

PREFACE BY THE EDITOR OF THE SERIES

Cypriot pottery is of paramount importance to an assessment of an overall chronology of the Eastern Mediterranean of the Second Millennium BC. Of all Middle and Late Bronze Age products, it is the most prevalent and appears, by and in sequences, always with new families of wares. The appearance and prevalence of Cypriot pottery play an important part in the research programme “Synchronisation of Civilisations in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Second Millennium BC” (SCIEM 2000). An attempt has been made to draw datum-lines across the Mediterranean, extrapolated from the first time that specific varieties of pottery make an appearance and on the basis that they surface more or less everywhere at the same time though, needless to say, the earliest record being on the island of production itself. As Robert Merrillees and others have pointed out, the regionalism of the island and the point that certain wares are apt to develop in some regions of Cyprus earlier than in others raise a problem in this approach to research.

This makes it particularly important to learn more about the origins and regional development of the different wares as well as styles on the island and about regional fabrics.

Irmgard Hein has taken the initiative of addressing the subject of regionalism in a specialist workshop run in conjunction with expert colleagues who have harnessed their research to present most valuable contributions on this topic. All the authors have to be thanked for sharing their expertise and participating in this discourse. It is hoped that the results of this workshop will deepen our understanding of the complexity of the archaeology of the island and will foster the initiative and co-operation which are needed in finding more answers to the many outstanding issues of regionalism.

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