
Organizers: Manfred Bietak, University of Vienna, Austria
Hartmut Matthaus, University of Erlangen, Germany
James Whitley, University of Cardiff, Wales
Francesca Fulminante and Simon Stoddart, University of Cambridge, UK

Time: Friday morning

Session abstract:
This symposium, linked to a new European network (TiMe) coordinated by the University of Vienna, will examine the tension between connectivity in the Mediterranean and local political transformations, during the crucial period of the late second and early first millennia BC. Papers will examine a) the changing technologies underlying new forms of connectivity, b) post colonial approaches to objects “entangled” in this connectivity, and c) the varied political trajectories of key zones of the Mediterranean during the same timeframe: Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, the Aegean islands and the Greek mainland, Central Italy, Southern France/Germany, Sardinia and Malta. Introductory papers will address d) the issue of establishing a sound comparative chronology and e) the environmental context within which these political changes took place.

Paper abstracts:

INTRODUCTION: THE TIME PROGRAMME

Francesca Fulminante, University of Cambridge, UK
James Whitley, University of Cardiff, Wales
Simon Stoddart, University of Cambridge, UK

A short outline will be given of the scope of proposed network, which will bridge different traditions of European archaeology in the Mediterranean. An introduction will be given to the environmental, chronological and theoretical issues that are key to understanding the crucial period of the transition between the late second and early first millennia BC from an Anglo-Italian perspective before passing to a complementary Austrian perspective in the second paper.

TRANSFORMATION OR COLLAPSE? THE FATE OF MEDITERRANEAN SOCIETIES DURING THE TRANSITION FROM LBA TO EIA – ESTABLISHING A TERMINOLOGICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK
Astrid Hassler, Felix Höflmayer and Claus Jurman, Commission for Egypt and the Levant Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria

During the transitional period straddling the very late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age, the Mediterranean region saw complex developments on a political, sociological, economic, and probably also environmental level, with formerly powerful states disintegrating and new political entities as well as patterns of trans-regional exchange emerging. One of the major topics of the envisaged international research programme TiMe will be to follow these changes as closely as possible within the archaeological record, to identify the determining factors, and to assess their mutual interrelations (network of causalities). In order to achieve these goals one should ensure a close collaboration between researches focusing on the theoretical aspects of change and those more dealing with primary archaeological data. Before any major research can commence it seems critical to stake out and discuss the basic terminological and methodological concepts involved, thereby ensuring that future debates are founded on an agreed upon framework of key-concepts. The inter-dependence of theoretical and practical archaeology is perhaps most conveniently epitomised by the issue of chronology. Any evaluation of inter-regional contacts and the questions of cause and effect rely heavily on a common chronological framework which is itself dependent upon the very definition of “contemporaneity” and the archaeological methods to assess it.

EMERGING COMPLEXITY IN THE IBERIAN PROTOHISTORIC SOUTH-WEST AND EAST MEDITERRANEAN INFUXES: NEW PERSPECTIVES AND INTERPRETATIONS

L. Oosterbeek, Instituto Politecnico de Tomar-Instituto Terra e Memoria.
D. Delfino, Instituto Terra e Memoria - Quaternary group of the Geosciences Centre of FCT
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G. Portocarrero

The discussion of the protohistoric societies in Southwest Iberia has been conditioned by the assessment of Atlantic vs. Mediterranean influences, interacting with local endogenous processes. An apparent local decay succeeding the Chalcolithic societies of the late 4th/early 3rd millennia, possibly as a consequence of social fission, seems to pave the way for a substantially colonial model of evolution. In this context, the full nature and specific role of literary complexes such as Tartessos has been debated. Yet, the close long distance connections, including with the Aegean, Cyprus or Egypt, do are visible in various contexts from at least 1,200 BC, if not before. In this paper, the basic evidence is reviewed, suggesting a possible continuity and increasing complexity of the regional exchange networks and their relation with the Mediterranean, from at least the late Bronze Age.

TRANSFORMATIONS IN SETEFILLA: BETWEEN PHOENICIAN INFLUENCE AND LOCAL POWER
The aim of this paper is to discuss the role of foreign contacts in local competition during the Orientalizing period in Setefilla (western Andalusia, Spain), a big Tartessian centre of the interior. In the Early Iron Age, Phoenician traders founded their colonial settlements on the south-west coast of Iberian Peninsula. It is beyond doubt that the interaction between the local populations and the Phoenicians changed the social, economic and political backgrounds of the region.

In Setefilla, Phoenician imports and some local “imitations” were found. The use of these things as prestige goods might be seen as a way in which the indigenous people fulfilled their strong interest in articles which could only be obtained through exchange with the foreigners. However, imports were found not only in the “richest” tombs but in other archaeological contexts. By using the concept of hybridity, I would like to show that the inhabitants of Setefilla actively manipulated matters according to their own needs, allowing them to transform their social relations. A suggestive example of the creation of a system of new social values was the erection of a big central chamber in one of the tumuli which caused the destruction of over 20 tombs.

GRAECO-CENTRISM AND THE TYRANNY OF TEXTS: INTERPRETATIONS OF MEDITERRANEAN INTERACTIONS WITH THE EARLY IRON AGE CENTRES OF SOUTHWEST GERMANY

Bettina Arnold, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA

The Period IV Heuneburg hillfort mud-brick wall, which remains unique among the hillforts of the so-called West Hallstatt zone, was constructed c. 600 BC and destroyed by fire some 60 years later. Traditional interpretations of this fortification system have linked its construction with the Phocaean foundation of Massalia at approximately the same time. This coincidental temporal congruence combined with references in Herodotus and Hecataeus has resulted in a decidedly Graeco-centric interpretation of social rupture and rearticulation in southwest Germany during the late Hallstatt period. The possibility that other areas of the Mediterranean might have had an equal or greater impact on these developments has been largely obstructed by the focus on connections with Greece via Massalia. Evidence from recent excavations in two burial mounds within three kilometres of the hillfort as well as ongoing investigations in the outer settlement of the site and its hinterland form the basis for a critical analysis of the pervasiveness of the Massalia-Heuneburg association, providing a new perspective on this intensively studied site and its connections with other parts of Europe during the first millennium BC.

INDIGENOUS POLITICAL DYNAMICS AND IDENTITY FROM A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE: ETRURIA AND LATIUM.

Francesca Fulminante and Simon Stoddart, University of Cambridge, UK
The authors will examine the tension between indigenous political dynamics and connectivity in two, geographically related, but contrasting, political contexts. The long established debate on urbanism in Etruria and Latium vetus, dating in Italy since at least the 1980 Formation of the City conference, will be updated in the light of current debates of settlement dynamics, political identity and the timing and significance of interaction in the central Mediterranean. The settlement patterns and burial sequence of Etruria (Stoddart) will be contrasted and compared with the corresponding sequence of Latium Vetus (Fulminante), within the Mediterranean context of connectivity over the period 1200–500 BC.

NEW DATA ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SICILY AND THE MALTESE ARCHIPELAGO IN THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

Davide Tanasi, University of Catania, Italy

The relationship between Sicily and the Maltese archipelago in the Middle Bronze Age has been largely neglected in the archaeological literature. The discovery of new data has recently provided the opportunity to conduct a thorough study of the pottery assemblages of the South-eastern Sicily, in the MBA (Thapsos period), so as to create a complete corpus of all Maltese imports and local imitations related to Borg in-Nadur culture, accompanied by a comparable analysis of Borg in-Nadur and Bahrija pottery from the type sites of Malta. The definition of a recurring set of Maltese pottery, composed by the simple cup, the pedestal cup and the juglet, attested both in Malta and in the principal Sicilian contexts, could indicate a higher degree of complexity in the relationship between the two indigenous groups or a possible Maltese influence on the Sicilian funerary religion. Thus the actual value and the cultural meaning of the Maltese presence in the Middle Bronze Age Sicily and the definition of a cultural network including Sicilian, Maltese and Mycenaean peoples will be discussed in this paper.

MARITIME CONNECTIVITY AND POLITICAL IDENTITY IN CYPRUS (1200 – 500 BC)

Duncan Howitt-Marshall, University of Cambridge, UK

This paper traces the development of maritime communication networks and their influence on political identity in Cyprus during the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. It was during this time that coastal centres rose to prominence in the socio-political landscape of the island. What is striking about Cyprus is the survival of prominent coastal centres during the widespread destruction of palatine societies in the Aegean and Near East (c. 1200 BC). Following this, Palaipaphos, Kition and Enkomi emerged as major maritime termini in the Iron Age, managing and absorbing overseas contacts and influences from the Levant to the central Mediterranean.

This study emphasises the role of the sea in the development of settlement hierarchy in Cyprus, the emergence of primary coastal centres during the Late Bronze Age, and the establishment of foreign contacts and colonies in Early Iron Age. Drawing on a series of maritime archaeological investigations carried out on the island since the 1960s, and the author’s own fieldwork on the west and southwest
coasts, this research highlights how Cyprus became a key terminus for trade and exchange in the eastern Mediterranean world and a vital first step for Phoenician maritime expansion west.