottery such a crucial tool in establishing a chronological sequence for the site, it is no surprise to find that over half of the excavation report (Chapters 4–8) is given over to the discussion of pottery fabrics (David Williams and Sarah Vaughan), SEM investigations (Yiannis Maniatis and Michael Tite), Early Bronze Age pottery (Colin Renfrew and Robert Evans), Middle Cycladic pottery (Robin Barber), Middle Helladic pottery (Oliver Dickinson), Middle Minoan pottery (Sinclair Hood), Late Cycladic pottery (Jack Davis and John Cherry) and Mycenaean and Late Minoan I–II pottery (Penelope Mountjoy).

What is interesting to note is that non-local pottery has mostly been demoted to the appendices in these chapters, thus presenting Phylakopi and its pottery sequence in its own right and making a clear statement about the quantities (and importance) of imported vessels. Without any doubt, such a detailed presentation of the whole Bronze Age pottery sequence is essential to further our understanding of its developments and forms a crucial tool for inter-site comparisons. Specific findings are manifold, though the greatest progress has been made in relation to EBA pottery where petrological and technological investigations complemented the more conventional classificatory work (Chapters 4 and 5). Not only do we now have a good evidence of material contemporary with the Keros-Syros culture, but we also have now confirmation that EBA potters used a wide range of clay and temper sources to manufacture their pots. This is in line with the dispersed settlement pattern observed and most likely reflects the co-existence of many pottery producers on the island. Firing temperatures indicate that the potters were skilled and knew how to achieve hard, well-fired pots.

The bulk of the MBA material (Chapter 6) comes from levelling fills laid down during the construction of the LC town, thus prohibiting a detailed stratigraphic analysis. Nevertheless, broad patterns can be traced (with Dark Burnished and Cycladic White standing out as the major classes), and shapes and decorations provide welcome comparanda to those available from Ayia Irini on Kea, Akrotiri on Thera, Mikre Vigla on Naxos and other sites. The presence of Grey Minyan, MH matt-painted imports and MM pottery as well as local imitations indicates

an openness of Phylakopi towards outside influences and is, at the same time, a recognition of the diversity of these influences.

Since the broad outline of the LC I pottery sequence is reasonably well known, the purpose of Chapter 7 was to provide a finer chronology of developments within this period. This endeavour was hampered by the fragmentary nature of the assemblage and the existence of nine separate soundings. To overcome this hurdle, the authors employed a sequence of very successful seriation techniques which allowed them to combine the individual trenches into one single master sequence. As a result, we can now appreciate the different timings of specific construction events and the originality of the Melian pottery production despite its particularly enthusiastic uptake of Cretan fashions.

As befits the importance of this time range, the analysis of the Mycenaean and Late Minoan I–II pottery in Chapter 8 widens its remit to include also pottery from the previous excavations. In addition to providing a more detailed understanding of the ceramic development, the analysis of the LH IIA/LM IB pottery, for example, indicates that most of the pottery was probably produced on the Greek mainland (consistent with Ayia Irini's assemblage), thus providing a counter-balance to the long-standing Minoanisation debate.

While the new excavations have not contributed a large amount of new painted plaster pieces, they have provided Lyvia Morgan (with contributions by Mark Cameron) with an opportunity to reassess all known material in Chapter 9. Phylakopi, alongside other major Cycladic communities in Akrotiri on Thera and Ayia Irini on Kea, can now be shown to have participated in a wider Cycladic wall painting tradition that includes miniature friezes, 'tables of offerings' and thematic cycles. An analytical study of the pigment and plaster using OES and XRD indicated that, with the exception of Egyptian Blue, all materials used were available locally.

Chapter 10 (John Cherry and Jack Davis) offers a discussion of a wide variety of small finds, including terracotta, metal and stone objects, and artefacts made of ivory, bone and shell. Among these, particular attention is being paid to the famous Linear A tablet fragments (Colin Renfrew and William Brice), figurines (Elizabeth French), potters' marks (Allyson Shepard Bailey) and sealstones (John Younger). In line with other contemporary sites, most of the imported lead and litharge came from Lavrion (Zofia Stos-Gale). While this chapter discusses the most diverse range of materials, it is, at the same time, the chapter that gives the most vivid impression of the daily activities the community of Phylakopi was involved in – from textile production (possibly becoming specialised in the late MBA and early LBA), pottery production, seafaring, metal-working and administrative organisation. The chapter also highlights the diversity of contacts Phylakopi could tap into in order to procure necessary raw materials or finished objects.

A reassessment of the animal bone data originally presented by Clive Gamble in an *Island Polity* is undertaken by Nick Winder in Chapter 11. It concludes that the scale of each individually assessed stratigraphical unit exerts a greater influence than actual variation in the data. As such previous conclusions about variations in animal proportions over the life-time of the settlement should be treated with caution.

Concluding the excavation report (Chapter 12), Colin Renfrew acknowledges the difficulties in publishing a book some 30 years after the completion of the fieldwork, with most chapters written for publication in the 1980s. While most contributors make it clear when they last updated their section, it would have been helpful to add editorial notes to all chapters identifying the date of the published version. Nevertheless, it is wonderful to see this important publication finally out in print, and to be able to begin afresh a reassessment of the site in its local and regional context. Several themes are identified by Renfrew: a reassessment of the EC period in terms of local sequences and regional variation; a petrographically-supported analysis of inter-island relations; an analysis of the specific contact zones between Cycladic centres and communities in MBA and LBA Crete and indeed the Mycenaean mainland; full evaluation and publication of the obsidian industry.

No doubt this volume has its weaknesses – many of which are related to the substantial delay in publication (differential completion dates for contributions, lacking integration and interpretation of the site within its local and regional context especially in the conclusion) and a certain lack in editorial guidance to unify approaches to material and to insure comparable levels of interpretative depth (especially noticeable in the pottery chapters; also Chapter 11 (animal bones) which is distinct from all other contributions). However, belabouring these would divert attention from the truly significant contribution this volume will make to our understanding of Phylakopi, the island of Melos and the potential its publication holds for a reassessment of Cycladic prehistory, the differences between communities and islands, and the diversity of human expression. This Phylakopi volume, in conjunction with continuing publications of Ayia Irini and Akrotiri material as well as the equally exciting excavations at Markiani on Amorgos and Skarkos on Ios, will undoubtedly give a new impetus to research into the Cyclades and is a poignant reminder to us all that the time is now ripe for an advanced synthesis.

Manchester

Ina Berg

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Peter Baumeister: *Der Fries des Hekateions von Lagina*. Neue Untersuchungen zu Monument und Kontext. Istanbul: Yayınlar 2007. X, 252 S. 11 Textabb. 43 Taf. 2 Beil. 4°. (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Abteilung Istanbul. Byzas. 6.).

Cet ouvrage, dont la présentation matérielle est dans l'ensemble satisfaisante, est issu d'une dissertation de l'université de Bonn dirigée par le professeur Harald Mielsch ; il constitue la première monographie publiée dans la série Byzas, imprimée à Istanbul par le DAI d'Istanbul, qui est destinée à remplacer la série des Beihefte der Istanbulischen Mitteilungen, indique Felix Pirson dans son avant-propos. L'ouvrage traite, avec de nouvelles photographies (43 planches à la fin), de la frise de l'Hécateion de Lagina, dont la plupart des plaques retrouvées à la fin du XIX^e siècle est exposée au musée d'Istanbul; les fragments conservés en réserve n'ont pas été reproduits et les fragments de la frise découverts dans les fouilles récentes conduites par Ahmet Tirpan depuis 1993, encore inédits, n'ont pu être pris en considération par P. Baumeister; l'auteur a cependant obtenu