

The Cambridge Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean

The Cambridge Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean offers new insights into the material and social practices of many different Mediterranean peoples during the Bronze and Iron Ages, presenting in particular those features that both connect and distinguish them. Contributors discuss in depth a range of topics that motivate and structure Mediterranean archaeology today, including insularity and connectivity; mobility, migration and colonisation; hybridisation and cultural encounters; materiality, memory and identity; community and household; life and death; and ritual and ideology. The volume's broad coverage of different approaches and contemporary archaeological practices will enable even general readers to understand better the people, ideas and materials that make up the world of Mediterranean archaeology today, beyond the borders that separate Europe, Africa and the Middle East. It will also help the practitioners of Mediterranean archaeology to move the subject forward in new and dynamic ways.

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-76688-3 - The Cambridge Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean

Edited by A. Bernard Knapp and Peter Van Dommelen

Frontmatter

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521766883

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First published 2014

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

The Cambridge prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean /

[edited by] A. Bernard Knapp, Peter van Dommelen.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-76688-3 (hardback)

1. Bronze age – Mediterranean Region. 2. Iron age – Mediterranean Region. 3. Prehistoric peoples – Mediterranean Region.

4. Mediterranean Region – Antiquities. 5. Material culture – Mediterranean Region – History – To 1500. 6. Social

archaeology – Mediterranean Region. 7. Archaeology – Mediterranean Region. I. Knapp, Arthur Bernard.

II. Dommelen, Peter Alexander Ren van, 1966– III. Title: Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean.

GN778.25.C36 2015

937–dc23 2013047251

ISBN 978-0-521-76688-3 Hardback

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-76688-3 - The Cambridge Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean

Edited by A. Bernard Knapp and Peter Van Dommelen

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Front Cover: Bronze boat model from north central Sardinia (Italy) with a stag's head at the prow and quadrupeds and birds on the gunwales. It is one of two such bronzes reportedly found accidentally in the *Is Argiolas* or *Bonotta* area of Bultei, probably as part of an otherwise destroyed or looted hoard. The bronze model is stylistically dated to the Iron Age (ca. ninth to eighth century BC). While there is little evidence to support the suggestion that these boat models served as oil lamps, they are mostly found in ritual or communal contexts in both Sardinia and, to a lesser extent, the Italian mainland (A. Depalmas 2005: *Le navicelle di bronzo della Sardegna nuragica*, 31, 106. Cagliari: Ettore Gasperini).

Found in 1949, this boat model is held in the National Archaeological Museum in Cagliari (Sardinia, Italy), where it is also on display. The photo was kindly taken and made available by museum staff and is reproduced by permission of the Italian *Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici per le province di Cagliari e Oristano* and, by extension, the *Direzione Regionale per i Beni Culturali e Paesaggistici della Sardegna* and the Italian *Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali*. We thank the *soprintendente*, Dr. Marco Minoja, and his collaborators for their generous support.

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Cambridge University Press

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PREFACE

One of the many exciting developments in Mediterranean archaeology during the past two decades or so is the conceptual widening of the field. Not only have methodological and theoretical considerations gained prominence, but research beyond the Classical heartlands of Greece and Rome has also become more aware of, and connected with, the other islands, coasts and uplands of the Mediterranean.

With these developments in mind, we accepted a request from Beatrice Rehl, then sponsoring editor for archaeology at Cambridge University Press, to develop a proposal for a volume covering Bronze Age and Iron Age archaeology in the wider Mediterranean world. At the time (2007–2008), we were both staff members of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Glasgow. After extensive discussion, we elected not to produce an archaeological overview of regions and periods but rather to attempt to survey the intellectual landscapes of Mediterranean archaeology. After much discussion, we settled on and contacted a group of scholars (now our contributors), both established and upcoming, that we felt could cover most of the main theoretical and empirical parameters deemed essential to such a volume.

Because we wanted to foreground the Mediterranean as a whole and to emphasise the numerous interconnections within and beyond its seas, we ultimately submitted a proposal to Cambridge University Press (December 2008), the essence of which was our intention to produce a synthetic volume covering the multicultural, multivocal Mediterranean world of the Bronze and Iron Ages. Happily that proposal was accepted, and we set about notifying our contributors, with a tentative timetable and deadlines.

The papers began to come in already by late 2010, but with such an enormous groups of contributors and contributions (46 scholars and thirty-eight 10,000-word chapters), the final papers only arrived early in 2012, somewhat after our established deadline. Nonetheless, these papers represent the most up-to-date presentation possible for their respective topics and geographic areas, and we are extremely grateful to all our contributors not just for the superb studies they have produced but also for their

perseverance and patience as we carried out our own editorial tasks over the past two years. We must give special thanks to Maria Carme Belarte, Massimo Osanna, Jaime Vives-Ferrándiz Sánchez and Yuval Yekutieli, whom we called upon at the last minute to produce papers to fill voids left by some of the original contributors who failed to meet our deadlines.

A critical feature of the book proposal and its gestation has been our determination to reach out beyond the Anglophone academic community and to involve scholars who would normally publish their work in languages other than English. This is particularly pertinent for the western Mediterranean, where thriving academic communities communicate primarily in Italian, French, Spanish and indeed Catalan. While such research tends to be less well known beyond the region as a consequence of its language of dissemination, the limited distribution obviously has no bearing whatsoever on the quality of the research and it therefore seemed imperative to involve a substantial number of non-English-speaking scholars.

The consequent need to translate or at least substantially edit a considerable number of chapters inevitably generated a fair amount of time-consuming work. Even if Cambridge University Press graciously agreed to support financially some of the additional translation and editing efforts required, we as well as several of our contributors owe much to the dedicated time and language skills put into these chapters by Ayla Çevik, Jeremy Hayne, Anthony Russell and Mariana Silva Porto, all of whom were based in Glasgow at one point or another during the process of editing these chapters. In the end, our joint efforts should ensure a consistently high standard of argument and expression throughout the chapters of this volume, regardless of the authors' national, academic or linguistic backgrounds.

We also wish to thank Beatrice Rehl of Cambridge University Press for her vision and foresight: it was her idea that the Press should undertake such a volume, and we have only modified the way in which such a volume should be presented (see further comments on this point in the Main Introduction to this book).

PREFACE

We believe this volume offers readers new insights into the material and social practices of many different Mediterranean peoples during the Bronze and Iron Ages, presenting in particular those features that both connect and distinguish them. Contributors have written with deep understanding on a range of topics that motivate and structure Mediterranean archaeology today: insularity and connectivity; mobility, migration and colonisation; hybridisation and cultural encounters; materiality, memory and identity; community and household; life and death; and ritual and

ideology. Its broad coverage of different approaches and contemporary archaeological practices should enable even general readers to understand better the people, ideas and materials that make up the world of Mediterranean archaeology today; at the same time, it should help the practitioners of Mediterranean archaeology to move the subject forward in new and dynamic ways.

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May 2013