

8 SUMMARY

The objective of this volume is both to present, in a clear and organised manner, the Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery from Mainland Greece (including Aegina and Paros) stored in the Schachermeyr Collection at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and also to offer an in-depth discussion of some related topics. The presentation of a collection of this type is justified not only by Schachermeyr's high degree of connoisseurship (and thus his selection of highly representative pieces for a given region and period), but also by the fact that a provenance is recorded for almost all of the pieces. Collections organised in this way facilitate the study of certain phenomena, such as the distribution of wares, fabrics or decorative motives across wider research areas. Last but not least, it was Fritz Schachermeyr's wish to present his collection to a wider scientific audience, a goal now partly fulfilled by the invitation of Prof. Dr. Sigrid Deger-Jalkotzy to publish these pieces as the third volume in this series.

The study is divided principally into two parts: one dealing with the Middle Bronze Age (MBA) and the early Late Bronze Age (LBA) of central and southern mainland Greece (with some of the adjacent islands), and the other with the LBA of Northern Greece. An introductory chapter is followed by a discussion of grey and other "Minyan" wares from all of Greece (Chapter 2), followed by a survey of early LBA material in Central Greece and the Korinthia, focusing on the question of the survival of Middle Helladic (MH) traditions (Chapter 3). These two aspects are illustrated also in the annotated catalogue of the MBA and early LBA finds of the Schachermeyr Collection (Chapter 4). Chapters on Northern Greece deal with material culture of Macedonia and Thessaly (Chapter 5) but also offer new perspectives on the current state of relevant chronological debates (Chapter 6). These are in turn followed by a second annotated catalogue, this time of the (Non-Mycenaean) LBA pottery finds from sites in Macedonia and Thessaly stored in the Schachermeyr Collection (Chapter 7).

Development, classification and distribution of Grey Minyan Ware in Greece

Building on the previous work of R. Howell, O. Dickinson, J. Rutter, J. Maran and C. Zerner, as well as on firsthand inspection of sherds from various regions in the study collections of the BSA, the ASCSA and the University of Thessaloniki, this chapter attempts to approach the topic of Grey Minyan Ware in Greece using several lines of evidence. Although J. Rutter's EH III origin for Fine Grey Burnished Ware is largely undisputed, and its later development is easily traceable into MH I in the Peloponnese, Central Greece remains somewhat problematic as the MH I phase is almost unknown there. The date for the first use of a fast wheel for Grey Ware production is also uncertain, since it now seems that the early Grey Ware was only wheel-finished, as pointed out by M. Holeva. While Euboea (including the area of Pevkakia) employs proper wheel-made production by the end of the EBA, as observed by J. Maran and L. Spencer, with the rest of Central Greece following suit in MH II, production in the Peloponnese remains largely hand-made right up until the early LBA. This pattern applies not only to Grey Minyan, but also to other wares.

It is only by MH II that the evidence across mainland Greece becomes more differentiated. By this period at least two types of Grey Minyan can be recognised, as shown by C. Zerner. The first is a wheel-made one that she calls *True Grey Minyan*, belonging to *Grainy Fabric*, and the second is a hand-made one, produced in *Dark Tempered Fabric*. A review of all known incidences of the wheel-made variant shows its regular distribution and relatively high popularity in East-Central Greece (East of the Pindos Range), including coastal Thessaly, Euboea, Attika and coastal Korinthia. This is to be considered as a core area of its active production (Map. 1). The rest of Greece shows only the hand-made variant and any wheel-made pieces are likely imports from the above mentioned area. This latter area includes inland Thessaly, possibly the Northern Sporades and coastal Chalkidiki (it is as yet unclear whether the latter two had their own production),

as well as the Cyclades and Aegina, which also have a decent quantity of wheel-made Grey Minyan vessels, all of which seem to be imported.

The Argolid is a somewhat exceptional region, as it has both relatively high amounts of the imported wheel-made variant as well as a solid tradition of the local hand-made one. The rest of the Peloponnese shows only hand-made “Minyan” Wares, which are not even always properly grey, and it is thus safer to term them “Dark Minyan” and treat them as various local variants. Nevertheless, all of these Peloponnesian ceramic groups do show a certain degree of typological similarity as well as corresponding changes in popularity. Whereas all of the handmade Dark or Grey Minyan Wares show relatively high degrees of popularity in MH I, their numbers drop in favour of plain or other light faced wares beginning in MH II, and even more so in MH III. In contrast, the wheel-made variant in mainland Central Greece is most popular in MH II but begins to diminish later on. The only exceptions to this trend noted so far are Lefkandi and Pevkakia, where the popularity of (True) Grey Minyan remains high all the way to LH I. It is possibly no coincidence, then, that neither of these sites developed the Yellow Minyan variant, which largely replaced the Grey Minyan elsewhere. In terms of typology, it is sufficient to stress that the ring-stemmed goblet, so typical of the wheel-made variant, never appears in the hand-made one except very late in MH III/LHI.

Last but not least I would like to point out that there seem to be two regional groups of wheel-made Grey Minyan Ware. One is found in western Boeotia, with a character that is slightly more massive and less fine, and one comes from central Euboea (encompassing also the eastern coastal Boeotia, reaching possibly as far as Thebes), which shows a very distinctive fine, hard-fired, light and very smooth Grey Minyan, as can be shown at several sites.

Central Greece and Korinthia in late MBA and early LBA

This chapter collects evidence for the survival of MBA traditions into the LBA in Central Greece and adjacent areas. This in itself is not a new idea, but deserves attention since it has not yet been systematically investigated. The reason for this lacuna in archaeological research is clearly the lack of more recent published excavations in the area. Nevertheless, attempts are made to assemble various bits of information, scattered through various publications or single monographs in order to comment on specific sites. Selected for close inspection are Eutresis in Boeotia, Kirra in Phokis, Korakou in the Korinthia and Thermon in Aetolia, all of which show a relatively complete stratigraphical sequence from the MBA into the LBA, in some cases even extending back into the Early Bronze Age. The knowledge thus gained is complemented by observations concerning sites lacking in sufficient stratigraphic information, but possessing interesting finds, such as Orchomenos, Drachmani and Dramesi. The sites of Pevkakia and Kiapha Thiti, which have received full treatment already by J. Maran, are used here only as points of reference.

At each of these sites, the development from MH II down to LH II is defined more carefully using pottery as the most common and chronologically sensitive artefact. It is shown that whereas it is relatively easy to define stages comparable with MH II and LH I in the Argolid, the transitional MH III is relatively hard to grasp since most of O. Dickinson's *Late Phase* shapes seem to have their first appearance only in LH I. The other problematic period is LH II. We are very familiar with Mycenaean decorated pottery from this phase, but know very little about the accompanying wares and fabrics, which must have comprised the overwhelming majority in assemblages.

It is thus argued here that there is not a major decline in the number of early LBA sites in Central Greece as had been postulated from survey data, but instead that such sites were simply not properly recognised because of the nature of the material. Likewise, it is also argued that many of the better known sites must have had proper LH I/II occupation. The absence of LH I and II Mycenaean pottery does not mean the absence or erosion of contemporary levels. Especially typical of the LH I period in this area is not only the well-known Mainland Polychrome Style of D. French, but also a range of similar bichrome matt-painted styles that make use of wavy-line decoration, as stressed by J. Maran.

All of these issues are related to the phenomenon of Mycenaeanisation, a topic that is not explicitly dealt with here. Nevertheless, it is clear that whereas there are only sporadic finds of Mycenaean pottery in a proper LH I style, they become gradually more common through the stages LH IIA, IIB and IIIA1. By LH

IIIA2 most of the unpainted repertoire is fully “Mycenaean”, but it needs to be stressed that without better stratified LH IIB and IIIA1 contexts, it is hard to say precisely how and when this change occurred. Admittedly, sites such as Mitrou do show a high degree of Mycenaeanisation relatively early on, but it is suspected that this pattern is due to its position, along the strait between the Mainland and Euboea, making it (and likely also other sites along the strait) a stepping stone on route to Thessaly. The turning point for the inland sites was very likely LH IIB. All of this also likely relates to the emergence of new, post-shaft grave elites buried in the *Built Chamber Tombs* in Lokris and in a strip reaching from Thebes through Aulis to central Euboea, discussed recently by N. Papadimitriou and L. Phialon.

MBA and early LBA finds in the Schachermeyr Collection

The fourth chapter presents finds from Lianokladi, Lefkandi, Orchomenos, Mycenae, Lerna and Myloi, Aegina, as well as from Paros. For each site a brief history of research and a summary of finds is given. The only completely preserved vessel in the collection, a squat jug in Mainland Polychrome Style, is unfortunately without context but has a very similar parallel from Orchomenos and could thus be from that area. Most sites are represented just by a handful of sherds, the only exception being Aegina-Kolonna, which offers a richer sample. Using this data, five Aeginetan fabrics are identified within the collection.

LBA pottery of Northern Greece

Chapter 5 offers an extensive review of LBA pottery in Macedonia and Thessaly. Starting with the current state of research (chapter 5.1), important LBA sites are discussed region by region. Macedonia represents one of the best-researched regions in South-eastern Europe in the LBA, with Central Macedonia serving as something of a nucleus. Here, excavations and surveys were conducted not only continuously since the 19th century, but also systematically, as part of broader research projects focused on supra-regional questions concerning LBA topics. The most prominent sites are Kastanas, Assiros, Toumba of Thessaloniki and Prehistoric Olynthus (Agios Mamas). Also included in the discussion are other sites of Western and Eastern Macedonia, and the main archaeological results concerning LBA local cultural features are summarised for each. Unlike in Macedonia, the local cultural characteristics of Thessaly are not easily definable for the LBA. Whereas Mycenaean or otherwise influenced material from the South as well as the respective sites in Thessaly have been investigated in detail, only a small number of local aspects have been studied and described so far. An attempt is therefore made to give an overview of possible local pottery features based on the scant published material from Argissa Magula, Lianokladi, Chasambali, Pevkakia Magula, Sesklo and Dimini.

The following chapter (5.2) focuses on characteristic local pottery features in LBA Macedonia. Incorporating the results of previously published studies, the author presents an overview of all known ceramic styles and their development in the period. It is determined that the majority of pottery is produced in a local style, which is influenced by different regions over the centuries. This local spectrum is hand-made, largely undecorated and produced in a relatively small variety of shapes and fabrics. Such a typical ensemble included amphorae with different types of necks, one-handed jugs, bowls with and without wishbone-handles, huge bowls (*Schüsseln*), open and closed-shaped Kantharoi, all of which were produced regularly in fine fabrics. Additionally, baking pans, pyraunoi and pithoi represent characteristic coarse-ware shapes of a Macedonian LBA assemblage (Fig. 28). The typical burnished and polished undecorated fine wares are complemented by different decorated wares, such as incised and incrustated wares, Matt-painted pottery and Mycenaean wheel-made pottery. Although publications are mainly focused on these special ware groups, the few statistically and completely published sites make it clear that the assemblages are comprised mostly of undecorated fine wares, complemented by 25–30 % of coarse wares.

Based on material publications of Kastanas and Prehistoric Olynthus with their long stratigraphical sequence, the process of local pottery development is reconstructed in three main phases. These three pottery phases can further be differentiated by distinct external influences and their local adaption. Former comparative studies could demonstrate that the results from Central Macedonia (Kastanas) and Chalkidiki

(Prehistoric Olynthus) complement one another and that they can partially be generalised to cover a broader geographical area too. Described are the characteristic pottery features with their types of shapes and fabrics representing these three main phases, chronologically fixed between MH III and LH IIIC. Their distribution from the Balkans to Thessaly as well as the changing external influences are also included.

Chronology of Macedonian LBA

In order to complete the overview of the state of research and pottery development in Macedonian LBA, a short summary of the chronology is presented in chapter 6. It includes a description of the main steps of research as well as of the material basis and provides a summary of the recent scientific discussions concerning chronological issues. With reference to various studies of different sites, stratigraphies and their radio-carbon dates, it is pointed out that the entire period of the LBA can be dated both in relative and absolute terms.

LBA finds in the Schachermeyr Collection

Finally, chapter 7 contains the catalogue of LBA pottery from Northern Greece including a detailed description of each piece in terms of shape, ware and analogies. The finds from Gona, Perivolaki, Stiwos, Thermi A, Argissa Magoula and Lianokladi represent a good cross-section of local pottery styles in Macedonia and Thessaly without imports or imitations, which regularly appear in almost all settlements of this region. The majority of presented sherds should probably be dated to a developed stage of the LBA, only a few pieces could be dated at its beginning.

