

z. B. in der Franchthi-Höhle. Mit diesem Hinweis schlägt er dann die Volte zurück und sagt, die frühen Daten zur ersten Besiedlung von Argissa seien also doch möglicherweise korrekt (S. 205), gingen aber einer vollständigen neolithischen Besiedlung voraus. Dieser ganze Abschnitt klingt, als habe der Autor versucht Kritiker zu beschwichtigen, allerdings sind die Ausführungen so knapp, dass sie nicht überzeugen können. Hier empfiehlt sich die kürzlich vorgelegte systematische Synthese von A. REINGRUBER (*Geographical mobility and social motility in the Aegean before and after 6600 BC. Praehist. Zeitschr.* 93, 2018, 1–24. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1515/pz-2018-0005>). Eine kurze Zusammenfassung (S. 208–212) schließt die Arbeit ab und stellt in zwei anschaulichen Karten (S. 210–211, Abb. 96–97) eine Synopse des gesamten Szenarios dar.

Das Buch kann seinen Ursprung in einer Doktorarbeit nicht verleugnen: Eine Fülle von Daten und eine umfassende, wenn auch gelegentlich etwas umständliche Analyse erwarten die Leser. Trotz mancher Wiederholungen ist ein hoher Grad an konzeptioneller Durchdringung offensichtlich und die konsequente Anwendung einer stringenten Methodik zahlt sich aus. Am Ende des dichten Textes ist auch beim Autor eine gewisse Erschöpfung zu spüren, so bei den letzten Ausführungen zum anatolischen Neolithikum, wo der Wunsch nach konkreter Aussage am Schluss nicht mit dem gleichen hohen Grad an Analyse korreliert wie dies im Südlevante-Abschnitt der Fall war. Doch insgesamt ist es eine interessante und anregende Studie, die vorschnellen Schlussfolgerungen widerspricht, zahlreiche Denkanstöße gibt und Vorbild auch für andere Regionen sein kann.

Die Arbeit hat nicht unwesentlich vom fruchtbaren Austausch mit Archäologen aus anderen Regionen ebenso wie mit anderen Disziplinen profitiert, indem sie erfolgreich Methoden aus dem Bereich der deutschen Neolithikumsforschung adaptiert und Bezug auf zahlreiche deutschsprachige Grundlagenwerke genommen hat. Durch ihr qualitativ hohes Niveau unterstreicht sie zudem die unschätzbaren Vorteile, welche die Einbindung in ein laufendes interdisziplinäres Forschungsprojekt mit sich bringt, und kann als beispielhaft für moderne Forschung in größeren Teams und Forschungsverbänden gelten.

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CHRISTOPH SCHWALL, Çukuriçi Höyük 2. Das 5. und 4. Jahrtausend v. Chr. in Westanatolien und der Ostägäis. Mit einem Beitrag von Barbara Horejs. *Oriental and European Archaeology* volume 7. Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien 2018. € 240.00. ISBN 978-3-7001-8207-8. 777 pages with numerous illustrations, 37 tables and 1 folded map.

Anyone who is able to work out the lifeways of 5th and 4th millennium BC western Anatolia should be praised for their courage and patience. It is with good reason that Cyprian BRODBANK described the Chalcolithic period as the “last pan-Mediterranean anarchy” (*The Making of the Middle Sea. A History of the Mediterranean from the Beginning to the Emergence of the Classical World* [London 2013] 202) and Ulf-Dietrich SCHOOP as “Pandora’s box” (*Das anatolische Chalkolithikum. Eine chronologische Untersuchung zur vorbronzezeitlichen Kultursequenz im nördlichen Zentralanatolien und den angrenzenden Gebieten. Urgesch. Stud.* 1 [Remshalden 2005] 16). Indeed, this general statement is completely valid for the study area that Christoph Schwall had to sort out. Archaeologists are presented with many puzzling uncertainties when confronted with the heavy load of research history and ephemeral archaeological remains of the 5th and 4th millennia BC at west Anatolian sites. Accordingly, there is a general silence in the literature

when it comes to interpreting Chalcolithic features as these are, almost as a rule, poorly preserved and less substantial than the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ones.

Against this rather pessimistic backdrop, it is legitimate to claim that Christoph Schwall achieves a great deal in this volume. He presents a wide coverage of the literature, summarises the status of research, critically examines chronological problems, and offers a much welcome discussion on the absolute dates and their correspondence with relative chronological indices. In this sense, Chr. Schwall's study, which was a doctoral thesis defended at Heidelberg University in 2016, complements the impressive volume published by SCHOOP (2005), which was similarly a doctoral study presented at Tübingen University. In contrast to U.-D. Schoop's work, Chr. Schwall concentrates specifically on western Anatolia and the eastern Aegean with the well-intentioned aim to treat these two regions with separate research traditions as one cultural unit.

This study manages to assess the Chalcolithic of western Anatolia with the help of primary data from the site of Çukuriçi Höyük, near Ephesos in Izmir, excavated under the direction of Barbara Horejs from the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology in Vienna. Although the title of the study implies that the 5th millennium BC constitutes a major part of the book, the archaeological material that was studied excludes any material from this millennium. Instead, Çukuriçi's Late Chalcolithic levels (VII–V), with a time span of c. 3350–2950 cal. BC, are the subject of a detailed examination. It is admirable that the author both excavated and studied the entire archaeological material from Late Chalcolithic Çukuriçi (except for the chipped stones, which are currently under study by Petranka Nedelcheva). The detailed descriptions of the excavation areas, excavated features, and stratigraphy accompanied by Harris Matrix diagrams are without a doubt a great contribution to Anatolian archaeology, which acutely suffers from the lack of rigorous excavation reports. Also, the study of the pottery with comprehensible method, ware, and form definitions and the inclusion of petrographic studies into the overall assessment are superb achievements. The voluminous catalogue at the end visually supplements the pottery and small-finds chapters with colourful pictures and technical drawings.

Let us now examine the chapters in more detail. Chr. Schwall begins with a general discussion of how and why the Chalcolithic, as a separate period, was defined in the late 19th century. A rather short and superficial discussion is followed by the announcement that this study will follow the same chronological scheme offered by SCHOOP (2005). In other words, the conventional chronology of Early Chalcolithic (6100–5500 BC), Middle Chalcolithic (5500–4250 BC), and Late Chalcolithic (4250–3000 BC) is adapted for western Anatolia, and, rather regrettably, without a critical re-assessment. In fact, throughout the study, one fails to come across a novel approach to the existing chronology system, which is, in fact, declared as problematic by the author. The reader, however, wishes to find out whether a tripartite division of the 5th–4th millennia BC is indeed relevant for the region. For instance, a discussion is missing on what features distinguish Middle from Late Chalcolithic in western Anatolia. Moreover, the divide between Early and Middle Chalcolithic is solely based on pottery fabrics and forms, without a firm description of radical transformation of lifeways from the substantial presence of Early Chalcolithic villages to the strikingly ephemeral sites of the Middle Chalcolithic. From what is presented, one actually gets the impression that there is a remarkable continuity from the mid-6th to early 4th millennium BC. The real epoch-making changes, such as the introduction of extractive metallurgy or the possible cultivation / management of grapes, take place only towards the end of the 4th millennium BC as the evidence from Çukuriçi seem to demonstrate very well. On the other hand, by introducing new radiocarbon data from Çukuriçi VII–V with a modelling of the settlement duration, the author contributes towards a more reliable chronological scheme for the region. The discussion on absolute dates makes it clear how insufficient the radiocarbon data from the overall region is and that most

samples stem from long-lived species, which unfortunately prevents the creation of a consistent temporal framework that is based on radiocarbon data for the 5–4th millennia BC.

The chapter on architectural remains from Çukuriçi and their stylistic comparisons with other sites and neighbouring regions is very thought-provoking (chapter IV.1–3, pp. 115–181). The simultaneous use of curvilinear and rectilinear architectural plans in western Anatolia during the 5th–4th millennia BC is quite interesting and offers new insights about settlement organisation and architectural traditions of Chalcolithic communities, which differ remarkably from the preceding Neolithic and subsequent Early Bronze period. The architectural remains at Çukuriçi VII–V likewise present many diverse features from ditches to cist burials and from round storage buildings to free-standing rectangular houses. The diversity of architectural types and a lack of unified settlement plans during this period seem to be a convention rather than exception, as Chr. Schwall demonstrates in this chapter.

Over 13 000 ceramics have been excavated at Çukuriçi VII–V, of which 1422 received detailed treatment in this study (chapter IV.4, pp. 181–236). Concentrating more on typology and ware definitions, less on technology and organisation of production, this chapter embraces a typical culture-historical approach to the study of pottery. Looking at the characteristic features of pottery, Chr. Schwall was able to identify both continuous and novel elements in the assemblage through time. For instance, it is interesting to learn about the introduction of a new local ware during the Late Chalcolithic with marble particle inclusions or, for example, that Early Bronze Age-type pottery displays a steady increase throughout the Late Chalcolithic sequence. Cheese pots and white paint also persists from level VII onwards, whereas beak-spouted jars are already present in the Late Chalcolithic layers with two examples. A locally produced “Cycladic frying pan” is likewise of interest as it represents an earlier sample than the Cycladic examples. In this respect, a petrographic study produced interesting results, as it concluded that all pottery was locally produced.

The study goes on to offer a list of different clay, bone, and stone finds from the Late Chalcolithic levels (chapter IV.5, pp. 236–251). In total, 86 small finds are introduced and briefly discussed. Among them, metal finds are of greater interest, as these constitute some of the earliest metal objects from western Anatolia. Although only 13 in total, this small assemblage from levels VI–V represents a local production of arsenic alloyed copper industry. As such, it provides important evidence for the presence of metallurgical techniques and know-how during the late 4th millennium BC in western Turkey. The apparent continuity and the increasing importance of metal production at the site are also noteworthy, as Çukuriçi Early Bronze Age 1 deposits produced substantial evidence of a metal workshop. Altogether, these findings provide new insights into the locally induced initial stages of metallurgy in this area and its change after c. 2500 BC, with the abrupt introduction of tin-bronze.

The following chapters are truly an inspiring read. Various distribution maps created by the author provide a glimpse of cultural affinities and their spatial distributions across western Anatolia and the Aegean, and in some cases in central Anatolia or the Balkans. All these features and their distribution patterns speak for highly connected cultural entities in western Anatolia and the eastern Aegean, and one can actually understand these areas as a single cultural region with similar social, cultural, and ideological backgrounds. For evidence of connectivity, Chr. Schwall emphasises the use of mat impressions on pottery bottoms, wide distribution of the so-called cheese-pots, use of cylindrical loom weights, and widespread dispersal of marble conical cups. I agree completely that these features represent some sort of persisting maritime connectivity in the western and eastern Aegean. Also the distribution of Kiliya figurines and other marble objects suggest a land network that connects contemporary west Anatolian groups, especially during the 4th millennium BC. This sort of raw material and finished goods mobilities are well-known in

Anatolian prehistory, at least since the Epipaleolithic period, and with the Neolithic period the scale of connectivity and distances covered makes a peak. In these developments, Chr. Schwall discovers precursors of Early Bronze Age societies with social differentiation. However, I find that the contribution of Chalcolithic networks to the establishment of socially complex societies in the 3rd millennium BC is a bit overstated. In other words, the linear reading of historical developments from the 5th to the 3rd millennium BC in western Anatolia seems to contradict archaeological evidence, as late 4th and early 3rd millennium BC communities still enjoyed social equality in the form of small, enclosed villages with unified architectural types. The major break with earlier traditions that result in social complexity seem to have started around 2500 BC with the introduction of tin-bronze, mass production of weapons, wheel-made pottery, sumptuous goods of exotic raw materials, monumental architecture, and heavy fortifications that point to external factors rather than an internal historical process. For that reason, I find it difficult to agree with this kind of representation and interpretation of western Anatolian Chalcolithic groups.

All in all, this is a superb presentation of primary data from the Late Chalcolithic site of Çukuriçi Höyük in western Turkey. The volume achieves much more than presenting excavation results – it contributes to the highly problematic discussion of Chalcolithic communities of western Turkey and eastern Aegean islands during the 5th and 4th millennia BC. The chapters on the spatial distribution of characteristic Chalcolithic traits and their implications about regional and supra-regional networks are highly significant and insightful. It is my personal wish that such high-grade studies on Anatolian prehistory keep appearing and inspiring us.

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HARALD STÄUBLE / ULRICH VEIT (eds), *Der bandkeramische Siedlungsplatz Eythra in Sachsen. Studien zur Chronologie und Siedlungsentwicklung*. Leipziger Forschungen zur Ur- und Frühgeschichtlichen Archäologie volume 9. Universität Leipzig, Professur für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Leipzig 2016. € 24.90. ISBN 978-3-936394-22-1. 172 pages, b/w and colour images, 2 appendices.

This book (written in German) reports on excavations that took place at Eythra in the area of the open-cast lignite mine “Tagebau Zwenkau” near Leipzig (Saxonia, Germany) between 2009 and 2016. In the mining area of 1.5 × 5 km a team, coordinated by Harald Stäuble, has investigated an expanse of over 30 hectares. There, on the banks of the Weiße Elster River, the remains of about 300 Linearbandkeramik and Stichbandkeramik houses have been uncovered spanning some 600 years in the Early Neolithic. Fourteen authors in various combinations have contributed thirteen chapters to the present, generally easily-accessible and clearly written, report.

The findings from this excavation do not allow a straightforward and all-inclusive conclusion in terms of a unified model of the early local societal developments, probably because of the sheer size of the area of investigation. There are so many possibilities that every “imaginable constellation of potentially contemporaneous settlement types” can be found at Eythra (p. 161 – translations by reviewers). Thus, “there are both single and grouped buildings, and also houses set in rows; there are open spaces, too, one can even imagine a web of paths. In a detailed study of the finds from selected areas, yet to be worked out, further insights will probably emerge, maybe obviating