



OEAI FELLOWS LECTURE SERIES

# THE GOLD TREASURES OF TROY

## INDICATORS FOR THE SOCIO-CULTURAL IMPACT OF GOLD AND THE CONNECTIVITY OF RISING ELITES IN THE 3RD MILLENIUM BC

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Refreshments to follow

Aside from sporadic finds from the 5th and 4th millennia BC, the evidence for gold in the Aegean and Anatolia increases during the beginning of the EBA 1 period. Along with this development, fortified settlements appear at the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC. This leads to the assumption that socio-cultural changes took place in these societies during this early period, with the gradual emergence of early hierarchical structures eventually resulting in the first proto-urban centers in the developed EBA 2. Accompanying this development is the first evidence in the Aegean and in Western Anatolia for the practice of hoarding prestige objects. The most impressive example of this practice is the famous gold treasures of the EBA settlements of Troy in Western Anatolia dating mainly between c. 2500-2000 BC. Interestingly, gold treasures with typologically comparable objects were found at Poliochni on Lemnos and Eskiypar in Central Anatolia. Moreover, distinct gold elements indicate far-reaching communication and trade networks from the Aegean to the Indus region and enable us to reveal interactions between emerging elites in the Early Bronze Age.