

PREFACE

On October 29th and 30th, 2004 the second workshop on “LH III C Chronology and Synchronisms” took place. As a matter of fact, it was already the third workshop of the project “End of the Mycenaean culture”¹ within the framework of the special project group SCIEM 2000 (“The Synchronisation of Civilisations in the Eastern Mediterranean in the 2nd Millennium B.C.”): The second meeting went under the disguise of a section on “Mycenaeans and Philistines in the Levant”, when in 2003 the crucial questions concerning the ongoing research in Eastern Mediterranean chronology were discussed at the 2nd EuroConference of SCIEM 2000 in Vienna. Thirteen of the papers presented at this section, which was headed by Sigrid Deger-Jalkotzy, have been included in the Proceedings of the EuroConference.²

At the first workshop on “LH III C Chronology and Synchronisms” the chronological problems of the post-palatial Mycenaean period were treated in a more general way. However, many questions and discussions focussed on the end of LH III B, as well as on the transition to LH III C and on the definition of the earliest phase of the post-palatial period. Therefore the 2004 workshop was dedicated to LH III C Middle. We are glad that, with very few exceptions, the leading scholars in this field accepted our invitation. Due to the outstanding quality of the papers and to the lively discussions which followed them, in our opinion this workshop contributed greatly to a better understanding of the stylistic developments of LH III C Middle pottery and of the historical development of the period.

Once more our special thanks are due to Jeremy B. Rutter who chaired the final session and subsequently compiled a catalogue of subjects which had been treated. This catalogue was distributed to all participants who were invited to reformulate their earlier statements or to give further comments. Some authors sent their contributions which have been collected in the report on the final discussion at the end of this volume. Others preferred to include their considerations into the final version of their paper.

The death of Elizabeth Schofield in 2005 was a great loss to the scholarly world, and a great sorrow to all those who knew her. Her paper on the LH III C pottery sequence from Lefkandi was of essential importance to the deliberations of the workshop. Our special thanks are due to those colleagues and friends who have accompanied her manuscript through the process of printing.

¹ The aims of this project have been described in the foreword to the proceedings of the first workshop: S. DEGER-JALKOTZY – M. ZAVADIL (eds.), *LH III C Chronology and Synchronisms. Proceedings of the International Workshop Held at the Austrian Academy of Sciences at Vienna, May 7th and 8th, 2001* (DenkschrWien 310 = Veröffentlichungen der Mykenischen Kommission 20 gemeinsam mit SCIEM 2000). Vienna 2003, 7f.

² M. BIETAK – E. CZERNY (eds.), *The Synchronisation of Civilisations in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Second Millennium B.C. III. Proceedings of the SCIEM 2000 – 2nd EuroConference, Vienna 28th of May–1st of June 2003* (Denkschriften der Gesamtkademie 37 = Contributions to the Chronology of the Eastern Mediterranean 9), Vienna 2007, 501–629.

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The Editors