

## Social Archaeology Of Funerary Remains

The Social Archaeology of Funerary Remains Social Archaeology of Funerary Remains Ethnography and Archaeological Interpretation of Funerary Remains The Archaeology of Cremation The Archaeology of Cremation Death embodied Villagers of the Maros Testing the Canon of Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology Symbolism, Social Relations and the Interpretation of Mortuary Remains Mortuary Metaphor The Archaeology of Death and Burial Excavations in Baluchistan, 1925, Sampur Mound, Mastung, and Sohr Damb, Nāl Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India Mortuary Variability The Funerary Landscape at Knossos Archaeological Researches in Palestine During the Years 1873-1874 The Archaeology of Death in the Ancient Near East Discovery The Tomb of Tut.ankh.Amen American Journal of Archaeology Rebecca Gowland Rebecca Gowland Peter John Ucko Tim Thompson Timothy James Upton Thompson Zoë L. Devlin John M. O'Shea Amy Rebecca Gansell Ellen-Jane Pader Barbara Allen Fuchsman Michael Parker Pearson Harold Hargreaves John M. O'Shea Madelaine Miller Charles Clermont-Ganneau Stuart Campbell Howard Carter

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human bones form the most direct link to understanding how people lived in the past who they were and where they came from the interpretative value of human skeletal remains within their burial context in terms of past social identity and organisation is awesome but was for many years underexploited by archaeologists the nineteen papers in this edited volume are an attempt to redress this by marrying the cultural aspects of burial with the anthropology of the deceased

human societies have disposed of their dead in a variety of ways however while considerable attention has been paid to bodies that were buried comparatively little work has been devoted to understanding the nature of cremated remains despite their visibility through time it has been argued that this is the result of decades of misunderstanding regarding the potential information that

this material holds combined with properties that make burned bone inherently difficult to analyse as such there is a considerable body of knowledge on the concepts and practices of inhumation yet our understanding of cremation ritual and practice is by comparison woefully inadequate this timely volume therefore draws together the inventive methodology that has been developed for this material and combines it with a fuller interpretation of the archaeological funerary context it demonstrates how an innovative methodology when applied to a challenging material can produce new and exciting interpretations of archaeological sites and funerary contexts the reader is introduced to the nature of burned human remains and the destructive effect that fire can have on the body subsequent chapters describe important cremation practices and sites from around the world and from the neolithic period to the modern day by emphasising the need for a robust methodology combined with a nuanced interpretation it is possible to begin to appreciate the significance and wide spread adoption of this practice of dealing with the dead

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in april 1485 a marble sarcophagus was found on the outskirts of rome it contained the remains of a young roman woman so well preserved that she appeared to have only just died and the sarcophagus was placed on public view attracting great crowds such a find reminds us of the power of the dead body to evoke in the minds of living people be they contemporary survivors or mourners or distanced from the remains by time a range of emotions and physical responses ranging from fascination to fear and from curiosity to disgust archaeological interpretations of burial remains can often suggest that the skeletons which we uncover and therefore usually associate with past funerary practices were what was actually deposited in graves rather than articulated corpses the choices made by past communities or individuals about how to cope with a dead body in all of its dynamic and constituent forms and whether there was reason to treat it in a manner that singled it out positively or negatively as different from other human corpses provide the stimulus for this volume the nine papers provide a series of theoretically informed but not constrained case studies which focus predominantly on the corporeal body in death the aims are to take account of the active presence of dynamic material bodies at the heart of funerary events and to explore the questions that might be asked about their treatment to explore ways of putting fleshed bodies back into our discussions of burials and mortuary treatment as well as interpreting the meaning of these activities in relation to the bodies of both deceased and survivors and to combine the insights that body centered analysis can produce to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the role of the body living and dead in past cultures

john m o shea explores this question by employing modern archaeological theory and analysis as well as mortuary theory to build a model of an early bronze age society in the eastern carpathian

basin he focuses on the maros communities and utilizes the densely encoded social information from their cemeteries to draw a picture of the maros social systems

this volume addresses and problematizes the formation and transformation of the ancient near eastern art historical and archaeological canon the canon is defined as an established list of objects monuments buildings and sites that are considered to be most representative of the ancient near east in testing this canon this project takes stock of the current canon its origins endurance and prospects boundaries and typologies are examined technologies of canon production are investigated and heritage perspectives on contemporary culture offer a key to the future

the question of where to place the dead is a universal problem for mankind the body of the deceased is not regarded as ordinary carrion it must be cared for in a correct manner and disposed of in an appropriate place not simply for hygienic reasons but out of moral obligation hertz 1960 27 death creates similar psychological and social problems in all human societies consequently similar kinds of rites such as rites of separation of protection of reaggregation within a new order and of commemoration are very widespread as is the ritual sequence in which they are found hertz 1960 van gennep 1960 malinowski 1925 goody 1962 rosenblatt et al 1976 at the same time great variation is found in the specific ways in which mortuary ritual is given concrete form disposition of the body may consist of cremation burial in the dirt enclosure in a container placed either above or below the ground exposure cannibalism the keeping of relics or some combination of these procedures likewise the location considered appropriate for the disposition varies widely the meanings invested in the form and location of the disposition of the dead also differ in different societies it is my contention that these meanings can be usefully categorized the variation in meaning does not seem to be random my research project consists of a cross cultural study of mortuary ceremonialism in sixty societies the purpose of which is to investigate the influence of sociological and economic variables on certain aspects of mortuary ritual the aim of this thesis is to examine the extent to which predictable variation occurs in the way social affiliation is symbolized by the location of the disposition of the dead this work is built upon studies of both the relationships between ritual and socio cultural organization and also the social and psychological functions of funerary ritual it entails study of ecological adaptation in its widest sense involving the intersection within funerary activities of demographic economic sociological cultural in the sense of ideas and values including concepts of the supernatural and afterlife and psychological aspects of human behavior in addition an important purpose of this project is to increase the understanding of the ways in which mortuary artifacts excavated by archeologists can be expected to reflect the organization of the societies of which they are the tangible remains systematically searching out ways in which aspects of funerary ceremonies such as the location of disposition of the deceased vary with changes in such factors as population density fixity of residence degrees of political integration and social stratification systems of subsistence technological development systems of inheritance and measures of overall complexity should reveal the strength of the influence of each and the effects of their interaction in addition the reliability with which one can predict backward from the mortuary practice to the presumed presence of one or another of the economic or social variables should become clear

this book reviews the latest research in this field and describes the sometimes controversial interpretations that have led to rapid advances in our understanding of life and death in the distant past

during the last century s archaeological investigations of the advanced bronze age culture maintained by the so called minoans on the island of crete a number of tombs dated to the late minoan

period and containing weapons have been discovered in the surroundings of the site of Knossos the tombs are not confined to a certain area or cemetery but are rather dispersed around the palace and town although they are characterised by their weapons other artefacts such as bronze vessels and certain pottery types also distinguish these tombs the tombs are of three types chamber tombs with long dromoi shaft graves and pit caves various labels have been designated for them tombs with weapons warrior tombs warrior graves and weapon tombs the warrior graves are often discussed in relation to the question of when the Mycenaeans arrived in Crete most scholars agree that a Mycenaean presence or power in Crete existed in the late Bronze Age but when their arrival would have taken place has not yet enjoyed consensus previous scholarship raises a number of questions that are dealt with in this work in relation to the funerary landscape at Knossos including to what degree do the burial customs in fact change in LM II and what about the mainland influences if the archaeological material points in that direction how are we to understand such a transformation of the mortuary practices would this indicate an ethnic change if on the other hand the material points towards a gradual process beginning already in LM I or earlier with elements of mainland traits what would that indicate the tombs shaft graves and pit caves of Knossos are re-examined in an attempt to put answers to these intriguing questions

the conference in Manchester in 1992 which this book came out of was organised to raise the profile of the study of mortuary remains in the ancient Near East thirty papers from the conference are published here covering a wide variety of regions and periods from Epipalaeolithic to modern many different aspects are examined physical anthropology burial goods social structure ethoarchaeology etc this volume has a wide relevance not only to the areas specifically addressed but also in the interpretation of burial remains and the evolution of society

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