



Can Mycenaean Culture Provide a Key to **Understanding Polish National Heritage?** The Example of Galicia

Bohdan Janusz (1887-1930) – born in Lviv into a Polish-Ukrainian family: Angella née Momocka (Roman Catholic) and Michał Janusz (Greek Catholic, a teacher in a village school). His grandfather, Franciszek Momocki, was well known in Lviv as a city councilman, involved in social issues. When Bohdan Janusz was a child, his father died, and from that moment on, the family lived in poverty and was forced to change their place of residence.



Despite his passion and talents, Bohdan Janusz failed to graduate from middle school. However, he attended lectures by Prof. Karol Hadaczek, an expert on the prehistory and archaeology of ancient Greece. His first job was in the archaeological section of Shevchenko Scientific Society (*Naukóve tovarýstvo imeni Shevchénka*). He was also

active in the historical-philosophical section of the Society, where he proposed the idea of the archeological map of Eastern Galicia (the geographical land in South-Western Poland). In the meantime, he started writing to popular newspapers about archaeology, anthropology and art exhibitions – and not only Lviv newspapers, but also the most popular ones published in Warsaw. This way he became a respected popularizer of science, so finally he was able to publish the pamphlets.

His true passion was the prehistory and folk culture of Lviv district. The fruits of his research – were publications on prehistory, ethnography, ethnoarchaeology and the sacral architecture of Eastern Galicia. After the First World War Bohdan Janusz was appointed conservator of prehistoric monuments in Lviv district: in Lviv, Stanisławów and Tarnopol Voivodeships (provinces).

He committed suicide on November 4/5 1930.

ARCHAIC-MYCENAEAN PERIOD

In his publications Bohdan Janusz often used the term „**Archaic-Mycenaean**” – especially while describing the Neolithic period of Eastern Galicia. His teacher, prof. Karol Hadaczek, used the same term. The last Neolithic ages, in his opinion, were important for culture and many finds discovered in Galicia come from that time. The clay pottery with monochrome or polychrome ornaments was characteristic for the “Archaic-Mycenaean” period of Galicia.

He identified 33 places in Galicia where the culture of clay pottery was present. Sometimes he also mentioned other artifacts, found in the graves, which he connected with that culture, e.g. clay female figurines (painted) or figurines of animals. He noticed that the “**Archaic-Mycenaean**” culture showed a higher evolutionary degree in the development of cist graves. However, at the same time he mentioned the ritual of burning the body of the dead. Sometimes he doubted whether the culture that made painted pottery and the culture of the cist graves were the same. In another book, he named the “Archaic-Mycenaean” period the “painted pottery period”.

The archaeologist Józef Kostrzewski criticized the thesis of Bohdan Janusz on the continuity of settlement in the area of Eastern Galicia from prehistory until modern times.

CZŁOWIEK PRZEDHISTORYCZNY (Prehistoric Man)

Dzieje kultury przedhistorycznej Europy (The History of the Prehistoric Culture of Europe)

The book published by Bohdan Janusz in Warsaw in 1914 took on the subject of prehistoric people and ancient civilizations. He wrote about Troy and the sixth layer of the archaeological site (which he called Mycenaean), in which the remains of the wall, the tower and bigger houses

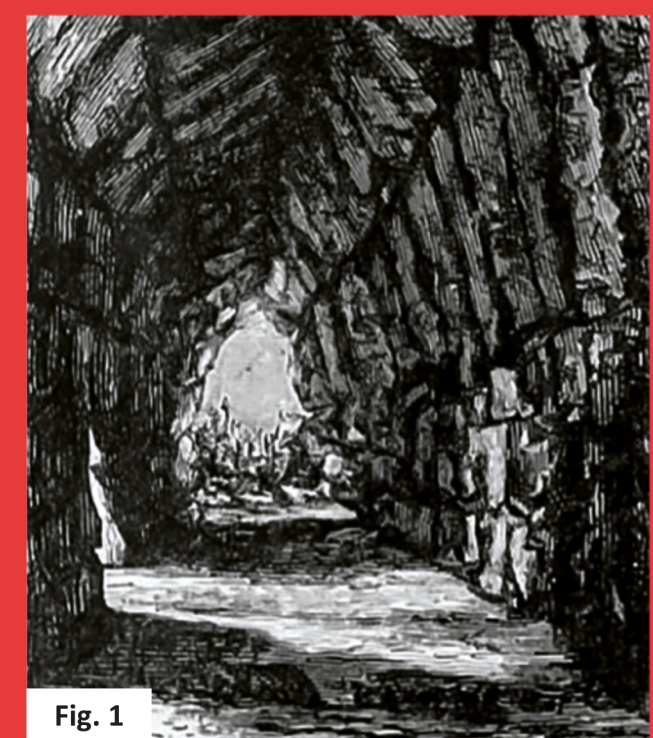


Fig. 1

made of stones were discovered. Janusz mentioned Heinrich Schliemann and his discoveries. In his book we can see some illustrations of the monuments in Mycenae and in Tiryns e.g. the **Treasury of Atreus (Tomb of Agamemnon)** (Fig. 2) or Cyclopean masonry (which he describes as „Cyklopowe mury w Mykenach” - **Cyclope-**

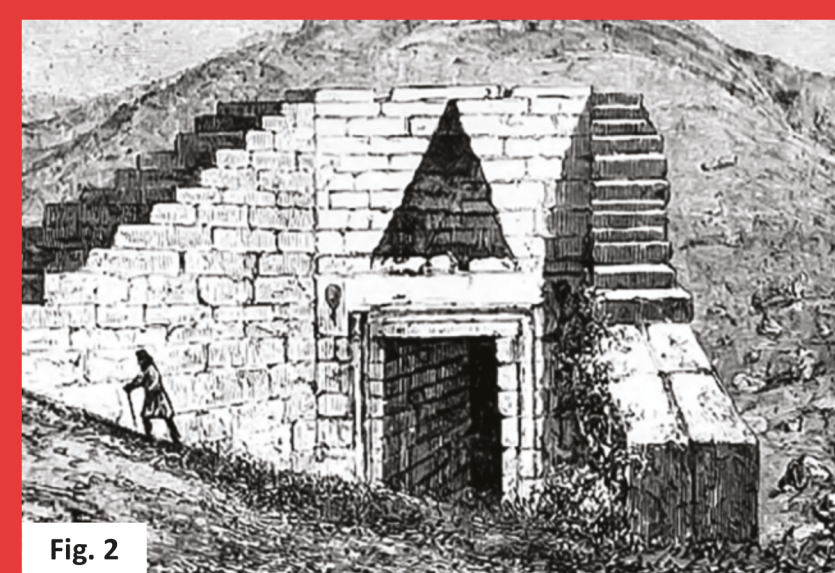


Fig. 2

an masonry in Mycenae) (Fig. 1). He was also interested in the graves and artifacts. In addition, he mentioned Arthur Evans and his archaeological finds at Knossos.

Does Mycenaean culture help provide a better understanding of Polish national heritage? The terminology proposed by Bohdan Janusz for Eastern Galicia was not new. The term "Archaic-Mycenaean" had already appeared in Prof. Hadaczek's publications. It seems, therefore, that the reference to Mycenaean culture was important for a certain group of researchers for building their own identity.

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