



## Editorial Announcements

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In this, our fifth special thematic issue of *JAEL*, we invited scholars who have worked on Cyprus to submit manuscripts that touch upon the island's relationship with Egypt. The four research articles presented in this fascicle include broad regional and temporal sweeps as well as specific object-based studies. As per journal policy, all of the research articles underwent double peer-review before they were accepted for publication. We also present a field report of an ongoing excavation on Cyprus and two reviews of monographs that focus on Mediterranean exchange.

Bernard Knapp, a renowned scholar with extensive experience writing about exchange throughout the Mediterranean, kicks off the issue with "Cyprus and Egypt in the Late Bronze Age," an overview of the consumption of Egyptian imports on the island in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C.. He treats the consumption of exotic Egyptian imports as a strategy adopted by Cypriot elites to enhance their local prestige. This article advances our understanding of Late Bronze Age long distance interactions by specifying the agents, motivations, and mechanisms behind the exchange of goods. The account he gives goes far beyond the economic, incorporating social and political motives as well, with Cypriot elites aiming to enhance their standing at home and Egyptian dynasts wishing to expand their commercial range.

Joanna Smith, a leading expert on Cypriot seals, adopts the theme of elite strategizing vis à vis imports as well, in "From Egyptian to Egyptianizing in Cypriot Glyptic of the Late Bronze Age." As a methodological complement to Knapp's overview, Smith focuses on one artifact type: Egyptian glyptic, and a single site: Enkomi. Her diachronic approach, tracing changing iconographic preferences as well as seal types, demonstrates the shifting meanings and uses of Egyptian seals and seal designs on the island. This pioneering study is the first contextual treatment of Egyptian seal types and their relation to other seals on Cyprus during the Late Bronze Age. Dr. Smith's catalog of seals from Enkomi, which compiles the seals discovered by numerous excavation teams, promises to be an invaluable resource for years to come.

In "Accumulations: Updating the Role of Cypriot Bichrome Ware in Egypt," Irmgard Hein and Ragna Stidsing look in the other direction. They present a general discussion of the distribution of Cypriot Bichrome Ware in the Levant and Egypt, followed by a detailed exploration of its appearance at the Egyptian sites of Tell el-Dab'a and 'Ezbet Helmi. This article results from the seminal Cyprus Project of SCIEM 2000, a multi-year international collaborative research project aimed at refining our understanding of the chronology of the Eastern Mediterranean during the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C.. The project is funded by the Austrian science fund and is directed by Dr. Hein.

David Lightbody moves us into the Iron Age with "Overseers of an Entangled Island: Hybrid Cultural Identities of Early Iron Age Cyprus." He explores how Cypriot artists hybridized iconographic symbols, such as the "tree of life," as a means of negotiating group identity in an ever-changing milieu of socio-political affiliations. For example, we find an increase in Egyptian symbolism at the city kingdoms of the island as Egypt and Cyprus become more entangled during the Cypro Archaic II period. This study emerged from Dr. Lightbody's 2013 PhD thesis, "The Hybridising Tree of Life: A Postcolonial Archaeology of the Cypriot Iron Age City Kingdoms," at the University of Glasgow.

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In addition to these highly informative and thought provoking articles, Brandon Olson, William Caraher, David Pettegrew, and Scott Moore present an excavation report of the 2008, 2009, and 2012 seasons of the 4<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. site of Vigla conducted by the Pyla-Koutsopetria Archaeological Project. The site is strategically located along the southeastern coast of Cyprus and played an important role in securing overland routes both preceding and following the Ptolemaic take-over of Kition. Readers interested in the Hellenistic period, or martial archaeology more generally, will find this report of great interest.

To round out the issue, we have two reviews– one by Linda Hulin who reviews Louise Steel’s book, *Materiality and Consumption in the Bronze Age Mediterranean*, and another by our staff on *Maritime Archaeology and Ancient Trade in the Mediterranean*, edited by Damian Robinson and Andrew Wilson. Finally, we alert our readers to the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East to be held in June 2014 at the University of Basel, Switzerland. The conference theme is interconnections and one of the seven sections is devoted to “perceptions of alterity” between the Near East and Egypt.

We remind our readers that *JAIEI* issue 5:4 will be dedicated to field reports. The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2013 and we invite any scholar with an ongoing research project that pertains to Egyptian interconnections abroad to consider submitting a report. The quick turnaround made possible by our on-line format provides an excellent opportunity to disseminate research results with alacrity.

The Editors