

# Instituto de Estudios Islámicos y del Oriente Próximo

Zaragoza, Spain

International Symposium

“Iron Age Synchronisms in the Eastern Mediterranean”

3rd - 4th December 2010

## Programme

### 3rd December

- 9:00 - 9:15 Inauguration by Dr Mariano Laguna (Coordinator of the Spanish Higher Council of Scientific Studies in Aragón)
- 9:15 - 10:00 ***Introductory remarks***  
Prof María Eugenia Aubet Semmler (Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain)
- 10:00 - 11:00 ***Synchronizing Black-on-Red Ware in the Aegean***  
Dr Giorgos Bourogiannis (British Museum, London, UK)
- 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 - 12:30 ***The Chronology of Kilise Tepe, Turkey, Revisited***  
PhD Candidate Christina Bouthillier (University of Cambridge, UK)
- 12:30 - 13:30 ***East-West Contacts in Northern Syria and Eastern Cilicia in the 8th - 6th Century BCE***  
Prof Gunnar Lehmann (Dept. of Bible, Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, Israel)
- 13:30 - 15:00 Lunch
- 15:00 - 16:00 ***Greek Geometric Pottery from Al Mina and its implication for the absolute Chronology in the Aegean***  
PhD candidate Alexander Vacek (University of Oxford, UK)
- 16:00 - 17:00 ***Local sequences and regional perspectives in the inner Northern Levant: Two case studies from Tell Afis (NW Syria) and Zincirli (SE Turkey)***  
Dr Sebastiano Soldi (Archaeological Museum of Florence / University of Pisa, Italy)

## 4th December

- 9:30 - 10:30     ***Stratified Ceramics and Regional Style at Ancient Marion (Polis Chrysochous)***  
Dr Joanna S. Smith (Department of Art and Archaeology, McCormick Hall, Princeton University, USA)
- 10:30 - 11:00     ***Contextualizing Cypro-Phoenician interaction in the Iron Age: The Tel Dor Perspective*** (part I)  
Dr Ayelet Gilboa (Department of Archaeology, Haifa University, Israel) and Dr. Ilan Sharon (Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)
- 11:00 - 11:30     Coffee break
- 11:30 - 12:30     ***Contextualizing Cypro-Phoenician interaction in the Iron Age: The Tel Dor Perspective*** (part II)
- 12:30 - 13:30     ***Tyrian Late Iron Age ceramic sequence and its imports: a round-trip relationship***  
Dr Francisco J. Núñez (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Instituto de Estudios Islámicos y del Oriente Próximo, Zaragoza, Spain)
- 13:30             ***Conclusions***
- 14:00             Lunch
- 16:30             Guided visit to the Aljafería Palace

## Abstracts

### *Synchronizing Black-on-Red Ware in the Aegean*

Dr Giorgos Bourogiannis (British Museum, London, UK)

Discussion of contacts in Early Iron Age Mediterranean is an intricate task that includes the comparative evaluation of archaeological and literary evidence. The role of pottery in this process is pivotal, since its ubiquitous presence in almost every archaeological context provides a reliable tool for tracing patterns of commercial expansion and distribution. Black-on-Red (BoR) in particular is one of the most commonly-used wares when it comes to the evaluation of intra-Mediterranean trade. Although aspects related to its origin as well as the instigators of its distribution are still debated, BoR is one of the most characteristic ceramic products of east Mediterranean in the Early Iron Age, whereas its presence overseas is associated with the commercial activity of Cypriots and Phoenicians. The paper aims to present a complete overview of BoR imports in Geometric Aegean, with a special focus on securely dated contexts that can help to clarify aspects of its origin and distribution.

## *The Chronology of Kilise Tepe, Turkey, Revisited*

Mrs. Christina Bouthillier (PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge, UK)

‘The chronology of the Iron Age seen from Kilise Tepe’, published in 2008 (ANE vol. 45), by prof. Nicholas Postgate, discussed the dates proposed for the different phases present at the site, but, more importantly, also identified the various problems that arose when trying to securely date the Bronze to Iron Age material. Since then, excavations have continued at Kilise Tepe with the intent to obtain a clearer, more detailed, and more evidenced internal sequence. This paper looks to present the new information gained from further excavation and the continued study of the ceramic corpus. The incorporation of initial C14 results and the completion of a well-stratified sounding that runs from within the Bronze Age up to the end of the Iron Age occupation at Kilise Tepe have both contributed significantly to further refining our internal sequence, but external synchronisms and secure absolute dates remain elusive.

*East-West Contacts in Northern Syria and Eastern Cilicia in the 8th - 6th Century BCE*

Dr Gunnar Lehmann (Dept. of Bible, Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, Israel).

The paper examines the distribution of Greek pottery in Northern Syria and Eastern Cilicia in the 8th - 6th Century BCE. I will present new finds and evidence from Kinet Höyük, Zincirli and a Survey in the Bay of Iskenderun. The recent research in Eastern Cilicia did not find another Al Mina. This emphasizes even more the extraordinary role of Al Mina in studying the contacts between west and east during the 8th and 7th centuries BCE. There are no spectacular break-throughs in our work in eastern Cilicia, it is rather archaeological routine. Kinet Höyük, Zincirli and the Survey in the Bay of Iskenderun have added a new mosaic stones to our knowledge of the Levant during the late Iron Age. Kinet Höyük provides us with new stratified data and expands our knowledge of the Iron Age in Cilicia. It will help to better understand the Tarsus excavations and the contacts of Greek and Levantine cultures in the northern Levant. The site also significantly improves our knowledge of the ceramic chronology in the region, which in turn will help us dating more precisely the contacts between West and East in the Mediterranean Iron Age.

*Greek Geometric Pottery from Al Mina and its implication for the absolute Chronology in the Aegean.*

Mr Alexander Vacek (PhD candidate at the University of Oxford, UK)

“The absolute dating of Geometric style depends on the context where the pottery can be connected with recorded historical events”. This sentence written by J. N. Coldstream in 1968 is still valid today although radiocarbon dating is increasingly employed in Classical Archaeology specifically to increase our knowledge about the chronological development of pottery. Syria and the Levantine coast are very important in this respect because it is the region where a relatively good account of recorded events exists. One site that cannot be neglected for the establishment in terms of absolute chronology is Al Mina even though some scholars like Cook considered the evidence from Al Mina as “delusive”. The site is very controversially debated in Archaeology in terms of its usefulness to act as a keystone in the East for the absolute chronology of Greek pottery. Even today, after a long period of intense excavation in the Levant, there is no other site with such a high quantity of Greek imports of Geometric and early archaic date. While the interpretation of only a small number of imports in an assemblage is always problematical in terms of its statistical validity, Al Mina offers the unique opportunity to study assemblages that contain comparatively high numbers of Greek-, Cypriot and to a lesser extent, Phoenician pottery.

The paper focuses on two aspects: in a first step Woolley’s field notes together with his pottery recording system should be discussed to assess the validity of the different assemblages or, as Woolley called it, levels.

Secondly, the chronology of the occupation levels 10-5 should be reassessed and a local sequence should be established. In terms of absolute chronology, the question of a possible destruction level that is mentioned in Woolley’s field notes deserves special attention. A possible connection with the Assyrian invasion of Unqi in 738 BC may have some important repercussions for the chronology of Greek Geometric pottery.

*Local sequences and regional perspectives in the inner Northern Levant: Two case studies from Tell Afis (NW Syria) and Zincirli (SE Turkey).*

Dr. Sebastiano Soldi (Archaeological Museum of Florence / University of Pisa, Italy)

In this paper we will discuss the role played by inner North-Western Syria in the Middle and Late Iron Age. Local sequences as provided by recent archaeological excavations in Tell Afis (to be identified with ancient Hazrek named in Zakkur's stele) and Zincirli (ancient Sam'al) can be analysed individually and within the regional frame of the Northern Levantine area. The material sequence displayed in the Iron Age II and III by these two important sites can be tracked and compared with other sites between the coast of the Mediterranean sea and the Euphrates valley. The common "orange" ware as well as hole-mouth cooking pots characterize the local productions of the region in a range of time where historical sources record the passage from independent Aramaean cities to the conquest of the area by the Assyrians. The local material sequence with its features of similarities and differences in the regional perspective, remains the first element reliable to compare materials and imported items, which can link the local documentation in the wider Mediterranean and Near Eastern contexts.

The issue of discussing and redefining the synchronization of Iron Age chronology on a larger scale is particularly important as the adherence of a model based on the tripartite subdivision in the Northern Levant (IA I-III) presents some difficulties, concerning a material culture which continues throughout the period labelled as Iron Age II-III with very slight changes and much continuity in terms of shapes and fabrics.

## *Stratified Ceramics and Regional Style at Ancient Marion (Polis Chrysochous)*

Dr Joanna S. Smith (Department of Art and Archaeology, McCormick Hall, Princeton University, USA)

The excavations by a team from Princeton University in ancient Marion (Polis Chrysochous) have uncovered an important stratified sequence of Iron Age ceramics at the sanctuary site of Polis-Peristeries (area B.D7). Analysis of the full corpus of ceramic material from the site, inclusive of sherds as well as reconstructable vessels, is currently underway. Early Iron Age Cypriot vessel fragments at the site appear to place the earliest stratified deposits in the tenth century BC while the latest fragments place the end of the sanctuary's use in the early fifth century BC. Problems with the traditional system for the study of Cypriot ceramics as presented by Einar Gjerstad in volume IV part 2 of the Swedish Cyprus Expedition in 1948 led to a critical review especially of Cypro-Geometric pottery that I published in *Art and Society in Cyprus from the Bronze Age into the Iron Age* in 2009. In that book I showed how Gjerstad's Type I and Type II begin to appear at Kition at the same time and that they are likely to be more representative of regional rather than chronological differences. In this paper I seek to present how new evidence from the internal sequence of well stratified ceramics from Marion adds to our understanding of regional styles across the island. In turn I reference the ways in which these regional perspectives change and add to our understanding of interconnections between Cyprus and its neighbors.

## *Contextualizing Cypro-Phoenician interaction in the Iron Age: The Tel Dor Perspective*

Dr Ayelet Gilboa (Department of Archaeology, Haifa University, Israel) and Dr Ilan Sharon (Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)

Excavations at Tel Dor, the main early Iron Age center on Israel's Carmel coast, have unearthed in several excavation areas a detailed stratigraphic sequence for the early Iron Age (11<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE). It provides the amplest evidence yet for Phoenicia's inter-regional contacts in this period, with Cyprus, Egypt, other sites in Phoenicia, Philistia and finally also Greece.

This paper proposes to apply a contextual approach in order to understand the best attested contacts in this period - those between Phoenicia and Cyprus, which we believe are incorrectly understood. Their re-analysis also reflects on the way later cross-Mediterranean Phoenician endeavors should be interpreted.

In order to do that the presentation is divided into three:

First, in order to provide the context(s) of these interactions, the Tel Dor sequence is introduced in some detail, with an emphasis on regional associations and impact.

Second, the nature of Phoenician exports to Cyprus is re-examined, inter-alia based on analysis of Phoenician containers in Cyprus using Optical Mineralogy (conducted in collaboration with Yuval Goren).

Third, some methodological issues regarding <sup>14</sup>C dating and pertaining to the Phoenician question are raised. They are based on insights gained in the framework of the Iron Age Dating Project, conducted by us with Elisabetta Boaretto.

## *Tyrian Late Iron Age ceramic sequence and its imports: a round-trip relationship*

Dr Francisco J. Núñez

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. Instituto de Estudios Islámicos y del Oriente Próximo, Zaragoza (Spain)

Tyre offers an optimal combination of data sources from a ceramic point of view: a coherent stratigraphic sequence that covers the entire Iron Age complemented, especially for its later part, by funerary contexts recovered in a neighbouring necropolis, al - Bass.

Beside the local ceramic repertoire recovered in both sites, there also highlights one of the most relevant imported ceramic repertoires in the Levant that includes Cypriot and Aegean productions. Moreover, most of the associations registered there are matched in other areas of the Mediterranean Sea, a fact that reinforces their utility in sequential issues.

Taking all the material sequences side by side, these combinations have the advantage of allowing not only the identification of possible connections over the time, but also the presence of inconsistencies in their respective frameworks. Therefore, a better understanding of their own evolutionary lines may have repercussions that may cross their own borders.

An example of this circumstance will be shown in this contribution. The Phoenician ceramic sequence still needs of foreign references in order to build and consolidate its own framework. However, some of its features and manifestations could be used at the same time to correct potential inconsistencies and contradictions within those better-established cultural lines.