



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Old Conflict, Old Collections: Working around the Cypriot Problem to study the Early Bronze Age Transition

HADJIGAVRIEL M. ¹*

¹ Leiden University , Leiden, Netherlands

*Corresponding author

Abstract

The Late Chalcolithic (ca. 2900/2700-2400 BC) and the Philia Phase (ca. 2400-2250 BC) in Cyprus are marked by significant transformations in material culture, setting the stage for the island's entry into the Bronze Age. During this period, indications of interaction with surrounding regions are observed, especially with Anatolia. These changes are evident in pottery, with prevailing arguments emphasizing on increased standardization of production and the introduction of new technological features. However, archaeological research is hindered by the current political status quo on the island, with the northern part of the island being inaccessible to research since 1974, rendering old collections our only source of information. Furthermore, access to collections from Anatolia for comparative studies has been a tremendous challenge. This paper presents a case study of how old collections from both regions have been studied to generate new data and study these transitional periods. Two pottery collections from sites excavated in the 1940s are used as case studies: Ambelikou-Agios Georghios in northern Cyprus, and Tarsus-Gözlükule in Cilicia, Turkey. Finally, ideas on how archaeologists can study old collections to cultivate new research and meaningful collaborations between the communities involved are explored.

Keywords

Cyprus, Pottery, Interactions, Bronze Age, Conflict

Session

3. Heritage and archaeology

Workshop

A16374GR - Digging through the Stores: Challenges and Prospects of New Research on Old Collections

Type of paper

Oral presentation