



LECTURES IN HONOUR OF PROF. ROBIN HÄGG

THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS AND THE FINNISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE MYCENAEAN PALACE:
TWO LECTURES IN HONOUR OF ROBIN HÄGG

Thursday and Friday November 4-5, 2021 at 19h Athens time, Italian Archaeological School, Parthenonos 14 & Zoom
(limited live participation & participation via Zoom link)

To register (for presence or Zoom), please contact swedinst@sia.gr (mandatory)





Lectures by

James C. Wright

William R. Kenan, Jr. Chair and Professor Emeritus of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, Bryn Mawr College

November 4: Discovering a Mainland Architectural Tradition

In this lecture I explore the evidence and recent research on domestic and mortuary architecture and settlement form on the mainland of Greece during the Middle Bronze Age through the early phases (LH I-II) of the Late Bronze Age to identify how and when a formal architectural plan emerges from mainland traditions. This plan takes shape during LH I-II and is recognized as the Korridor Haus, which is elaborated during the LH III period and applied widely across the mainland, the islands, Crete, and Western Anatolia in the construction of Mycenaean palaces and administrative buildings. I argue that changes in mortuary architecture and in domestic architecture take place between MH III and LH I that result in the Korridor Haus plan, which forms the core of the formal plan of the Mycenaean palaces and reflects a distinctive aspect of Mycenaean socio-political organization.

November 5: Monumentality as an Expression of Foreign Legitimation

In this lecture I demonstrate how the introduction of ashlar masonry by Cretan masons inspired dramatic changes in monumental expression in mortuary and residential-administrative architecture at Pylos; this style spread quickly to Mycenae during the Monopalatial period of Crete. It became during LH IIIA-B the primary expression of power and legitimacy of Mainland rulers because it reflected the Palace at Knossos as the axis mundi of the Aegean world, so recognized by the Egyptians and Hittites. After the breakup of the monopoly of power at Knossos, this palace style was elaborated during LH IIIA2-B, as palace centers throughout the mainland of Greece and satellite centers throughout the Aegean were established with resulting variety in architectural expression. Continuing contact with the Hittites then resulted in a shift in architectural forms of monumentality, derived from Anatolian architectural traditions and techniques that were mixed with Cretan ones. This resulted in a distinctive Greek mainland style that drew for its ornament on Aegean and Near Eastern architectural symbolism. The final years of the 13th century witnessed an enormous increase in monumental expression in mortuary and palace architecture centered in the Argolid and applied elsewhere across the mainland as the “Mycenaean world” expanded as a uniform political economy throughout the Aegean, only to collapse at the end of the 13th century. The lecture will close with consideration of the impact of this architectural tradition on the post-palatial period.