

Copper production and trade in Middle Bronze Age Cyprus: The view from Lapithos

by

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The subject: The site of Lapithos, on the north coast of Cyprus, was excavated in the early 20th century yielding over 1800 copper-base artefacts and more than 150 imported objects of faience, gold, silver, lead, copper and bronze from 140 tombs. This material and current excavations elsewhere on the island are challenging the view that Middle Bronze Age Cyprus (ca 2000–1700 BC) was comprised of small-scale agro-pastoral villages largely isolated from the eastern Mediterranean world. The lecture will present current research on the 1913 Lapithos excavations. Among other indications of external contact, X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry analysis of 415 copper-base objects, one of the largest site-specific datasets for the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean, provides evidence for the use of non-local tin as well as for alloying, recycling and mixing practices on Cyprus.

The Speaker: Dr Jennifer Webb is Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University and a Senior Research Associate at the University of Cyprus. She has devoted many years to archaeological research on Cyprus and has co-directed several excavations on the island. She is currently publishing over 80 Middle Bronze Age tombs excavated at Lapithos in 1913 and 1917. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and of the Society of Antiquaries, London, and in 2017 was made a Member of the Order of Australia, for ‘significant service to education, particularly to archaeology’



5.15 pm Friday 26 March, 2021

**Venue: Australian Institute of Archaeology,
Terrace Way, Macleod**

**(La Trobe University, Building TER 11, Melways 873-4
University parking restrictions do not apply after 5pm)
Please book with: Christopher Davey 0421 595966**