



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

For her or perhaps for her child? Some thoughts on rare adult-child burials furnished with jewelry in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Aegean

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Abstract

This paper aims to discuss the social status of women and the importance of having an heir by examining the few cases of adult-child burials furnished with jewelry in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Aegean (c. 1600-700 BC). A double burial of an adult and a newborn or infant may be expected, when both died at the same time or within a few days of each other. The question arises as to whether jewelry accompanied the skeletal remains of the adult or child, whether inhumation burial, the standard rite in the Bronze Age, or cremation, as was the case in the Early Iron Age. In addition to the type and number of jewels, particular attention will be paid to jewelry of foreign origin, as Orientalia certainly enhanced the prestige of the deceased or that of their family at funerals. Interest will also focus on “antiques” and their role in funerary contexts. This involves questions of inheritance, such as those raised by the cremation burial of the “rich Athenian lady” (c. 850 BC), who was pregnant at the time of her death and whose urn contained a necklace of faience beads certainly imported from the Levant.

Keywords

prestige , orientalia, gender, grave, Greece

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