ATLANTIC NETWORKS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

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History of Archaeology: the Durham Perspective
Workshop 17 May 2006
THE IDEA OF AN ATLANTIC BRONZE AGE

Studies from a internalist perspective:
- Vilaça 1995
- Bettencourt 1998
- Fernández-Posse 1998

Studies from a externalist perspective:
- Díaz-Andreu 1998

Historiographical issues related to the Atlantic Bronze Age:

- Is there a relation between archaeology and politics?

- Why Spain? Why Portugal? Relations between travels/contacts and the political situation. Implications for the research

- Is there, really, an Atlantic Bronze Age? The role played by modern ideologies in the interpretation of the past

- Why are there different developments in national archaeological traditions?
Proposals about the origin of the concept: R. J. Harrison

Harrison (2004: 9): “The concept of an Atlantic Bronze Age is a relatively recent creation, which emerged with real clarity after the pioneering book by Jacques Briard (1965) on the Breton metalwork and a succession of studies in Great Britain, Ireland, France and Iberia, culminating in the catalogues and synthetic accounts of Coffyn (1985) and Ruiz-Gálvez Priego (1986, 1991, 1998) for the regions that directly concern us. It is a convenient shorthand term for describing a cluster of bronze industries and societies flourishing in the later second millennium BC and which drew closer together in the early centuries of the first millennium (Jorge 1998)”.
The concept: an internalist perspective

- Julio Martínez Santa-Olalla (1942): “Escondrijo de la Edad del Bronce Atlántico en Huerta de Arriba (Burgos)”.
- Hubert N. Savory (1949): “The Atlantic Bronze Age in South-west Europe”.
An externalist perspective: sources

- Academic publications
- Archives in public institutions
- Private archives
Who?
EDWARD THURLOW LEEDS (Eyebury-Peterborough 1877 – Oxford 1955)

- 1908. Assistant Keeper in the Ashmolean Museum
- 1928. Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum and of the Department of Antiquities – retirement in 1945

- 1921. He was organising a new travel to North Spain and Portugal

EDWARD THURLOW LEEDS. Letters

Letters E.T. Leeds:
- To J. Bonsor: 3 letters (1914, 1919) in english (published by J. Maier)
- To F. Maciñeira: 4 letters (1914, 1920, 1921), 2 in french and 2 in spanish
Pere Bosch Gimpera (Barcelona 1891 – México 1974)

- 1916-1939. Professor at the University of Barcelona

-Founder of the Catalan School of Archaeology

_Etnologia de la Península Ibèrica_ (1932)

The beginning of the external relations:
The Atlantic via and the Mediterranean via

LLUÍS PERICOT GARCÍA (Barcelona 1899 – 1978)

- 1925-1927. Professor in the University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia)
- 1927-1933. Professor in the University of Valencia
- 1933-1969. Professor in the University of Barcelona


PERICOT ARCHIVE
Letters from V.G. Childe, C. Hawkes and other British Archaeologists. Being studied by M. Díaz-Andreu


- Leader of Spanish archaeology during the first years of the Franco regime
- Professor in Madrid, Zaragoza and Valencia
- Supervisor of Eoin MacWhite’s PhD about the Atlantic Bronze Age in Iberia (1947)
- Mediterranean Bronze Age vs. Atlantic Bronze Age. Differences explained from a chronological point of view

- 1945-47. Did his PhD in Madrid, funded by the National University of Ireland

- Relations with V.G. Childe
  - Mediterranean Bronze Age vs. Atlantic Bronze Age. Differences explained from a geographic and cultural perspective


HUBERT NEWMAN SAVORY (Oulton Broad-Norfolk 1911 – 2001)

- 1936-1938. Maclver Research Student in Iberian Archaeology at the Queen’s College, Oxford
- 1938. PhD: influence of continental cultures on the British Iron Age
- 1939. Assistant Keeper in the Department of Archaeology at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

- Returned several times to Spain and Portugal
- Took part in the excavations at the Copper Age fort at Vila Nova de S. Pedro (Portugal)


Articles and reviews about Iberian archaeology in Revista de Guimaraes (Portugal), Madrider Mitteilungen (DAI, Spain), Boletín del Seminario de Estudios de Arte y Arqueología (Spain), The Antiquaries Journal, etc.

-1949. Travel to Portugal funded by the British Council

Lecture in the University of Lisboa

Lecture in the University of Oporto, in French, about “Sacred monuments in Britain during the Neolithic and the beginnings of the Bronze Age”


- 1946-1972. Professor of European Archaeology at the University of Oxford

- 1957-58. Excavations in Iron Age hillforts of Northern Portugal


- The concept of “Atlantic Bronze Age” is a stimulus for the contacts between Iberian and British and Irish archaeologists.

- Social and political situations (dictatorships, World Wars I and II, etc.) are crucial to contextualize and to understand travels, contacts and conceptual developments.

- Why did Atlantic prehistoric relations interest to post-Roman archaeologists when they came to Iberia?

- Is there different speeds in the adoption, criticism or abandonment of the concept? What are the reasons?

- Future research of Atlantic relations during the Bronze Age should be supported in a good historical analysis.