

Preface by the Series Editor

The 10th volume of the *Oriental and European Archaeology* publication series presents the results of an international conference, organised and hosted by the OREA Institute at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna from 21st to 23rd of October 2015. The idea for this volume about *Pottery Technologies and Sociocultural Connections Between the Aegean and Anatolia During the 3rd Millennium BC* is based on current projects by the organisers Eva Alram-Stern and the series editor, who are both dealing with archaeometric studies of Early Bronze Age pottery from Greece and Turkey. The outcome of these interdisciplinary investigations at Midea, the prehistoric Kaykos Valley (Pergamon), and at Çukuriçi Höyük required a broader scientific and socio-cultural contextualisation. This led to the organisation of the conference in Vienna, inviting well-known pottery experts, as well as young scholars, working in this particular scientific field.

This volume presents long-term and well-established approaches used for a range of methodological and theoretical aspects of ceramic research in the Greek Aegean, that also offer a solid framework for new primary data and their interpretation from the eastern Aegean and western Anatolia. In addition, the main focus of this volume is on the socio-cultural aspects of the various analytical methods and their scientific results, aiming to provide a broader picture of the role of pottery in past societies, also understandable by non-experts in these highly specialised fields. The enormous amount of scientific data dealing with Early Bronze Age ceramics generally, offers a new insight into important aspects of societies in the 3rd millennium BC, such as the *chaîne opératoire* of production, vessel function, regionalism, and chronology. Finally, it is our view that such a cross-Aegean approach allows intra site comparison, and provides important insights into the relationships and meaning behind trends visible in Early Bronze Age pottery from different regions within the Aegean, particularly cultural-technological concepts and their social impact.

The volume brings together 13 contributions that offer primary data from new analyses of ceramic material from western Anatolia, the east, northeast and central Aegean, as well as from Crete, and the Greek mainland. We are very thankful to the authors, who interpret this new data in relation to a range of socio-cultural, economic, chronological, functional and regional contexts. The fruitful discussions at the conference, by renowned experts in scientific ceramic analyses, has shed new light on key themes in ceramic and broader archaeological research, and, importantly, highlighted potential connections between the Aegean and Anatolia based on this new archaeometric data.

My sincere thanks go to the authors of all contributions for sharing their expertise and perspectives about *Pottery Technologies and Sociocultural Connections Between the Aegean and Anatolia During the 3rd Millennium BC*, and to Eva Alram-Stern for her efforts in publishing the 10th OREA volume as soon as possible. The international review procedure supervised by the Academy publication committee guarantees the quality assessment of each publication in this series. Although this procedure sometimes requires the patience of authors and editors including the acceptance of publication delays, I am very thankful to the anonymous reviewers' engagement and their helpful suggestions.

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Director of the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology
Vienna, 13th of June 2018

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- Vol. 1 B. Horejs – M. Mehofer (eds.), Western Anatolia before Troy. Proto-Urbanisation in the 4th Millenium BC? Proceedings of the International Symposium held at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria, 21–24 November, 2012 (Vienna 2014).
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