Minoans And Mycenaeans Flavours Of Their Time

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following on from rodney castleden s best selling study minoans this major contribution to our understanding of the crucial mycenaean period clearly and effectively brings together research and knowledge we have accumulated since the discovery of the remains of the civilization of mycenae in the 1870s in lively prose informed by the latest research and using a full bibliography and over 100 illustrations this vivid study delivers the fundamentals of the mycenaean

civilization including its culture hierarchy economy and religion castleden introduces controversial views of the mycenaean palaces as temples and studies their impressive sea empire and their crucial interaction with the outside bronze age world before discussing the causes of the end of their civilization providing clear easy information and understanding this is a perfect starting point for the study of the greek bronze age

for almost three thousand years the mycenaeans ancestors of the classical greeks lay lost and forgotten beneath the soil of greece in 1876 however a german businessman heinrich schliemann in his search for the great mycenaean king agamemnon and other heroes of the trojan war made an astounding discovery in mycenae inside the monumental lion gate he discovered shaft graves belonging to a warrior elite many of whom were buried wearing striking gold funerary masks and armor in this authoritative new survey schofield examines these initial discoveries and other material evidence from mycenaean culture including painted pottery documents in linear b script and the remains of fortress palaces all of which have yielded important information about the social hierarchies religion and military and trading activities of this wealthy and sophisticated culture the author also considers the factual basis for the mycenaeans legendary links with the trojan war and the various explanations for the eventual decline of their civilization

to say this book is innovative challenging and has far reaching consequences in the field of archaeology would be an understatement accompanying an exhibition held in the national archaeological museum in athens july november 1999 this is a unique study of the eating and drinking habits health disease and medicine of the mycenaean and minoan civilisations it is based on the most up to date scientific techniques testing residues from ceramic vessels cups bowls storage jars both decorated and plain married with analysis of faunal plant and molluscan remains from excavations iconographic and written sources and human remains it is rare in archaeology to be able to answer questions posed with a yes or no answer and provide scientific proof at the same time did they drink beer at myrtos yes did they eat meat and vegetable stew at chania yes was retsina really discovered in the greek bronze age yes the methods approach and findings from this project which is still in progress have far reaching significance both within and outside an aegean context a book providing further details of the techniques employed by this project will be published in late 2000

the large scale formal consumption of huge quantities of food and drink is a feature of many societies but extracting evidence for feasting from the archaeological record has until recently been problematic this collection of essays investigates the rich evidence for the character of the mycenaean feast

food and drink along with the material culture involved in their consumption can signify a variety of social distinctions identities and values thus in early minoan knossos tableware was used to emphasize the difference between the host and the guests and at mycenaean pylos the status of banqueters was declared as much by the places assigned to them as by the quality of the vessles form which they ate and drank the ten contributions to this volume highlight the extraordinary opportunity for multi disciplinary research in this area

stone age wine the noah hypothesis the archaeological and chemical hunt for the earliest wine neolithic wine wine of the earliest pharaohs wine of egypt s golden age wine of the world s first cities wine and the great empires of the ancient near east the holy land s bounty lands of dionysos greece and western anatolia a beverage for king midas and at the limits of the civilized world molecular archaeology wine and a view to the future

in achaios thirty five scholars from six different countries have contributed with thirty one papers as a small token of appreciation gratitude and affection to a true scholar who devoted his life studying and revealing the long journeys of the mycenaeans and their culture

the analysis of stable isotope ratios of carbon and nitrogen in bone collagen provides a powerful tool for reconstructing past diets since it provides the only direct evidence of the foods that were actually consumed the chapters that comprise this volume describe the application of this methodology to the archaeology of greece a country whose archaeobotanical remains have been isotopically studied more extensively than any other place in the world the archaeological issues that can be addressed using stable isotope methods include the importance of fishing the possible early introduction of millet the nature of childrearing including weaning age and weaning foods temporal shifts in protein consumption differential access to certain foods associated with social status as well as gender and age and cultural differences in dietary patterns additionally diet is strongly correlated with health or stress markers in the teeth and bones knowing what people ate has vital implications for our understanding of past environments and economies subsistence strategies and nutrition

this volume examines the various interrelationships between social structures skeletal biology and health outcomes in antiquity bringing together studies by

physical anthropologists archaeologists and economists the volume attempts to gain a better understanding of the potential effects of social complexity on human biology from ancient egypt to south america

since the nineteenth century museums have kept their artifacts in glass cases to better preserve them and drawings and photographs have become standard ways of presenting the past these practices have led to an archaeology dominated by visual description even though human interaction with the surrounding world involves the whole body and all of its senses in the past few years sensory archaeology has become more prominent and making senses of the past is one of the first collected volumes on this subject this book presents cutting edge research on new theoretical issues the essays presented here take readers on a multisensory journey around the world and across time in ancient peru a site provides sensory surprises as voices resound beneath the ground and hidden carvings slowly reveal their secrets in canada and new zealand the flicker of reflected light from a lake dances on the faces of painted rocks and may have influenced when and why the pigment was applied in mesopotamia vessels for foodstuffs build a picture of a past cuisine that encompasses taste and social activity in the building of communities while perfume and flowers are examined in various cultures in the chamber tombs of ancient roman palestine we are reminded that not all smells are pleasant making senses of the past explores alternative ways to perceive past societies and offers a new way of wiring archaeology that incorporates the senses

mediterranean connections focuses on the origin and development of maritime transport containers from the early bronze through early iron age periods ca 3200 700 bc analysis of this category of objects broadens our understanding of ancient mediterranean interregional connections including the role that shipwrecks seafaring and coastal communities played in interaction and exchange these containers have often been the subject of specific and detailed pottery studies but have seldom been examined in the context of connectivity and trade in the aegean and eastern mediterranean this broad study considers the likely origins of these types of vessels traces their development and spread throughout the aegean and eastern mediterranean as archetypal organic bulk cargo containers discusses the wider impact on mediterranean connections transport and trade over a period of 2 500 years covering the bronze and early iron ages classical and near eastern archaeologists and historians as well as maritime archaeologists will find this extensively researched volume an important addition to their library

contributions by 37 scholars are brought together here to create a volume in

honor of the long and fruitful career of costis davaras former ephor of crete and professor emeritus of minoan archaeology at the university of athens articles pertain to bronze age crete and include mortuary studies experimental archaeology numerous artifactual studies and discussions on the greater minoan civilization

this revised and expanded edition of the classic 1999 edited book includes all the chapters from the original volume plus a new updated introduction and several new chapters the current book is an up to date review of research into mycenaean palatial systems with chapters by archaeologists and linear b specialists that will be useful to scholars instructors and advanced students this book aims to define more accurately the term palace in light of both recent archaeological research in the aegean and current anthropological thinking on the structure and origin of early states regional centers do not exist as independent entities they articulate with more extensive sociopolitical systems the concept of palace needs to be incorporated into enhanced models of mycenaean state organization ones that more completely integrate primary centers with networks of regional settlement and economy

this volume assembles contributions on the place of agricultural production in the context of the urbanization of late bronze and early iron age mediterranean concentrating on the second millennium aegean and the protohistoric north western mediterranean

joseph and maria shaw received the archaeological institute of america s gold medal for a lifetime of outstanding achievement in january of 2006 this volume is a collection of the papers presented at the gold medal colloquium held in their honor during the 2006 annual meeting of the archaeological institute of america in montreal quebec additional articles have also been written for this volume many of the articles pertain to different aspects of aegean bronze age architecture harbors frescoes and trade which are all keen interests of the shaws

the years c 1250 to 1150 bc in greece and the aegean are often characterised as a time of crisis and collapse a critical period in the long history of the region and its people and culture they witnessed the end of the mycenaean kingdoms with their palaces and linear b records and through the postpalatial period the transition into the early iron age but on closer examination it has become increasingly clear that the period as a whole across the region defies simple characterisation there was success and splendour resilience and continuity and novelty and innovation actively driven by the people of these lands through this transformative century the story of the aegean at this time has frequently been

incorporated into narratives focused on the wider eastern mediterranean and most infamously the sea peoples of the egyptian texts in twenty five chapters written by 25 specialists collapse and transformation instead offers a tight focus on the aegean itself providing an up to date picture of the archaeology before and after the collapse of c 1200 bc it will be essential reading for students and scholars of the aegean and eastern mediterranean regions as well as providing data and a range of interpretations to those studying collapse and resilience more widely and engaging in comparative studies introductory chapters discuss notions of collapse and provide overviews of the minoan and mycenaean collapses these are followed by twelve chapters which review the evidence from the major regions of the aegean including the argolid messenia and boeotia crete and the aegean islands six chapters then address key themes the economy funerary practices the mycenaean pottery of the mainland and the wider aegean and eastern mediterranean region religion and the extent to which later greek myth can be drawn upon as evidence or taken to reflect any historical reality the final four chapters provide a wider context for the aegean story surveying the eastern mediterranean including cyprus and the levant and the themes of subsistence and warfare

a companion to science technology and medicine in ancient greece and rome brings a fresh perspective to the study of these disciplines in the ancient world with 60 chapters examining these topics from a variety of critical and technical perspectives brings a fresh perspective to the study of science technology and medicine in the ancient world with 60 chapters examining these topics from a variety of critical and technical perspectives begins coverage in 600 bce and includes sections on the later roman empire and beyond featuring discussion of the transmission and reception of these ideas into the renaissance investigates key disciplines concepts and movements in ancient science technology and medicine within the historical cultural and philosophical contexts of greek and roman society organizes its content in two halves the first focuses on mathematical and natural sciences the second focuses on cultural applications and interdisciplinary themes 2 volumes

this excavation of a late bronze age town on the island of mochlos in northeastern crete includes the house of the metal merchant with two large bronze hoards and 13 other structures each building is described with its stratigraphy architecture small finds ecofactual materials function and room use this is a two volume set volume 1 contains the text and volume 2 contains the concordance tables figures and plates

the archaeology meets science project is currently transforming our

understanding of the minoan and mycenaean civilisations through the in depth application of state of the art scientific analyses to ceramic artefacts and skeletal material this book is the fruit of this acclaimed research which was carried out between 1997 and 2003 and presented in an exhibition in a number of museums across europe and the united states starting with the national archaeological museum in athens moving beyond the standard archaeological format of illustrations with descriptions of contexts the book analyses each object from the inside and consequently each has a different story to tell organic residue and stable isotope analysis has extended our knowledge beyond anything previously gleaned through conventional archaeological research and we now have a much better understanding of the food and drink consumed by ordinary people in bronze age greece there are some fascinating insights such as the origin of modern greek retsina which was traced first to the time of agamemnon then to crete in the 17th century bc and finally to the early minoan period c 2000 bc the book provides the primary scientific evidence on which the world renowned scientists who have carried out this work have based their conclusions

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