

Contents

List of contributors.....	v
Acknowledgements.....	vii
Abbreviations.....	ix

1. Introduction: writing practices in socio-cultural context	1
<i>Philip J. Boyes, Philippa M. Steele and Natalia Elvira Astoreca</i>	
2. Towards a social archaeology of writing practices.....	19
<i>Philip J. Boyes</i>	
3. The lives of inscribed commemorative objects: the transformation of private personal memory in Mesopotamian temple contexts	37
<i>Nancy Highcock</i>	
4. A cognitive archaeology of writing: concepts, models, goals.....	55
<i>Karenleigh A. Overmann</i>	
5. The materiality of the Cretan Hieroglyphic script: textile production-related referents to hieroglyphic signs on seals and sealings from Middle Bronze Age Crete	73
<i>Marie-Louise Nosch and Agata Ulanowska</i>	
6. Visual dimensions of Maya hieroglyphic writing: meanings beyond the surface.....	101
<i>Christian M. Prager</i>	
7. Visibility of runic writing and its relation to Viking Age Society.....	125
<i>Julia-Sophie Heier</i>	
8. Words beyond writings: how to decrypt the secret writings of the masters of psalmody (Yunnan, China)?.....	143
<i>Aurélie Névot</i>	

9. A script ‘good to drink’. The invention of writing systems among the Sora and other tribes of India.....	159
<i>Cécile Guillaume-Pey</i>	
10. Why did people in medieval Java use so many different script variants?	185
<i>A.J. West</i>	
11. Cultures of writing: rethinking the ‘spread’ and ‘development’ of writing systems in the Bronze Age Mediterranean	209
<i>Theodore Nash</i>	
12. Script, image and culture in the Maya world: a southeastern perspective.....	231
<i>Kathryn M. Hudson and John S. Henderson</i>	
13. Writing and elite status in the Bronze Age Aegean	249
<i>Sarah Finlayson</i>	
14. Why $\mu\epsilon$? Personhood and agency in the earliest Greek inscriptions (800–550 BC).....	269
<i>James Whitley</i>	
15. Names and authorship in the beginnings of Greek alphabetic writing	289
<i>Natalia Elvira Astoreca</i>	
16. Marking identity through graphemes? A new look at the Sikel arrow-shaped <i>alpha</i>	303
<i>Olga Tribulato and Valentina Mignosa</i>	
Bibliography.....	333