

PREFACE BY THE EDITOR

The island of Cyprus, located in the centre of the Eastern Mediterranean, was by its very position a centre of international trade in antiquity. As is well known, the island was rich in copper, a metal which not only gave Cyprus its name, but which was also responsible for turning the island into a centre for international trade, particularly during the Bronze Ages (e.g. Middle Cypriot and Late Cypriot Bronze Age periods, 2nd Millennium B.C). Along with the distribution of this highly valued metal, other goods were in circulation. These were mostly pottery vessels which were used as containers for specific goods such as oils and resins. The archaeological study of these goods provides us with invaluable information on trade in the coastal and hinterland regions of the Mediterranean. Depending on the relative contexts of these finds, we also have an opportunity to synchronize cultural horizons; this is the topic of the special Research Program SCIEM 2000.

The conference on the Lustrous Wares of Late Bronze Age Cyprus was organized with the intention of viewing such interpretations based on the evidence of the particular pottery wares in the Eastern Mediterranean. As early as 1998, V. Karageorghis organised a Cypriot pottery conference dealing with White Slip ware. In 2000, P. Åström followed with a conference in Stockholm on Bichrome and Base Ring wares. Continuing this tradition of pottery ware conferences, the meeting in Vienna was dedicated to Red, White and Black Lustrous Wheelmade Wares, which are prominent markers for the distribution of Late Cypriot ceramics in the Eastern Mediterranean. The geographical and chronological distribution of the pottery wares, as well as the question of their origin were proposed topics. K.O. Eriksson did research on Red Lustrous Wheelmade Ware in a large monograph at the beginning of the 1990s, but in this volume she presents a new assessment of the subject. The debate on RLWM-Ware has become highly interesting given the recent finds in Anatolia, in Boğazköy f.i., as is reflected in the paper by D. Mielke. R. Merriellees discusses the chronological position of RLWM-Ware, and considers the question of origin from a traditional point of view. He claims that new analyses of the material are needed. Such analytical interpretations of Red Lustrous Wheelmade Ware are presented in the contributions by Knappett and Kilikoglou, as well as from Kozal and Schubert, and in the contribution of J. Steele/B. Stern and C.

Knappett in their paper on the analyses of contents. Important contributions about the occurrence of the wares on the island of Cyprus itself have been made by P. Åström, by L. Crewe from the site of Enkomi and by A. South/L. Steel on the RLWM-Ware finds from Kalavassos. M. Artzy, P. Fischer, J. Hörbiger, E. Kozal and I. Hein have examined finds from other regions in the Eastern Mediterranean. E. Yannai and A. Gorzalczany attempt to establish a typology of the Black and Grey Lustrous Wheelmade ware. Other related wares and appearances as comparanda are brought into discussion by the contributions of A. Caubet and C. Bergoffen.

In summary, a fascinating collection of 18 papers has been compiled in this volume, showing not only the papers presented, but also the results of the stimulating discussions and investigations, which took place during the meeting.

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Above all, I would like to express my thanks to all the lecturers and other participants of the meeting, who came together, to shed light on the subject of Lustrous wares, and who made it a very stimulating meeting on ancient Cypriot pottery, which offered new observations on Late Cypriot and Late Bronze Age chronology.

Irmgard Hein

