

INTRODUCTION. Aegean interaction in Sicily pertains to every field of production, especially from the second millennium BC. The facies of Thapsos (Thapsos, Cannatello, Caldare, 1470 –1250 BC) marked the peak of Mycenaean connectivity in Middle Bronze Age Sicily, showing hybridization phenomena. Exchanges and influences through the perspective of metallurgical finds within the Aegean area (with a special mention for Crete) and Sicily is considered one of the most important points of exchange and contact in the Mediterranean. The study of metal objects proves the ability of Sicilian people to interact with their external environment and independently produce these artefacts. Remains from archaeological sites on Sicily have been analysed in terms of their different metal objects and their functional use. A distributive analysis of these materials showed three different areas of concentration, all strictly connected with the Aegean. A metallurgical analysis of finds provides key evidence on the cultural organization of communities which processed raw materials.

RESEARCH CONCEPT. The starting point has been a functional and typological analysis of all metal objects from the three macro-areas of the Middle Bronze Age on Sicily. Notable is the prevelance of two different finds above all others: weapons and bronze basins, coming from both necropoli and settlements. It is important to stress that there is no correlation between the structural unit in the necropoli and this metallurgical set. Moreover, at many sites ox-hide ingots have been found; they testify to the existence of imported raw material in Sicily, which was afterwards formed and processed in loco.

Here, we can focus on basins since Vagnetti identified similarities with Cyprus. Indeed, La Rosa has suggested Sicilian examples were derived from Crete and Mainland Greece; the spread of the double-handled basin and a second type with a low profile is visible. These kinds are represented as well on Cyprus, but with a higher chronology. On Crete the prevalence of these basins falls up to LM IB, but on Cyprus use and consumption continues until the end of the Iron Age. Consequently, the spread could have taken place through Cypriot artisans, but the prototype is possibly Cretan. This thesis is corroborated by a comparison with basins from Tirinto, Gournià, Festòs and Vaphiò and the association of bronze basins with weapons, especially with swords.





Pugnali e daghe tipo Thapsos









By Leighton 1999, Tanasi 2009, Veca 2016, Nigro 2016, Vagnetti 2001

Sites	Context		Metal objects											
	Necropolis	Settlement						Bronzes		Forming molds	Ox-hide ingots	Work tools	Tableware	
			Swords	Spears	Arrows	Axes	Daggers	Armilla	Saltaleone				Basins	Cups
Caldare	x		x						CONTRACTOR OF				×	
Cannatello	l	×	×		2		1-			*	×			
Capreria	x		×										R.	
Colle S. Mauro	1	8	8				1			- X				
Cozzo del Pantano	x		х.		-		×			1				
Erbe Blanche		×				x						×		
Filicudi		×					10			×				
Grotta Maccarrone ?	x					×	2							× .
Lipari		×								×				
Matrensa	x		×		1		x		x				ж.	
Milena	x						x						<b>x</b> :	
Molinello				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·										
Mozia	x		x				R						-	
Ognina		×									×			
Panarea		×								×				
Paternò	5 S	×					1					x		
Plemmirio	x					×	x							
Thapsos	x	x	х	x	×	1	x	х	×		x?	x	<b>K</b> .	
Ustica		×	1		6		K.							



Sympozjum Egejskie. 9th Conference in Aegean Archaeology **METAL PRODUCTION AS EVIDENCE OF SOCIAL CHANGES AND INTERACTION BETWEEN THE AEGEAN WORLD AND SICILY IN THE SECOND MILLENNIUM BC** Flavia Maria Chiara Toscano\*, Fabrizio Lo Faro\*\*





A) Basin from tomb 66 of Enkomi; B) Basin from Tirinto and handles from Gournià, Festòs and Vaphiò; C) Basin double-handled from Dendra: D) Cup with low profile from Chanià (by Tanasi 2009).

<u>CONCLUSION</u>. The metal objects and their raw material have a symbolic or identity value connected with their use into the social community. Starting from a distributive study based on published finds of bronze objects dated to the Middle Bronze Age, a theoretical model which incorporates Sicily into a wider Mediterranean world-system finds links with the Aegean. Thapsos and Cannatello, above all, are major centres defined emporia in the literature and considered Mycenaean and/or Cypriot focal points. They are distribution centres, junctions between cultures and craftsmen and sites for raw material exchanges between the western and eastern part of the Mediterranean that involve not only Cyprus and Crete, but also Sardinia and the Iberian peninsula. During this period, people on Sicily, had understanding of this craft production, probably inherited from aegean people. It seems clear there was connectivity and a reciprocal exchange of materials as well as ideas. The archaeological data have recorded different external objects strictly linked with Crete and Cyprus, but it is impossibile to deny a local production and characterization. Sicily, in this period, became a central *hub* with stable contact with the Aegean.



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A) Basin from tomb 57 of Thapsos; B) Basin from thoslos B of Monte Campanella di Milena; C) Basins from tomb of Monte San Vincenzo di Caldare; D) Basins from Capreria (by Tanasi 2009).