

PREFACE

This work attempts to bring together, in a coherent and logical way an account of the historical developments in Late Bronze Age Cyprus based on the archaeological record – especially the role of White Slip Ware. The Late Bronze Age in Cyprus is seen as distinctive era in which Cyprus moves from essentially an agricultural society to a substantial power in the region. It is maintained that throughout this era notwithstanding all the pressures on it from the societies of the Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus remained an independent society. Besides its exports of copper and probably other raw materials, Cyprus had a highly productive and creative pottery industry. Its wares, especially White Slip, Base-ring and Red Lustrous Wheel-made, were distributed throughout the surrounding countries. Remarkably, Cyprus managed to retain its independence during a time when the great civilizations of the Egyptians, the Minoans, the Mycenaeans and the Hittites were in dramatic conflicts with each other.

This manuscript does not attempt to cover all the events of this period, something which would be impossible. Rather it focuses on the role of Cypriot wares within the island and externally. A major role is given to White Slip which I consider to be a chronological beacon in the analysis of events during the Late Bronze Age. As stated on the SCIEEM 2000 web site, White Slip is considered to be ‘chronologically sensitive’. For example, its appearance in the general stratigraphy at Tell el Dab^{ca}: with Proto White Slip appearing in Late Hyksos Stratum D/2 and White Slip I not recorded until early 18th Dynasty strata onwards. These stratified appearances are considered to be a significant key to link in the cultural sequence in the Delta with Cyprus and ultimately further abroad, particularly the pre-eruption horizon of Thera. The aim is to provide both an overview of the historical situation and a contribution to the discussion on synchronisation of civilisations in the Eastern Mediterranean, which is the commendable goal of the SCIEEM 2000 project.¹

This manuscript has been developed as part of that SCIEEM project, funded through the auspices of Austrian Academy and the Austrian Science Fund, under the patronage of UNESCO. I am deeply

indebted to their vision in funding this farsighted and ambitious project, which was conceived, developed and nurtured by Professor Manfred Bietak of the University of Vienna, First Speaker of the SCIEEM 2000 project.

This study of Cypriot White Slip Ware has been carried out within the aims of Project 3 “Datumline by First Appearances”, which has as part of its aim the assessment of the appearance of specific ceramic and other artefact types all over the Eastern Mediterranean. As Sturt Manning, in a handout – *Comments on the difference between classification and relative chronology on Cyprus* – provided at the 2001 SCIEEM Conference held in Haindorf, stated: “...Cypriot ceramic exports play a critical role in current debates concerning second millennium BC Aegean-east Mediterranean chronology.”

I have been working on the project for nearly four years and in several ways, this manuscript is a culmination of my efforts in that project. As a preliminary lead up to this manuscript and with the assistance of the SCIEEM project, I managed to produce a number of papers – four of which were published in 2001. I have drawn on these papers, as well as on my earlier thesis on Cypriot Red Lustrous Wheel-made Ware, in developing many of the arguments in this manuscript.

I had the privilege to present some of the ideas used in this manuscript to the first SCIEEM 2000 Euroconference in Haindorf, Austria (May 2–6, 2001). Much of that original paper entitled: *A preliminary synthesis of recent chronological observations on the relations between Cyprus and other Eastern Mediterranean Societies during the late Middle Bronze–Late Bronze II Periods*, has been incorporated into this manuscript – although many issues have been further developed and refined.

I hope that this manuscript assists with the overall task of synchronization of civilizations. My heartfelt thanks go to Manfred Bietak and the SCIEEM directors for supporting me as a participant in this very worthy project. I also wish to thank the following colleagues for their input, support, and encouragement – which has assisted me to complete this project: Celia Bergoffen, Basil Hennessy, Paul

¹ See <http://www.sciem2000/> info

Historical Period	Cyprus	Egypt (after KITCHEN 1987, 2000)	Minoan	Helladic	Hittites (see MÜLLER- KARPE 2003, fig. 1)	UGARIT (based on KTU 1.113)			
1590	LC IA:1	Late Hyksos			Labarna Hattusili I				
1									
1550	LC IA:2	Ahmosé I 1540–1515	LM IA	LH I	Mursili I Hantili I Zidanta Ammuna Huzzija I Telipinu Tarhuwaili				
2		Amenhotep I 1515–1494			Hattusili I Arnuwanda I*				
1480		LC IB			Hatshepsut 1479–1457		LM IB	LH IIA	Alluwama Hantili II Zidanta II Huzziya II
					Thutmósis III 1479–1425				Tudhaliya I/II* Hattusili II Arnuwanda I*
1410	LC IIA:1	Amenhotep II 1427–1401	LM IIA1	LH IIA1	Tudhaliya III/II	Ammistamru I			
4		Thutmósis IV 1401–1391					LH IIA2a		
1360	LC IIA:2	Amenhotep III 1391–1353	LM IIA2	LH IIA2b	Suppiluliuma I	Niqmandu II			
1340	LC IIC:1	Akhenaten 1353–1337			Arnuwanda II	Arhalbu			
5		Smenkhare 1338–1336							
1300	LC IIC:1	Tutankhamun 1336–1327	LM IIB:1	LH IIB:1	Mursili II Muwatalli Urhi-Teshub	Niqmepa			
		Ay 1327–1323							
7	LC IIC:2	Horemheb 1323–1295	LM IIB:2	LH IIB:2	Hattusili III Tudhaliya IV Kurunta Tudhaliya IV/III Arnuwanda III	Ammistamru II Ibiranu			
		Rameses I 1295–1294							
1180		Seti I 1294–1279			Suppiluliuma II	Ammurapi			
		Rameses II 1279–1213							
		Mereneptah 1213–1203							
		Amenmesses 1203–1200							
		Seti II 1200–1194							
Siptah 1194–1188	End of the Hittites	End of Ugarit							
Tewosret 1188–1186									
		Setnakht 1186–1184							
		Rameses III 1184–1153							

Table 1A Relative chronological table, ca 1590–1180 BC

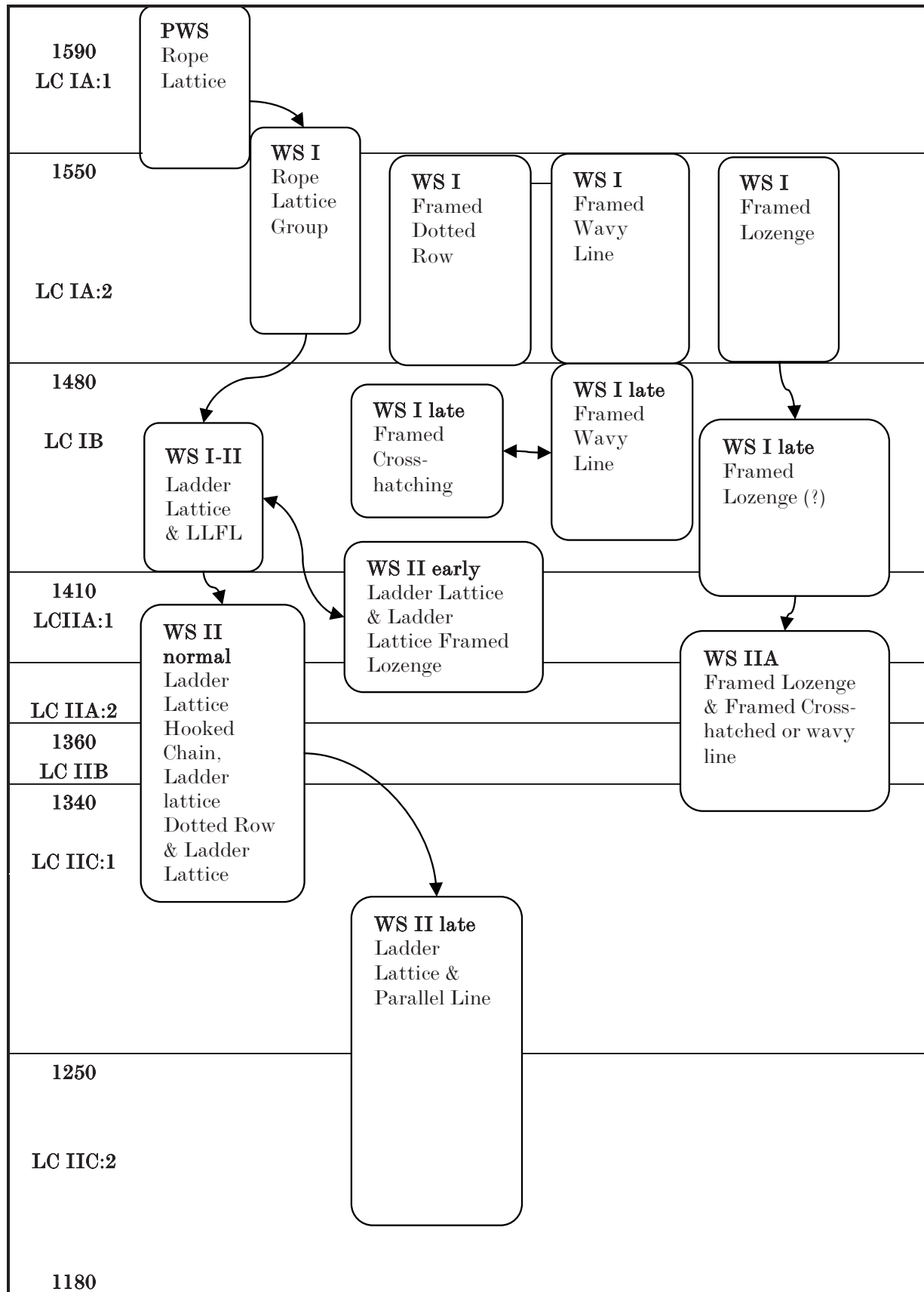


Table 1B Relative chronology of the White Slip wares from ca 1590–1180 BC, showing main production period of major styles

Åström, Irmgard Hein, Fred Giles, Malcolm Wiener, Carl Knappett, Peter Warren, Jenny Webb, David Frankel, Eliezer Oren, Helen Jenkins, Dave Aston, Lindy Crewe, and Stephen Bourke. I particularly thank Celia Bergoffen, Malcolm Wiener, Peter Fischer, Lindy Crewe and Dave Aston for allowing me to read their forthcoming publications; and also, Sturt Manning for providing his 2002 (Manning, Sewell and Herscher) publication. For the support given by Professor W. Ian Edwards and all my other colleagues at the Archaeology Research Unit at Deakin University, especially Chris Davey, John Hamilton and the late Professor Ralph Segnit; I express my deep gratitude. To those who assisted me in accessing White Slip material I thank Susan Sherratt, Helen Whitehouse and the late P.R.S. Moorey at the Ashmolean Museum; G. Spencer, Veronica Tatton-Brown, Jonathan Tubb, Pamela Magrill at the British Museum; A.W. Johnston and Ian Carroll at the Institute of Archaeology; and Stephen Quirke at the Petrie Museum. I am also grateful to Marie-Henriette Gates for information about WS II from LB II deposits at Kinet Höyük; and Stefan Hiller in relation to WS II at Ayia Irini, Keos.

In addition to my archaeology friends and colleagues typing and editorial support has been given by Werner Roberts and Chris Brennan. To my younger brother, Phil, I am indebted to him for the calm way he dealt with all my crises, computer or otherwise.

The support of the SCIEEM 2000 team in Vienna has been invaluable – to Angela Schwab, Ernst Czerny, Irmgard Hein and Manfred Bietak I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for their help and

advice; and, also for their understanding of the difficulties I faced during the time of this study. I am particularly grateful to comments provided to me by Irmgard Hein after her reading of a first draft of this manuscript. Naturally, in the end, I accept all responsibility for any inconsistencies or errors that might remain in this work.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the many people who gave me personal support in what has been a dramatically difficult time in my life; a time which also witnessed the most wonderful event – the birth of my daughter, Margaret Persephone. To all those who helped me through these last four years, I wish to thank them from the bottom of my heart. Their support has allowed me to continue with my archaeological studies and to finalise this manuscript. As for my mother, Margaret Eriksson, she has always been my pillar of iron – I thank her with all my heart. This book could not have been finalised without the invaluable assistance and inspiration provided to me by my husband, Andrew Theophanous. With his philosophical outlook on life, and his belief that humanity can create a more just and equitable society – he reminds me constantly that the study of past societies should help us move towards this goal.

I hope that this work will add to the continuing debate on the many issues surrounding the extraordinary history of Late Bronze Age Cyprus, and of the generations of people who inhabited her during this time and created such a vibrant society.

Kathryn O. Eriksson

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