

## **G8365: Art and Internationalism in the Mediterranean Bronze Age**

Fall 2002: Wednesday 9:00am-10:50am, 930 Schermerhorn Hall

*Avery reserve shelf # 358*

Prof. Joanna S. Smith

912 Schermerhorn; jss245@columbia.edu; 854-1945

Office hours: Mondays 8:30-10:30 am and by appointment.

Students are reminded that I have a volunteer archaeology lab on Tuesdays in Schermerhorn Ext. 662. I am available for informal discussions during that time.

### ***Seminar description and requirements:***

The Art and Internationalism in the Mediterranean Bronze Age seminar is a forum for the study of the arts, architecture, and archaeology of the Mediterranean Bronze Age. It is inclusive of material and questions related to interconnections among the Aegean, Anatolia, Syria-Palestine, Cyprus, Egypt, Italy, and Sardinia. The subject of particular interest for fall 2002 is the question of international style. Was there an international style? Were there several? Or was there no such thing? Structured in three parts, the seminar begins with a series of introductory lectures with discussion. Student presentations form the next two parts. The first student presentations are substantive but preliminary to engage the group in discussion and commentary. In the second round, presentations are formal and will be the basis for questions and critique.

Papers on the research topics are due Wednesday December 11 by 5 pm in 826 Schermerhorn. They should be substantial pieces of original research, being detailed, organized, clear, illustrated, and fully referenced. Referencing and formatting for the papers should follow the guidelines in the *American Journal of Archaeology (AJA)*. Please refer to the guidelines on the web: [http://www.ajaonline.org/shared/s\\_info\\_contrib.html](http://www.ajaonline.org/shared/s_info_contrib.html). Grades for the seminar will take into account the total participation and performance of students in the seminar.

To decide on a topic for research, students should meet with Prof. Smith early on in the course (before the end of the second week of classes). Potential topics will come up during the introductory lectures, but by the last of those lectures, students should be well into their individual projects. Not only should students consult about their research, but also they should ask about any library-related problems they are having. Books can be hard to find and it is recommended strongly that students not wait until the last minute to try and unearth a reference!

### ***Preliminary business:***

#### *1. Seminar trip:*

Metropolitan Museum of Art Aegean, Cypriot, and Near Eastern Galleries. Suggested date and time: Friday September 20, 2-5 pm.

#### *2. Seminar meeting time:*

Rather than 9-11, I request that we meet from 8:45-10:45 or 8:50-10:50.

**Seminar Schedule:**

Sept 4, 11, 18, 25: Introductory lectures by J. Smith with discussion.

These introductory lectures aim first to provide a common background for students, some of whom may be approaching the study of arts of the Bronze Age Mediterranean with little or no prior introduction. After a broad introduction to the period, including its key cultures and issues, lectures focus on the specific issues for the seminar. What is internationalism? What is Art of the Bronze Age? How can we approach questions concerning artistic communication for this period? Was there an international style, particularly during the Late Bronze Age? If so, why and for whom was it meaningful?

Oct 2: No class (\*museum visit to be scheduled for alternate time slot early on in the semester)

Oct 9, 16, 23, 30: Preliminary student presentations of research.

Nov 6, 13, 20, 27: Formal student presentations of research.

Dec 4: Group discussion of questions raised in the beginning of the course.

**Readings and background resources:**

*Extensive bibliography* and several study images for the Mediterranean Bronze Age can be found on the following website:

[http://www.learn.columbia.edu/bronze\\_age\\_mediterranean/](http://www.learn.columbia.edu/bronze_age_mediterranean/)

Username: ahar

Password: 826Sch

*For background on the Aegean Bronze Age, I recommend (\*=start here):*

\*Preziosi, D. and Hitchcock, L. A. 1999 *Aegean Art and Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University.

Chadwick, J. 1976 *The Mycenaean World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University.

Cullen, T. ed., *Aegean Prehistory: A Review*. Boston: Archaeological Institute of America.

Dickinson, O. 1994 *The Aegean Bronze Age*. Cambridge: Cambridge University.

Higgins, R. 1981 *Minoan and Mycenaean Art*. New York and Toronto: Oxford University.

General coverage, text somewhat out-of-date.

Rutter, J. B. 1997 *Prehistoric Archaeology of the Aegean*. Trustees of Dartmouth College.

([http://devlab.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze\\_age/](http://devlab.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/)): chronology, environment, history

*For background on the Eastern Mediterranean and Near East, I recommend (\*=start here):*

\*Knapp, A. B. 1988 *The History and Culture of Ancient Western Asia and Egypt*. Chicago: The Dorsey Press.

Bryce, T. 1998 *The Kingdom of the Hittites*. Oxford: Clarendon.

Levy, T. E. ed. 1993 *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*. London and Washington: Leicester University Press.

MacQueen, J. G. 1986 *The Hittites and their contemporaries in Asia Minor*. London: Thames and Hudson.

- Mazar, A. 1990 *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible 10,000-586 B.C.E.* New York: Doubleday.
- Kemp, B. J. 1991 *Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilization.* London: Routledge.
- Robins, Gay 1997 *The Art of Ancient Egypt.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Sasson, J. ed. 1995 *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (4 volumes). New York: Scribner's (Butler reference).
- Stern, Ephraim ed. 1994 *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land* (Volumes 1-4). Jerusalem: The Israel Exploration Society & Carta (Butler reference).

*Some key bibliographical resources:*

*Nestor* (<http://ucaswww.mcm.uc.edu/classics/nestor/nestor.html>) (online database of Aegean Prehistory bibliography)

*Bibliotheca Orientalis* (only book reviews, in Butler).

*Archäologische Bibliographie* (in Avery).

See *American Journal of Archaeology* listing of journals with abbreviations for handy guide to remembering which journals to check for recent bibliography

*Journals with key updates by regions of new finds:*

*American Journal of Archaeology*

*Bulletin de correspondance hellénique*

*Israel Exploration Journal*

*Journal of Hellenic Studies*

*Near Eastern Archaeology* was *Biblical Archaeologist* (excellent summaries of topics, especially by region, e.g. issue on Ugarit (2001), issue on Hittites (1989))

*Recent introductory studies on art and artistic production in the Bronze Age with further bibliography:*

Cline, E. H. and D. Harris-Cline eds. 1998 *The Aegean and the Orient in the Second Millennium* (Aegaeum 18). Liège: Université de Liège.

Feldman, M. H. 2002 "Luxurious Forms: Redefining a Mediterranean 'International Style,' 1400-1200 B.C.E.," *Art Bulletin* 84.1: 6-29.

Gunter, A. C. 1990 *Investigating Artistic Environments in the Ancient Near East.* Washington, D.C.: Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.

Laffineur, R. and P. P. Betancourt eds. 1997 *TEXNH: Craftsmen, Craftswomen and Craftsmanship in the Aegean Bronze Age: Parts I and II* (Aegaeum 16). Liège: Université de Liège.

Laffineur, R. and J. L. Crowley eds. 1992 *ΠΠΠΠΠΠ: Aegean Bronze Age Iconography: shaping a methodology* (Aegaeum 8). Liège: Université de Liège.

Sasson, J. ed. 1995 *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (4 volumes). New York: Scribner's (particularly articles in volume III part 7 on technology and artistic production and volume IV part 10 on visual and performing arts).

*Fundamental introductory articles on the nature of exchange with further bibliography:*

Earle, T. K. 1982 "Prehistoric Economics and the Archaeology of Exchange," pp. 1-12 in J. E. Ericson and T. K. Earle, *Contexts for Prehistoric Exchange.* New York and London: Academic Press (in Reader).

Renfrew, C. 1975 "Trade as Action at a Distance: Questions of Integration and Communication," Pp. 3-59 in J. A. Sabloff, and C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky eds., *Ancient Civilization and Trade*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico. (see figure 10 for models of trade)

Renfrew, C. and P. Bahn 2000 "What Contact Did They Have?" Pp. 351-384 in C. Renfrew and P. Bahn, *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*. London: Thames and Hudson.

### *Research Topics:*

Before embarking extensively on your seminar research, I advise you strongly to see me during office hours, the Tuesday lab, or by other appointment. The best research is done when geared toward not only the interests of the seminar, but your particular interests. Therefore, it is important that we discuss your topic and that I give you bibliographical pointers specific to your topic. Do not wait until a week before your presentation. Come to see me as soon as possible. Not only is this important in terms of preparing your work, but also it is essential given the eclectic nature of how Bronze Age resources are catalogued and stored in the various libraries at Columbia University.

I expect that people will have come to see me about topics by the end of the second week of classes (Sept 13).

In choosing a topic, you may want to pick something specific to a single site or place, a single building or group of buildings, or even a tomb or group of tombs. Alternatively you may decide that a particular medium is of greatest interest. Ideally, I would like to have the approaches and subject matter varied. Of course, the introductory lectures aim to provide you with a background that will help you in choosing a topic.

For example, you might want to pick an entire urban space to explore. Examples of these places are Ras Shamra-Ugarit (Syria, largely in French), Enkomi-Ayios Iakovos (Cyprus, in French and English), Mycenae (Greece, largely in English), Hazor (Levant, in English), Boghazköy-Hattusha (Anatolia, largely in German), Tell El-Amarna (Egypt, in English). Having explored in a general way you would focus on a selected range of things that were of particular interest. For example, the cult spaces at Mycenae, the upper city temples at Boghazköy, or the workshops at Amarna, the ashlar building at Enkomi.

Shipwrecks and tombs are also of interest. The Ulu Burun and Cape Gelidonya wrecks had international cargoes. Rich tombs at Kition and of course in Egypt contain a wealth of items often termed international. Particular deposits of artifacts such as seals at Thebes (Boeotia, Greece) and ivories at Megiddo recall some kind of international style. Once you have hit upon a topic that inspires you, you will of course broaden or widen it depending on what is important as your research progresses.

### **Final Topics chosen by students in the seminar:**

Roberta Casagrande: Bronzes in Sardinia and Cyprus

Todd Davis: Foreign Imagery in Late Bronze Age Burials

Sandrine Larrivé-Bass: Values of Bronze Material and Images

Elisa Robinson: Images of Captives in Egypt and the Levant

Sarah Roland: Double Sanctuaries in Anatolia, the Aegean, Cyprus, and the Levant

Phoebe Segal: Mycenaean Chariot Craters

Erin Thompson: Depictions and Uses of Space and Place in Seals