

PETROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE EARLY BRONZE AGE II LATE-III (2500-2000 BC)

DAI Standort Abteilung Athen

Laufzeit 2012 - 2018

METADATEN



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OVERVIEW

It forms part of 'The Prehistoric Settlement at Heraion on Samos (Sacred Road)' research project being carried out by Assoc. Prof. Ourania Kouka since 2009 (University of Cyprus). Originally, a pilot fabric study was conducted on 44 ceramic samples from the EBA II late-III levels (ca. 2500-2000 BC), corresponding to five architectural phases (Heraion I-V) as defined by Milošević (1961, SAMOS I). The petrographic analysis complemented macroscopic observations and typological-stylistic evaluations, and allowed a detailed characterisation of the samples with respect to textural and mineralogical data. The analytical results revealed preliminary information regarding issues of technology, as well as of geological and/or geographical provenance. This study, undertaken in the framework of an MSc dissertation, formed a firm basis and was further extended into a PhD project that included an integrated examination of pottery recovered from the old (1981) and the recent (2009-2013) excavations in the area north of the Sacred Road.

SPACE & TIME

RESEARCH

The methods followed were focused on analysing the full spectrum across all three ceramic assemblages (1953/1955 in the area of the Hera Temple; 1981 and 2009-2013 in the area north of the Sacred Road) that is to cover the range of wares, fabrics, and shapes/types in a combination of macroscopic, microscopic, microstructural and chemical observations. The data derived were combined with information on chronology and settlement phasing, geology/geomorphology of the island, and contextual analysis. The various levels of analysis include:



A number of 282 samples covered not only all chronological phases and various settlement contexts, but have also represented the range of wares/surface treatments, variation in macroscopic fabric, and shape/type repertoire. In fact, the ceramic repertoire of EBA Heraion is characterised by a wide variety of shapes that represent different functional categories and a range of local products and suspected imports.



CULTURAL HERITAGE

TEAM



RESULTS

The integrated study of pottery from Heraion and the combination of three ceramic assemblages from the old and new excavations has allowed the creation of a complete ceramic sequence and the establishment of the technological profile of the local ceramic production. This included a detailed reconstruction of all stages in the operational sequence, from the identification of raw material sources and their manipulation by the local potters as well as methods employed in forming, finishing and firing of the ceramic vessels. A complex picture of continuity and change has been revealed in the individual stages of the ceramic manufacturing sequence at Heraion at a diachronic level from one phase to the other.

This diachronic study has produced significant patterns of production and exchange. Regarding pottery production, the variation in fabrics implies that there must be several production centres operating in parallel in the vicinity of the site or some perhaps beyond the

environs of settlement itself. The majority of the pottery dated to the early phases of the EBA fall into the metamorphic fabric(s), which comprise more than half of the total analysed samples. Combined with the macroscopic information, the petrographic analysis revealed some important associations between shape, assumed function, fabric, and ware. In the subsequent period there emerges a more varied picture with fabrics used for the manufacture of particular vessel types or even a range of similar fabrics that could reflect the existence of several production centres that produce the same types in similar or different recipes. This could point out distinct manufacturing traditions and markedly different clays that can be explained from a chronological and technological perspective. Furthermore, the wealth of ceramic evidence at Heraion presented us with the potential to also explore inter-site relations at a regional level through comparative examination of thin sections from other sites and an extensive bibliographical research on form/finish/fabric comparanda and vessel parallels from across the Aegean and Anatolia during the EBA.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE PROJECT 2013-2019

KOUKA, O., MENELAOU, S. and MANIATIS, Y. forthcoming. Filling in the Puzzle: A Holistic Approach on the Early Bronze Age at the Heraion on Samos In: T. Marketou and T.S. Vitale (eds.), *The Southeast Aegean/Southwest Coastal Anatolian Region: Material Evidence and Cultural Identity I. The Early and Middle Bronze Age*, International Conference, Athens, 12-14 May 2016, Italian School of Athens.

MENELAOU, S. 2018. *A Diachronic Study of the Early Bronze Age Pottery from Heraion on Samos, Greece: An Integrated Approach*. Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Sheffield.

KOUKA, O. and MENELAOU, S. 2018. Settlement and Society in the Early Bronze Age Heraion: Exploring Stratigraphy, Architecture and Ceramic Innovation after mid-3rd Millennium BC. In: E. Alram-Stern and B. Horejs (eds.), *Pottery Technologies and Sociocultural Connections between the Aegean and Anatolia during the 3rd millennium BC*. OREA 10, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften-Philosophisch-historische Klasse, *Oriental and European Archaeology*, Wien: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 119-142.

MENELAOU, S. 2017. Πετρογραφική ανάλυση της ύστερης Πρωτοχαλκής II-III κεραμικής από το Ηραίον Σάμου: πρώτη προσπάθεια κατανόησης της σύστασης, της τεχνολογίας και της προέλευσης. In: Π. Τριανταφυλλίδης, (εκδ.), *Το Αρχαιολογικό Έργο στα Νησιά του Αιγαίου. Διεθνές Επιστημονικό Συνέδριο, Ρόδος, 27 Νοεμβρίου - 1 Δεκεμβρίου 2013*, Αρχαιολογικό Ινστιτούτο Αιγαϊακών Σπουδών, Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού, 181-194.

MENELAOU, S., KOUKA, O. and DAY, P.M. 2016a. Pottery Production and Exchange at the Heraion, Samos during the Late Third Millennium BC: First Steps in the Study of Technology and Provenance. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 7, 480-488.

MENELAOU, S., KOUKA, O. and DAY, P.M. 2016b. Fashioning Ceramics and Weaving Worlds: the Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age Transition at the Heraion, Samos [Abstract]. In: N. Zacharias and E. Palamara (eds.), *ISA 2016, 41st International Symposium on Archaeometry. Book of Abstracts*. Panaghiotis Dimitriou Dimopoulos & SIA O.E.: Kalamata, 91-92, [ISBN 978-618-80277-2-5].

MENELAOU, S. 2015. The Heraion of Samos Under the Microscope: a Preliminary Technological and Provenance Assessment of the Early Bronze Age II late-III (ca. 2500-2000 BC) Pottery. In Z. Theodoropoulou-Polychroniadis and E. Doniert (eds.), *Aegis: Essays in Mediterranean Archaeology Presented to Matti Egon by the Scholars of the Greek Archaeological Committee UK*. Archaeopress, Oxford, 25-34.

MENELAOU, S. 2013. A Preliminary Petrographic Analysis of the Early Bronze Age II late-III Pottery from the Heraion on Samos, Greece: Towards a Compositional, Technological and Provenance Understanding. Unpublished MSc Dissertation, University of Sheffield.

RECENT PAPER AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

MENELAOU, S. 2019. Maritime connectivity and mobility between the east Aegean and western Anatolia during the third millennium BC: an integrated ceramic approach. Oral presentation, ANAMED Fellows Symposium 2018-2019, Koç University, Turkey, 15-16 May 2019.

MENELAOU, S. 2019. A seascape of change: concepts of maritime connectivity within the east Aegean islands and west Anatolian borderland during the third millennium BC. Oral presentation, International Workshop "Frontiers or Interaction Zones? Borderlands as Areas of Communication and Mobility". University of Bern, Switzerland, 28/02-02/03/2019.

MENELAOU, S. 2018. Beyond networks and macro-scale analysis: unravelling local micro-histories of pottery through an integrated methodology. Oral presentation, "Methodology and Archaeometry", Scientific Conference of the Department of Archaeology, University of Zagreb, Croatia, 06-07 December 2018.

MENELAOU, S., KOUKA, O. and DAY, P.M. 2018. Between East and West: positioning the Early Bronze Age Heraion (Samos) within Aegean exchange networks through the ceramic evidence. Poster presentation (co-presented by O. Kouka and P.M. Day), International Conference "42nd

International Symposium on Archaeometry (ISA)". Autonomous University of Yucatán, Mérida, Yucatán (Mexico), 20-26 May 2018.

MENELAOU, S. and KOUKA, O. 2016. Filling in the puzzle: a holistic approach on the Early Bronze Age at the Heraion on Samos. Oral presentation (co-presented by O. Kouka and P.M. Day), International Conference "SASCAR: The southeast Aegean/southwest coastal Anatolian region: material evidence and cultural identity. Early and Middle Bronze Age". Italian Archaeological School at Athens, 12-14 May 2016.

MENELAOU, S., KOUKA, O. AND DAY, P.M. 2015. A technological assessment of ceramics from the Early Bronze Age Heraion settlement of Samos, Greece: towards an integrated approach. Poster presentation, International Conference "13th European meeting on ancient ceramics (EMAC)", Athens, 24-26 September 2015.



Heraion von Samos

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