

Preface

This volume represents the outcomes of the European Science Foundation workshop (ESF Exploratory Workshop EW13-107) “Sea Peoples Up-to-Date. New Research on the Migration of Peoples in the 12th Century BCE” convened by the editor Peter M. Fischer with the support of the co-editor Teresa Bürge. The workshop was held from 3rd–4th November 2014 in the Johannes-saal at the premises of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, an impressive mid-18th century complex in the centre of Vienna. In addition to the authors and organisers, Peter Funke from the ESF Scientific Review Group for the Humanities, and Barbara Horejs, the director of the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA), under whose auspices the workshop was organised, and numerous interested scholars were present.

Our workshop, which is very much inter- and multi-disciplinary in character, was divided into eight sessions over two intensive days: on Day 1 Sessions 1–4, and on Day 2 Sessions 5–8. As in many symposia the sequence of the presentation of the individual papers mirrors a recurring problem. The ambition of the convenor of this two-day meeting has been to start each day with an introductory lecture followed by thematically or geographically linked presentations. Nevertheless, with respect to time-related individual wishes this was not always possible and the original order of presentations had to be altered.

As a result, the introductory lecture of Day 1, “The Troubled water of Sea Peoples Research – A Retrospective Presentation” by S. Deger-Jalkotzy, was followed in Sessions 1 and 2 by papers dealing with the Southern Levant (A. Maeir), Mycenae (H. Whittaker) and two papers on Cyprus (P.M. Fischer; A. Georgiou). Session 3 dealt with Sea Peoples phenomena in Cilicia (G. Lehmann) and Syria (D. Meijer), and an overview over the situation in the northern and central Levant (F.J. Núñez). The papers of Session 4 were exclusively allocated to the relevant circumstances in the Southern Levant (here southern Lebanon, Israel and Jordan). These included presentations by W. Zwickel, the joint paper by A. Gilboa, R. Jones and P. Waiman Barak, and the papers by S. Münger and T. Bürge.

The second day’s introductory lecture, “The Sea Peoples after Three Millennia – Possibilities and Limitations of Historical Reconstruction” by R. Jung, was in Session 5 followed by aspects of the situation in Egypt (M. Bietak) and a presentation connecting the Sea Peoples phenomenon to central Europe and Italy (K. Kristiansen). Session 6 dealt with Philistine society (A. Yasur-Lan-

dau), the problem of interpreting destruction layers in the Southern Levant (J. Millek), and a comparative study on migration (L. Rahmstorf). The papers of Session 7 dealt with pottery (P. Mountjoy; P. Stockhammer) and exotic finds (G.J. van Wijngaarden). The final Session 8 was on metallurgy (M. Mehofer and R. Jung), various factors influencing the end of the Bronze Age (M. Wiener) and absolute chronology (E. Boaretto). This was followed by a general discussion and follow-up activities.

As often occurs after scientific meetings, there are a few papers which were presented at the workshop but which do not appear in this volume, for instance because of health-related problems or lack of time. These include the papers by S. Deger-Jalkotzy, S. Münger, M. Bietak, K. Kristiansen and E. Boaretto. In order to present an up-to-date on radiocarbon, S. Manning with co-authors C. Kearns and B. Lorentzen kindly accepted my invitation to contribute to the present volume. Another paper on climate authored by D. Kaniewski and E. van Campo, who were not able to participate in the workshop, is also included in this volume. I am very grateful to the authors of both papers. It should be pointed out that the language of papers which were presented by native English language speakers has not been subjected to linguistic editing.

Once again, we have to apologize for the fact that ESF-regulations prevented us from inviting to the workshop scholars from outside the European Union, who are specialised in this topic.

We would like to thank sincerely all the authors for their valuable contributions to this volume, which certainly bring us further in our quest to elucidate the riddle of the Sea Peoples Phenomenon. However, much more work has to be done on this challenging topic which has fascinated people over a considerable period of time.

We would also like to thank the Austrian Academy of Sciences for hosting the workshop and Angela Schwab and Barbara Horejs (all OREA) for their superb help with its organization. We would like to take the opportunity to draw attention to the encouraging work of the (unknown) ESF-reviewers who top-ranked the convenor’s application and whose reviews resulted in the generous financial help of the ESF, which covered major workshop expenses. We are grateful to the reviewers of the individual papers whose comments and suggestions were forwarded to the authors of the papers concerned.

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Peter M. Fischer and Teresa Bürge

