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SOLOMIDOU-IERONYMIDOU, M. (ed.) — Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, 2011-2012. (Annual Report of the Department of Antiquities, 49). Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, Nicosia, 2017. (29 cm, VI, 880). ISSN 0070-2374. € 62,90.

The Annual Report of the Department of Antiquities is a journal published annually by the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus from 1934. Traditionally, it consists largely of preliminary field reports of excavations but also of articles on Cypriot Archaeology. It is the biggest archaeological journal in Cyprus and therefore of pivotal importance for local archaeology. From 1963 to 2010, it was published every year. After a long break, publications resumed in 2017. This volume, dealing with research conducted primarily between 2011 and 2012, is among the first ones of the new series. It includes several contributions that cover archaeological work from all around the Republic of Cyprus, spanning from the Neolithic to the Late Medieval periods. The way the journal is organized is that the first articles focus on Neolithic sites, followed by one article on the Chalcolithic site of Kalavassos-*Agiou*, and then some articles on Bronze Age contexts. Subsequently many papers deal with contexts of the Geometric, Archaic and Classical periods, followed by articles on Roman and Hellenistic sites. Lastly, four articles focus on sites and objects of the Byzantine period. Thus, this volume is an elaborate and comprehensive guide of the archaeological research carried out on the island shortly before and during 2011-2012. The majority of the articles is written in English, while some are written in French, Italian or German. A short abstract in Greek or English is included at the end of each paper. A brief overview of the contributions will follow.

The first article, “The Neolithic well 2400 at Kissonerga”, is written by a team of experienced specialists: Pavlos Flourentzos (former director of the Department of Antiquities), the zooarchaeologist Paul Croft, Vasiliki Koutrafoura,

the late lithics expert Carole McCartney, and the osteoarchaeologist Michelle Gamble (pp. 1-60). This well was found in 2008 and dates to the Aceramic Neolithic (ca. 8th millennium BC). This multi-faceted study provides us with a comprehensive image of the well and its contents. More wells of this period have been excavated at the site and are considered the oldest wells in the Mediterranean (Peltenburg et al. this volume). However, this one differs from the others, as its situated 1 km away from the rest, and contained the remains of a woman. Finally, an extensive study of the lithics found in the well has been carried out, indicating great symbolic importance of the lithic tools at the time.

The second article is a field report of the second season of fieldwork (2010) at Agios Ioannis-Roudias, a hunting camp site at the Troodos mountains (pp. 61-110). This site has been investigated by Nikos Efstratiou (from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), who is the first author of this paper. Throughout the report it is highlighted that the site dates as far back as the Late Paleolithic-Epipaleolithic periods (beginning of the 9th millennium BC), which is very rare for the Cypriot archaeological record. Additionally, a second occupation phase belongs to the Khirokitian period (second half of the 7th millennium BC). Both phases have yielded interesting finds that can shed light to the transition from forage-gathering lifestyle to farming (p. 79).

Another important early prehistoric site is Nissi Beach, named after the famous beach nearby. A report on the third fieldwork season there by A.J. Ammerman and others follows (pp. 111-148). The site was discovered in 2004 and radiocarbon dates ascribe it to the 8th millennium BC (p. 111). This is an extensive report concerning the finds, the dating and the position of the site. The next article, entitled “Kataliontas-Kourvellos 2010” is written in French by Julien Beck, and provides a brief overview of the excavations at this Aceramic Neolithic site, carried out by the University of Geneva (pp. 149-156).

Finally, the last two contributions on Neolithic contexts both focus on the site Kissonerga-Myroudia. First, in the article “Neolithic Kissonerga-Myroudia, 2000-2006: the excavations and objects”, Edgar Peltenburg, Paul Croft and Carole McCartney provide a detailed account of the excavations at this important site, with an emphasis on its infamous wells (pp. 157-188). Following, Paul Croft along with several specialists give us a detailed overview of the bioarchaeological remains of the site in “Neolithic Kissonerga-Myroudia, 2000-2006: the bioarchaeology”, including charcoal remains, botanical remains, human remains, animal remains, and taphonomic and environmental data (pp. 189-218). The vast amount of bioarchaeological data makes the site very important for our understanding of fauna, flora, and subsistence strategies during the Neolithic.

Keeping up with the theme of bioarchaeology, a report on invertebrates from Chalcolithic contexts at Kalavassos-Agios by David Reese follows (pp. 219-236). By studying the assemblage of marine invertebrates from this site and comparing it with assemblages from nearby sites (of various periods) but also with assemblages from other coeval sites such as Erimi-Pamboula and Lemba-Lakkous, the author concludes that besides food, the invertebrates were also used as decorative elements, often found in association with burials (pp. 232-233).

Moving away from the Neolithic and the Chalcolithic, eight contributions on Bronze Age contexts follow. The first one is a field report of the excavations at Kissonerga-Skalia,

in 2008-2010 (pp. 237-254). This excavation, still ongoing, is led by Lindy Crewe, now the director of the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI). Kissonerga-Skalia dates throughout the Bronze Age, but this report focuses on layers dating to the Middle Cypriot – Late Cypriot periods (ca. 2000-1600 BC) and were uncovered before 2012. The following three contributions are focused on Bronze Age contexts: the site Politiko-Troullia (pp. 255-275), Bronze Age tombs at various locations of Paphos district such as the villages Kouklia and Tala (pp. 277-326), and the site Pyrgos (Lemesos) (pp. 327-364).

The next two contributions concern two important objects. First, there is Vassos Karageorghis’ article on a “White Painted ware pyxis from Pyrgos-Mavrorachi” (pp. 365-372). This pyxis dates to the Middle Cypriot III period, and although it was found at a settlement at the west of the island, Karageorghis argues that it has been imported from the north (p. 368). Then, there is an article on one ceramic vessel, entitled “A west coast flask of Middle Cypriot date from Ampelikou: A note on a regional style and its chronology”. In this paper Jennifer Webb takes a small flask from Ampelikou-Aletri and uses it as a starting point to talk about regional styles of pottery, combining macroscopic research with portable XRF analysis. She concludes that this vessel was imported from western Cyprus, possibly from the Ktima Lowlands (p. 387).

The topic of the next paper comes from Engkomi, maybe the most important Late Bronze Age site of Cyprus. Specifically, P.A. Mountjoy revisits her analysis of the stratigraphy of Engkomi Level IIIB (Mountjoy 2005), in conjunction with the deposition of the Horned God and the Ingot God and the interpretations on the abandonment of the site. Finally, the last paper on Bronze Age contexts is a preliminary field report of the 2008 and 2010 season of “The Kalavassos and Maroni Built Environments Project”, by Kevin Fisher and others (pp. 415-431). Both Kalavassos and Maroni are excellent case studies for the development of urbanism in the island, which happened later compared to its neighboring regions and played an important role to the social transformation of Cyprus during the Late Bronze Age (pp. 426-427).

The subsequent paper focuses on the discovery and initial investigation of the site Pyla-Vikla, which dates from the Cypro-Geometric period to Late Antiquity (pp. 442-459). This site has been identified by the Pyla-Koutsopetria Archaeological Project, which worked at the aforementioned nearby site for more than eight years (Caraher et al. 2005; 2007). This paper focuses on the results of a pedestrian survey in (2006 and 2007), geophysical work (2007 and 2008), and excavation (2008 and 2009) at the site.

Moving away from field reports, the next five contributions deal with some important objects from the Cypriot city-kingdoms of the Cypro-Archaic and Cypro-Classical times. R.S. Merrillees’ contribution is an analysis of three important objects: the stele of Sargon II from Kition, and two silver bowls from Idalion, that are now in the Louvre (pp. 461-496). Both Kition and Idalion were important city-kingdoms during the Cypro-Archaic and Cypro-Classical periods, while the stele of Sargon II is the earliest written source clearly listing the city-kingdoms (Satraki 2012). Merrillees provides us with a detailed history of research for these objects and their importance for archaeological interpretations. The next paper is written in French by Eleni Louca and is entitled “Une plaque en calcaire ornée en “free field amathusian style” de la nécropole Ouest du site d’Amathonte” (pp. 497-

504). It also focuses on an important find from the period of the Cypriot city-kingdoms, a stone plaque with rare decoration.

Likewise, Markus Egetmyer's contribution deals with the significance of a weight with Cypro-Greek inscription, which provides information not only about the weighing system but also about the Cypro-Greek writing in Paphos (pp. 505-511). Another important type of object at the time are plaques depicting the goddess Astarte. Twenty of these come from Tamassos, are made of clay and are the main focus of Waltrud Wamser-Krasznai's paper, written in German (pp. 513-545). Finally, Efstathios Raptou wrote a detailed paper in Greek, describing the excavation of an impressive tomb at Kouklia-Kato Alonia, where an impressive sarcophagus was found (pp. 547-583). The sarcophagus depicts scenes from the Iliad, Odyssey and the myths of Hercules (p. 552).

Surprisingly, the next paper is not focused on Cyprus, but on Crete. Specifically, the presence of Phoenicians in Crete during the Archaic period, as attested in written sources and the archaeological record (pp. 584-597). It is written in French by Christina Ioannou, and it provides a comprehensive overview of the evidence indicating Phoenician presence in Crete at the time. Returning to Cypriot Archaeology, the following paper by Anne Destrooper-Georgiades is about the coins of Cypriot city-kingdoms that belong to the Gunther Collection in the Cyprus Museum (pp. 599-638). Gunther was an American Geologist who worked on Cyprus at the beginning of the 20th century. After his death in 1929, his collection of coins was first loaned to the Cyprus Museum and eventually bought by the Department of Antiquities. Destrooper-Georgiades analyses thoroughly this immense collection and provides us with a comprehensive study of the coins and their importance.

The next papers focus on contexts dating to the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods. The first one is about a deposit of Scythian-type arrowheads from Polis Chrysochous (ancient Arsinoe) (pp. 639-656). Arsinoe is the successor of the city-kingdom Marion, and both have been systematically investigated by Princeton University since 1983. In this paper, Brandon Olson and Tina Najbjerg provide us with a comprehensive overview of the excavations at Arsinoe and then focus on the Scythian arrowheads that seem to have been deposited intentionally, suggesting a possible military use of the building. Moving on, the following contribution is by Claire Balandier and Yannick Vernet, and deals with the re-examination of the sanctuary of Apollo Hylates (pp. 657-686). This sanctuary, situated within the ancient Paphos, is one of the rare remains of ancient sacred places and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the Kato Paphos Archaeological Park.

Returning to field reports, the next paper is a report of the archaeological survey (2008) and excavation (2009-2012 seasons) at Anogyra-Vlou, written by Vladimir Goroncharovskiy (pp. 687-716). This project was carried out by the Russian Archaeological Mission and uncovered a long-lived site which included a Hellenistic oil-making workshop and a Late Roman rural sanctuary. The site was destroyed by the great earthquake of 365 AD (p. 693). Another site in Paphos is the subject of the subsequent contribution by Claire Balandier. It is an extensive field report of the 2009 excavation season French Mission at Paphos, at the site *Fabrika*, with many illustrations and appendixes (pp. 717-770). Subsequently, the next paper is written in Italian and is about the

1999 excavation season of the Italian Mission at the site Paphos Garrison (p. 771-809). This was the 12th excavation season at the site and revealed numerous finds, including a big house in the Christian settlement, mosaics, and interesting inscriptions.

Lastly, the final three contributions in this volume are focused on the Byzantine period. First, a team of researchers from the Department of Civil Engineers and Mechanics of the University of Cyprus collaborated with two archaeologists from the Department of Antiquities to characterize gypsum mortars of the Early Christian period in Cyprus (pp. 811-820). Samples were taken from nine sites and the characterization involved mineralogical, physio-mechanical and thermal analysis, like MIP, XRD and DTA-TG. The next paper is a collaboration of the University of Padova and the Department of Antiquities to study the architecture of three important churches in Larnaka: Agios Lazaros, Panagia Angeloktisti and Agios Antonios (pp. 821-853). Finally, the last contribution is by Paul Hetherington and it is entitled "From Cyprus to Sinai: A fine enamelled crucifix in St Catherines Monastery" (pp. 855-878). The author examines many evidence that might suggest that this crucifix was made in Cyprus and that the monastery itself had strong links with the island.

Overall, this journal is decently edited and the structure is logical, following a more or less chronological order. Additionally, almost all contributions include high quality photographs and illustrations. Being nit-picky, strict chronological order in the structure and a distinction between field reports and papers on case studies (objects or sites), might have made the volume easier to read. Also, the inclusion of a paper that had nothing to do with Cyprus is a bit puzzling (the paper on Phoenicians in Crete pp. 584-597). It might be relevant to mention that this volume was published long after the research presented in these papers was conducted. Therefore, ongoing research has been carried out and readers should consult additional literature on the topics of their interest. However, this volume remains a good overview of the research carried out up until 2012 and its publication, even late, signifies the continuation of an important journal that gives voice to scholars of Cypriot Archaeology.

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