

Preface

When the Mycenaean Commission was founded by Fritz Schachermeyr in 1971 one of its main aims was the presentation of new research results in Aegean prehistory, especially for the Mycenaean period. He initiated the series ›Ägäische Frühzeit‹, the first series published by Schachermeyr himself, in five volumes from 1975 till 1982. Due to the immense increase in new finds this series was not continued in the original way. Instead, Sigrid Deger-Jalkotzy, head of the department from 1988 till 2010, organised and published several conferences on Linear B and the post-palatial period LH IIIC, in which specialists presented new finds and their implications for the history of the Mycenaean Era.

During recent years, important new finds as well as ground-breaking research on the Mycenaean administrative system have altered our view of the Mycenaean period, now seen as one of the earliest palatial systems of Europe. Therefore this conference ›Tradition and Innovation in the Mycenaean Palatial Polities‹, held on March 1–2, 2013, was planned to bring excavators and staff members of important newly excavated Mycenaean sites such as Thebes, Pefkakia, Iklaina and Ayios Vasileios together with linguists, archaeologists, historians and other specialists to give an updated view of the Mycenaean palatial period and discuss new research perspectives.

The conference was organised by Florian Ruppenstein and Jörg Weilhartner at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and is now published as volume 34 in the series ›Mykenische Studien‹ of the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA), which was founded in 2013.

The editors of the series would like to thank the sponsors of the conference, the Philosophical-Historical Class and the Holzhausen bequest of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Sigrid Deger-Jalkotzy Foundation and the Vienna Convention Bureau. Hermann Hunger, in 2013 interim director of the newly founded institute, supported the conference in all ranks. Furthermore we would like to give our thanks to Florian Ruppenstein and Jörg Weilhartner for organising the conference and editing the contributions for publication as well as Marion Frauenglas and Mario Börner for the layout of the poster, the programme and the book cover. Estella Weiss-Krejci assisted with preparing the publication, Angela Schwab is responsible for the layout of this volume. The texts of the non-native speakers have been corrected by Mark Pluciennik. OREA financed further editing, native speaker corrections and layout. Financial support for printing this volume was generously granted by the Holzhausen Legat of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Finally, we would like to thank the contributors for sending their important contributions on time, so that we are able to present this publication within a relatively short time-frame. The collected papers present on-going and controversial debates on Mycenaean Palaces and their socio-political impact. We hope that these proceedings are used as an essential contribution to research into the Mycenaean world.

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