

Preface

The present volume of the *Mykenische Studien* is the outcome of the conference “(Social) Place and Space in Early Mycenaean Greece” organised by Birgitta Eder and Michaela Zavadil, both at that time members of the Institute of Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The volume continues the well-established research tradition going back to the series’ initiator Fritz Schachermeyr, the founder of the *Mykenische Kommission* in 1971, a predecessor of the OREA Institute. His main emphasis was publishing new finds of the Mycenaean period in its core areas in Greece and the neighbouring regions with a focus on Bronze Age palatial cultures in the Aegean, their genesis and further transformation. During the subsequent decades, research into the Mycenaean period became a wide field including an immense number of new finds and studies. Taking these and further academic developments into account, the *Mykenische Studien* series changed its focus after the late 1980s. Aside from various specialised monographs, most of the volumes were proceedings of international conferences bringing together archaeological and linguistic specialists to present their new results on the palatial and post-palatial Mycenaean period of Greece, including its written sources. In any case, the study of the Mycenaean World has changed considerably since those days and transformed into a multi-disciplinary and well-conceptualised research discipline in the 21st century, as demonstrated perfectly in the present volume.

The editors managed to integrate multiple perspectives on Early Mycenaean Greece by bringing together 29 contributions from a total of 51 well-known experts and young scholars in the field and combining them into one concise book. They not only cover a wide range of topics, sites and materials from the Middle Helladic period in the early 2nd millennium BC to the peak of the Mycenaean times; a number of papers moreover integrate aspects of the conceptual and theoretical framework of the rising political, social and cultural power, which additionally show the impact of state-of-the-art studies of the Mycenaean in our times. Contextualising the early Mycenaean into ‘social space and place’ turns out to be a fruitful and thought-provoking approach by the organisers B. Eder and M. Zavadil, as reflected in the presented outcome. It vividly demonstrates the progress in the scientific field and our conceptual understanding of the Mycenaean from the time when the *Mykenische Kommission* was founded in the early 1970s through to today.

As series editors, we warmly thank the authors for sharing their expertise and perspectives about the early Mycenaean societies and extend our gratitude to Birgitta Eder and Michaela Zavadil for their highly engaged work in creating the 35th volume of the *Mykenische Studien*.

Our sincere thanks for financial support of the conference and its proceedings go to several Austrian and international institutions, foremost among them the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, the Holzhausen Fund of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the Hellenic Government-Karakas Foundation at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the OREA Institute and the OeAI in Athens. We would like to thank Ulrike Schuh for the coordination of the publication process, Nicola Wood for language editing, Andrea Sulzgruber for the layout and the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press.

Eva Alram-Stern and Barbara Horejs
Series editors
Vienna, 4th September 2020