Day 2  24 May 2021  Amman
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Program (subject to change)

Session 1 (2 hours)
08:00 London; 09:00 Cairo; 10:00 Jerusalem/Beirut/Amman; 17:00 Sydney

07:00 GMT  Welcome and Introductions (Dr Pearce Paul Creasman, Editor JAEI)

07:10 GMT  Reconsidering Egyptian-South Levantine Interaction: Neglected Evidence from EB II Contexts at Tell es-Sultan and Tell el-Far’ah North
Maura Sala (Facoltà di Teologia di Lugano)

07:30 GMT  Khirbet ez-Zeraqon in its Regional Context: A Reappraisal of the EB II–III Evidence in Light of Recent Studies
Valentina Tumolo (Durham University) and Kamal Badreshany (Durham University)

07:50 GMT  In the Shadow of Byblos: The Aegyptiaca from Tell Fadous-Kfarabida
Hermann Genz (American University of Beirut) and Alexander Ahrens (German Archaeological Institute, Damascus Branch)

08:10 GMT  Tyre: An Intermediate Harbour in Interregional Trade
Maria Eugenia Aubet (Universidad Pompeu Fabra)

08:30 GMT  Discussion (30 mins)

Break (1 hour)
10:00 London; 11:00 Cairo; 12:00 Jerusalem/Beirut/Amman; 19:00 Sydney
Session 2 (2 hours)
11:00 London; 12:00 Cairo; 13:00 Jerusalem/Beirut/Amman; 20:00 Sydney

10:00 GMT   Towards a New Understanding of the Early Bronze Age on the Lebanese Coast: Putting Together Old and Recent Discoveries
Michel de Vreeze (Durham University) and Kamal Badreshany (Durham University)

10:20 GMT   Applied Potmarks between Lebanon and Egypt in the Bronze Age
Metoda Peršin (Freie Universität Berlin)

10:40 GMT   The Northern Levant, A Commercial Partner of Ancient Egypt? A Petrographic View
Mathilde Jean (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

11:00 GMT   Contacts between Egypt and the Southern Levant in the Early Bronze IV Period: An Open Question
Marta D’Andrea (Sapienza Università di Roma, Dipartimento di Scienze dell’Antichità)

11:20 GMT   Discussion (30 mins)
Abstracts

Reconsidering Egyptian-South Levantine Interaction: Neglected Evidence from EB II contexts at Tell es-Sultan and Tell el-Far‘ah North

Maura Sala
Facoltà di Teologia di Lugano

Interactions between Egypt and the southern Levant in the late Fourth/early Third millennium BCE have been reconsidered variously in recent scholarly literature. Following the growing identification of Egyptian material at key sites (e.g. Tel Yarmuth, Tell Abu al-Kharaz, Bet Yerah), evidence of a more articulated two-way relationship between First Dynasty Egypt and the south Levantine communities during the Early Bronze II has begun to emerge. While a complete reassessment of First Dynasty-EB II relations is beyond its scope, this paper seeks to review key evidence from Tell es-Sultan and Tell el-Far‘ah North. Tell es-Sultan is a key site in Egyptian-Levantine exchange because of its proximity to essential raw materials of the Dead Sea basin; Tell el-Far‘ah North is the leading centre in the area between the central hills and the Jordan Valley. The analysis confirms the existence of a branched network of commodity trading between Egypt and the southern Levant which was operational at the dawn of the earliest urbanization in the region. This paper considers the amount, range, and find context of Egyptian materials in order to assess the nature and intensity of the relationships between Egypt and these EB II south Levantine communities; and what role may they have played in the development of the first urban-centered society in the region.
Khirbet ez-Zeraqon in its Regional Context:
A Reappraisal of the EB II-III Evidence in Light of Recent Studies

Valentina Tumolo
Durham University

Kamal Badreshany
Durham University

Following a recent stratigraphic re-evaluation of the site of Khirbet ez-Zeraqon made in light of new radiocarbon data, the archaeological evidence from the site further delineates the characteristics of the Early Bronze Age II–III transition in northern Transjordan.

This paper presents an overview of the settlement transformations and the changes in material culture that occur through the EB II and III at Khirbet ez-Zeraqon, with a particular emphasis on the organisation of pottery production and the development of a large repertoire of Combed Ware storage and transport vessels. Data will be presented that demonstrates the integration of the site within the wider phenomenon of Levantine Combed Ware pottery production and the developing exchange networks of the eastern Mediterranean world during the Early Bronze Age. The evidence from Khirbet ez-Zeraqon offers additional insights for investigating the socio-economic changes that affected the Southern Levant in this period. In turn, this will contribute to a greater understanding of dynamics underpinning the relationship between Egypt and the Levant during the Early Bronze Age.
In the Shadow of Byblos: 
The *Aegyptiaca* from Tell Fadous-Kfarabida

Hermann Genz  
*American University of Beirut*

Alexander Ahrens  
*German Archaeological Institute, Damascus Branch*

During the Old Kingdom, Byblos emerged as one of the main ports of trade between Egypt and the Levant. This is not only suggested by textual references in the Egyptian record, but also by a surprisingly large number of Egyptian objects dating to the Old Kingdom from Byblos. However, various chronological and contextual problems hugely diminish the value of the *aegyptiaca* from Byblos for the reconstruction of the relations between Egypt and the Levantine coast.

Excavations at Tell Fadous-Kfarabida undertaken between 2004 and 2016 help establish a more secure chronology for the Early Bronze Age in Byblos. As the site is only 12 km north of Byblos, it certainly must have been in the economic and political orbit of Byblos. In this paper the few *aegyptiaca* from Tell Fadous-Kfarabida are presented, and the relationship to Byblos is discussed. As Fadous-Kfarabida lacks a good natural harbor, it is very likely that the *aegyptiaca* retrieved reached the site via Byblos.
Tyre: An Intermediate Harbour in Interregional Trade

Maria Eugenia Aubet
*Universidad Pompeu Fabra*

The founding of a small, fortified center on the island of Tyre in the Early Bronze Age cannot be explained without hypothesizing the complicity of a continental center on the nearby coast. The island is rocky with no arable land, however, the Early Bronze Age settlement there has provided a notable volume of combed storage jars as well as remains of cereals, olive pits and grapes. As a maritime outpost of a continental center controlling a fertile plain, the island was ideally situated along the navigable Mediterranean current coming from the Nile Delta up the coastal Levant and in an excellent intermediary position between the southern Lebanese coast, the Bay of Akko and Egypt.
Toward a New Understanding of Early Bronze Age Developments on the Lebanese Coast: Putting Together Old and Recent Discoveries

Michel de Vreeze
Durham University

Kamal Badreshany
Durham University

In this paper we reexplore the relationship between Egypt and the Lebanese coast during the Early Bronze Age in light of evidence from recent excavations as well as of new work on artifact assemblages in the region. The role of Byblos as hub for Egyptian activity in Lebanon during the Bronze Age is well-known, but new data further illuminates the nature of these early interactions. We aim to contextualize the significance of Byblos-Egypt interactions within the wider EB settlement landscape of the Lebanese coast. We argue that the influence of Byblos grew, in part, due to longstanding mutually beneficial exchange networks with Egypt where were centered around Byblos’s temples. Despite changing economic fortunes in the region, the key cultic role of Byblos continued into later periods with the site remaining a focal point for local communities and for Egyptian attention.
Applied Potmarks between Lebanon and Egypt in the Bronze Age

Metoda Peršin
Freie Universität Berlin

Although potmarks have been discovered at many archaeological sites in the Near East and Egypt, interpretations of their functions vary. Despite the diversity of techniques used in making potmarks (e.g. incised, painted, impressed, applied), applied potmarks have been especially neglected. It is mostly the so-called “ram’s head” applications that have previously attracted some attention, however, these have often been considered as decorative elements rather than potmarks. A recent systematic study of potmarks from Bronze Age contexts in Lebanon has revealed not only that applied marks do exist, but that they appear frequently and come in a variety of forms and sizes. Contacts between the Levant and Egypt in the Bronze Age are confirmed by both written sources and analyses of archaeological materials, including ceramic vessels, that were exported to Egypt. Some of these vessels bear applied potmarks. This paper aims to integrate the data obtained on applied potmarks from sites in Egypt, as well as other information concerning the connections between Egypt and the Lebanese coast to better understand the function of applied potmarks in the Early Bronze Age Lebanon.
The Northern Levant, a Commercial Partner of Ancient Egypt?
A Petrographic View

Mathilde Jean
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Contacts between Ancient Egypt and the Levant have been a main issue of archaeological research in the eastern Mediterranean for decades. Pottery is an essential tool to investigate this question, as many Levantine ceramics were discovered in Egyptian contexts (both in Upper and Lower Egypt). Recent research aims at determining the provenance of those Levantine imports: southern or northern Levant? From which region or site?

This paper focuses on the identification of northern Levantine imports to Egypt during the third millennium BCE. The study is based on pottery assemblages from 7 northern Levantine sites: Tell Arqa (reference site), Tell Bseise and Tell Laha (Akkar plain), Enfeh and Byblos (Lebanese coast), Ras Shamra and Qatna (western Syria). Petrography is the main analytical method, along with technological, typological and chronological comparison.

The results of northern Levantine analyses are compared to published data on Levantine imports in Egypt. Several hypotheses on provenance and chronology of Levantine imports in Egypt are then set forth in order to offer new insights on trade relations between the northern Levant and Egypt during the third millennium BCE.
Contacts between Egypt and the Southern Levant in the Early Bronze IV Period: An Open Question

Marta D’Andrea
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According to revised absolute chronologies (increasingly accepted, though not yet unanimously), the Early Bronze Age IV in the southern Levant spans from ca. 2500 BCE to ca. 1920/1900 BCE, a period corresponding to the late Old Kingdom, First Intermediate Period, and the very beginning of the Middle Kingdom in Egypt.

Earlier, scholars assumed that Egyptian raids during the late Old Kingdom played a role in the demise of southern Levantine fortified settlements of the Early Bronze III period. Later, contacts between the two regions were framed within the hypothesis of commercial contacts related to trade of southern Levantine copper with the late Old Kingdom Egypt with virtually no evidence of contacts afterwards until the early Middle Kingdom. But what do we really know about southern Levantine-Egyptian interconnections in the Early Bronze IV period? How much does the lack of chronological resolution in the sub-phasing of the EB IV impact our current ability to understand these contacts?

This paper briefly reviews textual, pictorial, and archaeological evidence traditionally considered as evidence for southern Levantine-Egyptian interactions in the EB IV, outlining the current state of research. Taking the view from the southern Levant, it re-examines the local developmental trajectory to discuss how recent archaeological research may reenvision the way we understand this non-urban era. Moving from these insights, it discusses how the archaeological evidence may fit into newly proposed interpretations of Levantine-Egyptian contacts during this period.