

one another, thus providing evidential robustness—in her terms, cables are stronger than chains. Chapter 3, ‘Working with old evidence’, focuses on two examples of the iterative and continuous refinement of legacy data: the indigenous mound-building traditions in the central United States of America and the complex case of the Iron Age village of Glastonbury in southern England. This chapter clearly shows how evidential claims can be appraised and their varying credibility strengthened or undermined.

Chapter 4 discusses the idea of approaching the multi-stranded nature of archaeological research as a trading zone. It draws on several case studies: the three radiocarbon revolutions and two British-based research projects: a successful one (the ‘Diaspora Communities in Roman Britain’) and a problematic example (the lead isotope analysis of Bronze Age Mediterranean metal objects by Oxford scholars). Their review highlights some of the requirements to be met if we seek robust evidential reasoning: to bring together as many strands of evidence as possible with each line independently credible, adequately calibrated to avoid spurious convergence and without one regarded as superior or indisputable; and to foster reciprocal training and inter-disciplinary communication and competence, for we as archaeologists must bear the ultimate responsibility for interpretation.

In short, the particular expertise and shared interests of the authors complement their collaborative endeavour. The results are far richer than those that archaeologists and philosophers of science will encounter within their own individual disciplines. In contrast, the authors focus exclusively on their own national traditions, but the central message of this volume will affect the audiences in other nations in varied ways. Discussion of the limits of archaeological interpretation may be familiar in the Anglophone milieu, where such topics were debated up to the 1990s, but in other regions that did not experience similar disputes, such as South America or mainland Europe, practitioners have rarely benefited from these deliberations. The pragmatic and realistic alternative presented here will probably have a significant impact in years to come. Multi-faceted, interdisciplinary, science-based research programmes will increase in number in the near future, and this book offers good guidance for the design and conduct of high-quality evidential reasoning in archaeology.

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PEGGY SOTIRAKOPOULOU. *The pottery from Dhaskalio (The sanctuary on Keros and the origins of Aegean ritual: the excavations of 2006–2008, volume IV)*. 2016. xvii+477 pages, numerous b&w illustrations, tables, CD. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research; 978-1-902937-76-2 hardback £64.



The Aegean island of Keros, Greece, has long captured the interest of Aegean prehistorians and the general public as it is the alleged findspot of such famous Cycladic figurines as the

flutist and harpist held in the National Archaeological Museum of Athens (Koehler 1884: pl. 6), as well as the so-called Keros Hoard (Sotirakopoulou 2008). Since the 1960s, the island and its neighbouring islet of Dhaskalio have been investigated by several rescue and systematic programmes of archaeological exploration that have revealed that this now uninhabited set of islands was once a centrally located Cycladic sanctuary. The volume under review, the fourth in the series reporting the results of the Cambridge Keros Project, focuses on the Early Bronze Age pottery (third millennium BC) recovered during the 2007–2008 excavations on Dhaskalio. The settlement on the islet presents great interest not only because of its connection (and, to an extent, complementarity) to the two Special Deposits from Kavos on Keros (with which it was connected by a causeway in antiquity), but also because of its substantial size, on a par with or even larger than some famous contemporaneous sites in the Aegean.

The author, Peggy Sotirakopoulou, is a pottery specialist with an impressive publication record

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on Early Bronze Age pottery from the Aegean. She builds on her vast experience with Early Cycladic assemblages and presents the material in a comprehensive way that highlights both its strong connections with other locales and its uniqueness. Her approach to the material is mainly typological, supplemented by rigorous quantification of the entirety of the ceramic material recovered from the excavations, which means that her data could be used for sound comparisons with other sites.

The book is structured as follows: after the introduction (Chapter 1), Chapters 2–4 deal with the pottery of the three phases (A, B and C) that Sotirakopoulou has identified based on the excavated deposits, whereas Chapter 5 explores the material recovered from the surface survey. In these chapters, after a brief introduction to each phase, the author describes the material, focusing on the shapes, fabrics and wares, surface treatment and decoration, complementing these summary discussions with an extensive section on typological analysis of the various shapes, in descending order of frequency.

Four chapters deal with more topical matters such as potters' marks (Chapter 6), chronology (Chapter 7), ceramic regionalism (Chapter 8) and the character and function of the settlement at Dhaskalio (Chapter 9). The book closes with a contribution by Colin Renfrew (Chapter 10), who shares his reflections on the pottery from Dhaskalio, plus a catalogue of inventoried pottery (Chapter 11) and a summary of the volume in Modern Greek. The material is documented in copious black-and-white photographs and drawings, with numerous tables reporting quantitative data. Moreover, the volume comes with a CD that contains colour photographs of the assemblage. The latter is a welcome feature for pottery specialists, and one that I cannot praise enough. The one change I would have liked is for it to have been organised similarly to the book so that the reader could search for items more efficiently (even though not all the photographs are referred to in the printed text, as this CD features many additional artefact photographs).

The pottery dates the establishment of the site to an earlier phase of the Early Cycladic II period, or the Keros-Syros culture (Phase A). The site continues into the next phase, B, without interruption, an assertion that is supported not only stratigraphically, but also from the continuity of shapes. The phases are further differentiated by the changes in the relative

frequencies of the Phase A shapes during Phase B, and the introduction of a few new shapes that are characteristic types of the Kastri assemblage, placing Phase B chronologically at the end of the Early Cycladic II period. Finally, the transition into the last phase of the settlement, Phase C, is characterised by the preponderance of Kastri types that continue from the previous phase and are enriched with new morphological and typological characteristics. One of the strengths of the book is the detailed discussion of Phase C, which is directly relevant to the decades-long discussion on the validity of the so-called Early Cycladic III gap, pioneered by Jeremy Rutter (1983, 1984). Sotirakopoulou posits that Phase C at Dhaskalio is "shown by its contextual associations to be equivalent to the whole span of the Early Cycladic III period, as evidenced at Phylakopi phases I-ii and I-iii on Melos and in 'closed' contexts with similar material on Thera and on Amorgos" (p. 357), suggesting that the pottery of Dhaskalio essentially 'closes' the gap.

The contribution of this volume does not end with matters of chronology. Dhaskalio is in itself an interesting piece in the bigger Keros picture. The Dhaskalio assemblages have a more 'domestic' quality, which is markedly different from the cultic character of the deposits from Kavos on Keros that have been interpreted as evidence of periodic cult activities. Further, the make-up of the Dhaskalio assemblage shows rather 'abnormal' emphases that change over time. In Phase A, the numerous baking pans/hearths and cooking pots are the largest categories of vessels, a trend that is in contrast with the relative rarity of vessels connected to the consumption of food and drink, whereas in Phases B and C, the emphasis is on the transport and storage of commodities for future use, rather than on food preparation. Moreover, none of the pottery seems to have been manufactured on the island, but was instead imported primarily from the islands of the so-called 'Keros triangle', with smaller quantities from Melos and Thera, and some from areas of Mainland Greece or the Saronic Gulf (albeit each phase presents some variability in regard to the provenance of pots). This indicates that the site accommodated visitors who were drawn to the islet because of the periodic rituals at Kavos, even though the author does not dismiss the possibility of a small number of permanent inhabitants.

All in all, Sotirakopoulou's book succeeds in presenting in satisfying detail the deposits of this very

important site, which will undoubtedly feature in future disciplinary discussions about the latter part of the Early Bronze Age Aegean.

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VINCENZO D'ERCOLE, ALBERTA MARTELLONE & DENECE CESANA. *La necropoli di Campovalano: tombe italico-ellenistiche, III* (British Archaeological Reports international series 2804). 2016. xxiv+353 pages, numerous b&w illustrations, CD. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports; 978-1-40731-491-4 paperback £58.



This volume is the third and last of the complete publication of the Campovalano cemetery in Abruzzo, Italy. This represents an important contribution to the archaeological understanding of

the region, which has improved greatly in recent decades thanks to the efforts of the archaeologists of the Soprintendenza, thereby demonstrating the value of this institution in a time of great uncertainty about its future. The book builds on two doctoral

theses, one by Martellone, on the tomb assemblages, and the other by Cesana, on the skeletal remains; these are complemented by additional texts from d'Ercole.

The volume starts somewhat abruptly with a rather minimalist tomb catalogue, which omits descriptions of pottery fabrics or discussion of comparanda. The typological chapter is clearly written. The chapter on relative chronology explains the method followed to produce the 'tables of association', where two main phases—each further divided into two sub-phases—are identified. The passage from relative to absolute chronology is problematic because the author uses neither of the two best-known diagnostic classes of artefacts of Hellenistic Italy (Black Gloss pottery and *unguentaria*) as dating evidence. Instead, she relies on glass beads and ornaments, which are much less precise as chronological indicators. The reason for this questionable decision is that the Black Gloss pottery of the Adriatic area is less well known than that of the Tyrrhenian, and that the *unguentaria* of Campovalano would not fit into Camilli's typology. The exclusion of these two categories of evidence appears to be unjustified, especially given the scarcity of other well-dated comparanda from Abruzzo. Indeed, the Black Gloss vessels of Campovalano are not unique local shapes but belong to well-known types. As for the *unguentaria*, there are other typologies that are more usable and reliable than Camilli's, and more importantly, there are dozens of well-dated exact comparisons for each of the Campovalano pieces. They show that the author's proposed end date for the use of this cemetery—the start of the second century BC—should be moved to the mid second century BC, if not later. The following chapter provides an informative description of the structure of the tomb assemblages in each of the phases.

Next comes a chapter somewhat inaccurately entitled 'Analisi planimetrica'. In fact, this section covers not only the topography of the necropolis, but also the composition of the tomb assemblages. The area is divided into two main sectors, I and II, plus two smaller sectors that receive much less attention. On the accompanying CD there are four illustrations of rather low quality: a general site plan and maps of three sectors, where colours are used to identify the sex of the deceased and their date (either Archaic or Hellenistic; the latter is not further differentiated by phases or sub-phases). The tomb numbers are not always easy to read

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