

Death during the Bronze Age of the Aegean

Dickinson, O.T.P.K. (1984) 'Cretan Contacts with the Mainland during the Period of the Shaft Graves' in (1984) 'The Minoan thalassocracy. Myth and Reality. Proceedings of the Third International Symposium'.

Stockholm: Svenska institutet I Athen

This source looks at the contact that was made between Mainland Greece and Crete during the period of the Aegean when Shaft Graves were in use. Shaft Graves were long rectangular burial structures used during the Bronze Age Aegean period. The source is somewhat useful in understanding my topic of death in the Aegean but is limited in the fact that it is mainly focussed on the contact hasd between Mainland Greece and Crete during the period.

McGeorge, P.J.P. (2011) Intramural infant burials in the Aegean Bronze age, pg 1-21.

Available at: <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-00808172/document>

In this article, the authors purpose is to look into the intramural infant burials which took place during the Aegean period. The research conducted found that there was some form of shared ideology regarding the burials of infants, given the fact that there was an apparent inter-regional acceptance of the practice and use of it. The looking into of intramural infant burials in the wider era found that thought there was a wide variety of burial customs in EBA Crete, the use of intramural burials was only documented as being used once. While the source does give some insight into the custom of death and funerals during the Aegean Bronze Age, it is somewhat limited in the information it provides about deaths in the Aegean outside of only the intramural infant burials, which does not allow for much to be gained in the wider terms of understanding death and funerary customs during the period. There is information provided on the use of myths and religion as a form of psychological security, but this does not offer much towards understanding Aegean death. There is a lack of supporting evidence to the topic as a whole but there is detailed information surrounding the infant burials, despite them not being widely performed.

Mee, C. (2010) 'Death and Burial' in Cline, E.H 'The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean'.

New York: Oxford University Press

The chapter in this volume looks at the changes and differences in death and burial customs throughout the Bronze Age of the Aegean. Mee looks at how the customs are affected by other societal factors, such as the current political situation, e.g. he found that the political "upheavals" of the Early Bronze Age in Crete had an affect on the customs surrounding death and burial. The main ideas looked into in this chapter are the patterns and changes over the period, this is beneficial and supports my topic as it documents the changes and different patterns surrounding the Aegean death and funerary customs. The chapter looks exclusively at the death and burials, which is beneficial as it ensures that there are few tangents that can be made, and with the focus of the volume as a whole being on only the

Aegean, it can go more in depth and detailed with the information supplied about the topic, rather than having a limited and less detailed amount.

The chapter looks into different aspects and options of the customs surrounding death and burial, such as shaft graves, and notes the changes or disuse of them as the era changes from Early through to the Late Bronze Age.

University of Cambridge, Department of Archaeology (2017)

Available at: <https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/aegean-archaeology-group/funerary-archaeology-what-can-it-do-us>

Accessed: 04.04.2020

The article provided by the University of Cambridge's Archaeology Department looks into the uses of graves and funerary customs in terms of Archaeology and how they can be of use or of hindrance when looking into an area or period. The main ideas expressed by the article is that the graves found from Ancient times provide help and information to Archaeologists, with some recommended readings into the specifics of different topics. In regards of giving information about the death and funerary customs of the Bronze Age Aegean, there is nothing which gives information about the specifics of that topic, but rather the article takes a vague angle and looks at the uses of graves to Archaeologists. This source is not very useful as a whole in understanding my chosen topic, as the information provided is not as detailed or informative as other sources; the information provided is vague and short, with the majority of the source asking it's own inquiries about the topic and providing other readings which could answer the questions, rather than looking into the topic in it's own right. It is a limited and a non-useful source; although the source is from the University of Cambridge's own Archaeology Department, meaning there are arguments that can be made in favour of it's reliability, it doesn't make up for the fact that the source offers no real information surrounding Bronze Age Aegean customs on death.