

THE ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS OF BRONZE AGE AT IASOS (CARIA)

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Abstract

1. Since the years' 60s an Italian Archaeological Mission has dug into the coastal site of the classical town of Iasos, on the south-western Anatolia, in the region of Caria.

Immediately below the Roman and Hellenistic strata of the town appeared clearly that the human inhabitation on this site started already in prehistoric times, as the classical sources stated.

Moreover we can understand now also from what Linear B tablets script describe that a town named "I-wa-so" was visited regularly by ships from the Mycenaean Kingdoms of the Greek mainland, together with sites as Knidos, Miletos, Chios, Lemnos and many others.

What excavations revealed there, little by little, is a confirmation of what we know from classical sources. Of particular interest, in the centre of the Classical and Roman Agora, is the presence of one (or maybe two twins) building(s) whose impressive structure is to be related of contemporary Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age architectural type known all over the Aegean, and not only in Crete.

2. One particular point raised by these important finds (now paralleled in several points of the coasts of Asia Minor as well as the islands and other sites) is about the preservation of the architectural structures-sometimes monumental -revealed by long and accurate excavations.

The most common and economical way to keep these structures is to hide them after the excavation has finished (see various examples). Another-more difficult-way is to leave them visible to the visitors, to show them the natural stratification on these sites. This feature implies long and detailed study and an expensive protection and care of the structures.

It is worth doing this way?

Which are the more reasonable (and convenient) paralleled used since now in different excavation sites, and in different countries?