

Call for papers

Archaeological legacies of the Swedish Cyprus Expedition: 100 years on

14–16 October 2027, Nicosia

Organised by The Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI), The Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus and The Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

Held in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden in Cyprus, SIMA and the Swedish Institute at Athens

Organising committee: Lindy Crewe, Giorgos Papasavvas, Jennifer Webb and Anna Satraki

From 1927–1931, the Swedish Cyprus Expedition (SCE), under the direction of Einar Gjerstad, conducted archaeological excavations on Cyprus. Their ambitious aim was to systematically investigate and classify the archaeology of Cyprus, from the Neolithic through to the Roman periods. The SCE excavated a total of 25 sites (including Gjerstad's 1923–1924 work published in 1926 as *Studies on Prehistoric Cyprus*), with much of the material exported to Sweden for study. They promptly began the process of publication, resulting in four volumes comprising nine monographs appearing over 38 years. The first volumes constituted the publication of the fieldwork (Volumes I–III, Gjerstad *et al.* 1934, 1935, 1937), followed by synthetic studies: the Cypro-Geometric, Cypro-Archaic and Classical periods (Volume IV.2, Gjerstad 1948); the Neolithic–Chalcolithic–Philia (Dikaios 1962) and the Early Cypriot Bronze Age (Stewart 1962) (Volume IV.1a); and the Middle–Late Cypriot Bronze Age periods (Åström *et al.* 1972, Volumes IV.1b–d).

These monumental works, exhibiting high standards of recording and presentation for the earlier 20th century, remain of inestimable value to archaeologists working on Cyprus today. Many of the excavated sites are now located within the occupied areas of Cyprus and the SCE publications may constitute the only archaeological reference for these areas. The aim of this conference is to explore the results of the excavations of 1927–1931 (including 1923–1924)—and the later material culture studies of the SCE—within the framework of current archaeological theories and methodologies: how their periodisation and typological constructs shaped archaeology on Cyprus, how interpretations have developed with the addition of more recent work, and the potential for further analyses these sites and materials hold.

We invite abstract submissions of a maximum 400 words for review by the organising committee. As the conference duration is limited to two days (plus a keynote lecture on the Thursday evening before Friday and Saturday presentations), papers will be selected by the organising committee based upon relevance to the aims of the conference and in accordance with the time available. Topics must be related to the excavations and publications of the SCE and we would like to ensure that each of the sites is included (see list below), either as chronological groupings or papers on a single site. Suggested themes include, but are not restricted to:

- Reinterpretations of specific sites, material culture types and chronological constructs
- The value of legacy data
- Site types and settlement patterns
- Digital applications for new interpretations
- Management and display of the collections.

Abstracts should be sent to librarian@caari.org.cy by 31 October 2026. Selection of presenters will take place by early December 2026.

Sites excavated by the SCE

Neolithic/Chalcolithic

Lapithos Alonia ton Plakon

Petra tou Limniti

Phrenaros

Kythrea

Bronze Age

Alambra

Kalopsidha

Nitovikla

Paleoskoutella

Ayios Sozomenos

Ayios Iakovos (and later periods)

Milia

Enkomi

Lapithos (and later periods)

Neta (not published)

Iron Age

Amathus

Ayia Irini

Marion

Idalion

Kition

Vouni

Soloi

Mersinaki

Kountoura-Trachonia

Stylli

Trachonas

Oura (not published)