Old World Archaeology lost one of its sharpest minds with the passing of Machteld Johanna Mellink on 24 February 2006. An expert in classics, classical archaeology, Aegean Prehistory and Near Eastern Studies her primary contribution to the field has been to define Anatolian Studies, to demonstrate the strength of Anatolia's independent cultures and political entities. She coined an Anatolian perspective, a vantage point from which neighbouring areas could be viewed. She was, however, equally at home in Greece, Cyprus or Syria as attested by her reputation beyond any political or academic borders. Throughout her career she succeeded in her characteristic matter-of-fact manner to combine first rate, meticulous scholarship with diligent, inspiring and generous teaching while at the same time taking on demanding administrative responsibilities. She stands out as one of the few who excelled in combining active field-work with a steady output of publications. She also stands out because of her commitment to the ethics of the field, a domain where she set international standards. A woman of great ability, personal integrity and endowed with an unfailing sense of humor, Machteld Johanna Mellink will continue to inspire generations to come.

AMSTERDAM

Born in Amsterdam on the 26th of October 1917 as the second of three children, Mellink began her studies at the University of Amsterdam receiving a B.A. degree in 1938 and an M.A. in 1941. Due to wartime difficulties in the occupied Netherlands, she earned her doctorate from the University of Utrecht in 1943, at the age of 26. In her dissertation on the origin and manifestations of the Greek myth of Hyakinthos, she navigates between Greek mythology, Mesopotamian legend, and Minoan cult already defining the wide angle and area of her later research and interest.

She remained a Dutch citizen all her life travelling with a Dutch passport in spite of her intellectual and actual habitat in the United States. Halet Çambel, 'a companion in the trenches' wrote in her lecture for the Symposium on Topics in Anatolian Archaeology in Honor of Machteld J. Mellink (Istanbul, June 20th 1998; also in this volume p.63):

"I have known, admired and have been deeply impressed by three Dutch scholars, Henry Frankfort, the distinguished authority on Near Eastern Archaeology, who conducted the renowned seminars on Near Eastern Studies in the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Emily Haspels, authority on Greek vase painting, excavator of Midas City, the last of the, great travellers in Anatolia, and Machteld J. Mellink, of my own generation, all three very special personalities, who spent most of their
professional lives abroad, away from their homeland, but never gave up their nationality, and who in times of need did all they could for their country and its citizens, at the risk of their own life and health."

During the war years Mellink joined the Dutch Resistance and actively opposed the injustice of the Nazi regime in her country. She got involved in forging documents to save lives risking her own. This selfless courage remained her defining trait for the rest of her life. Perhaps it was the Resistance years that shaped her as one who never talked about herself or any of her accomplishments let aside brave deeds.

**BRYN MAWR**

Mellink came to Bryn Mawr College first in 1946-47 as Resident Scholar in Classical Archaeology and Merion Reilly Fellow of the International Federation of University Women. She spent the summer of 1947 at the University of Chicago with a Ryerson Grant. Encouraged by Henry Frankfort at Chicago, whom she greatly admired, she joined in fall 1947 the excavations at Tarsus-Gözlükule in Cilicia directed by Hetty Goldman under the auspices of Bryn Mawr College and worked in the field until 1949. While in Tarsus she received the invitation to join the faculty of Bryn Mawr College in 1949.

With a sense for the history of archaeology in this institution, Mellink maintained Bryn Mawr College’s strong tradition in Archaeology and developed it further when she was elected chairman of the Archaeology Department and re-elected for 28 years from 1955 to 1983. When she and renowned classicist Mabel Lang were honored by Bryn Mawr College in 1988 in acknowledgement of their retirement, Mellink gave a speech on the tradition of Bryn Mawr Archaeologists and the Near East. It is her legacy that the department was expanded in 1959-60 to include the Near Eastern realm, as of then firmly embedded in the official designation Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology. In 1972 Mellink received the Leslie Clark Chair of Humanities. A fierce protector of the Department’s non-circulating Seminar rooms with their regionally organized libraries, which were modeled after European Institutes and their Seminaries, she combined class-room teaching with training in the field. Mellink regularly sent her students to Gordion, Hattusha, Troy and took them along to her own excavation in Lycia, which she conducted as a graduate field seminar. There, she was notorious for instructing exhausted students in Homer readings late into the evening. Her disciplined but patient teaching and advising has produced generations of scholars who are now in leading positions of the field literally around the globe. She was mentor and friend to many of them, following their careers with interest. Mellink received the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1975. She was honored by colleagues and students with a Festschrift on ancient Anatolia in 1986. B. R. Foster concludes his review of this book stating “The contributions, ..., are notably more significant than the normal festschrift fare are, in the words of the gracefully written and penetrating introduction a fitting tribute to Machteld Mellink’s vision.”

Machteld J. Mellink remained Professor Emerita in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology of Bryn Mawr College until her final days.

**TARSUS**

As a young scholar Mellink had her first introduction to field-work in the Eastern Mediterranean in Cilicia, Tarsus-Gözlükule, an experience which was to have lasting consequences. She arrived in the Fall of 1947 by boat via Beirut to join Theresa Goell and others at the site. She had been eager to meet and work with the director of the dig, but unfortunately that autumn, Hetty Goldman was held back from the field due to brain surgery, so Mellink had to begin work in Tarsus unsupervised. In 1947
the excavations had already reached and recovered the Early Bronze Age levels. The duties of the new Dutch member of the team included the study and analysis of the Early Bronze Age pottery in storage, dug before the War, as well as participation in the final phase of excavation: the sounding that went through EBA I, Chalcolithic, into the Neolithic beginnings of the mound. The resulting careful analysis of the EBA pottery compiled in typed notes, provided Goldman with the basic evidence for the final publication of volume 2 of Excavations at Gözlü Kule, Tarsus, and Mellink with a lifelong interest in developments of the Early Bronze Age which she would eventually pursue on her own. Mellink was further asked to contribute the chapter on Neolithic and Chalcolithic pottery for the same volume which was published in 1956.

In the 1965 edition of Robert Ehrich’s Chronologies in Old World Archaeology Mellink succeeded Goldman in contributing the Anatolian chapter. Her reconstruction of Anatolian chronology which she spun around a Cilician core has since provided students and specialists with a systematic arrangement of evidence against which new data and observations were measured. Following in the footsteps of Goldman she published in the course of the next three decades several articles on Tarsian stratigraphy and connections in which she devised strings of chronological synchronisms with East and West that hinged on Cilician stratified finds with which she was intimately familiar. In the end, Mellink recorded her esteem, admiration and appreciation for Hetty Goldman, her role model one dare say, in the biographical chapter on Goldman, which she co-authored for a book called Breaking Ground-Pioneering Women Archaeologists.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The second academic institution which provided Mellink with an intellectual home was the University of Pennsylvania with the University Museum. Located in close proximity to Bryn Mawr, she was able to regular visit and to cooperate with many faculty members. Her interaction effected students as well, she encouraged Bryn Mawr students to learn Ancient Near Eastern languages, including Hittite, at the University Museum. In 1950, a year after the launch of graduate program in Classical Archaeology, the University Museum was granted the permit to excavate the mound identified with Gordion and the surrounding tumuli under the direction of Rodney S. Young. Mellink joined the team early on and maintained her ties to Gordion through the 1990's both in her own publication and as mentor to the next generation of scholars.

The University of Pennsylvania honored her twice. She was conferred an honorary degree (LL. D. degree) on the occasion of the University Museum Centennial Celebration in 1987. In 1994 she received the Lucy Wharton Drexel Medal for Archaeological Achievement from the University of Pennsylvania.

GORDION

In the 1950's Mellink participated in Young's team at Gordion, the capital city of the Phrygians. Together with Jeanny Vorys Canby, she dug an extramural cemetery with mostly early second-millennium pithos burials and published the results as a monograph, "A Hittite Cemetery at Gordion" in 1956. As the excavations continued to recover the material remains of an hitherto little known culture she developed a keen interest in Phrygians as a historical people of the Anatolian Iron Age world, in the same league as the Assyrians, Urartians, and early Greeks. She became particularly involved in the reconstruction and study of Phrygian pseudo-funerary wall painting discovered in a building on Yassihöyük in the mid 1950's. The Gordion material which she concentrated on, in a way anticipated the main features of her future work: Bronze Age burial pithoi and archaic funerary wall painting were to become the hall-
mark of her own work in Lycia a decade later. Throughout her career Mellink contributed to piecing together Phrygian archaeology and history, and to defining Phrygian art and architecture with a number of articles. Intrigued by Phrygian alphabetic writing, she followed the deciphering of their indigenous language with every new inscription and drew attention to linguistic signals of Phrygian independent adoption of the alphabet.

In 1990 her student, friend and colleague Sevim Büloğlu, then at the Middle Eastern Technical University, organized a Phrygian Symposium in honour of Mellink, Akurgal and Bittel in conjunction with a memorable trip to the Phrygian Highlands. Eskişehir University participated as the host institution and awarded Mellink an honorary doctorate.

LUKKA/LYCIA

In the sixties Mellink embarked on her own field project in the plain of Elmali in Lycia, which was then, in terms of prehistory, terra incognita. She records in the preface to the first volume of the final publication Elmali-Karataş I “The purpose of the enterprise was to investigate the prehistory and Bronze Age history of Lycia in southwestern Anatolia, where ... physical remains of prehistoric sites remain elusive.”

In contrast to many others who would have begun work at the largest site in the plain, she picked the shallow mound of a small village for her investigations. This choice allowed her to gain insights into the entire extent of the site. She was also fortunate to locate the various cemeteries of the village which had been in use over centuries. Excavations at the mound of Karataş in the Elmali plain started in 1963 and continued through 1975.

The uncovered remains belonged to a fortified mansion around which developed an Early Bronze Age settlement of rectangular, free-standing houses. She explains in the preface to the second volume of the final publication Elmali-Karataş II “The main archaeological contribution of the village houses is their exclusive representation of the ’megaron’ (a term used without apologies throughout the Karataş series) plan in the continuous series of periods Karataş IV-VI, chronologically parallel with stages of the Troy I as well as Troy II sequence. The present volume... expects to be helpful to students of the megaron problem and the typology of West Anatolian houses in prehistoric and historical sites and epochs.”

The site also provided ample material for study which was related to Cilicia and the Troad, found in a stratified deposition.

The cemeteries of Karataş containing hundreds of jar burials added a new chapter to Western Anatolian burial customs and the beginnings of social stratification. Mellink drew attention to the incised pictographs on some of the pithoi, one of which she identified as a regional type of wooden grain storage structure related in appearance to a similar sign impressed on the Phaistos Disk from Crete. This pictograph she selected as the vignette of the final publication series.

In addition to these planned investigations, in 1969 reports of recent looting of tombs in the vicinity with serious damage forced Mellink to act swiftly and decidedly. Within weeks she began the rescue excavation of two painted tomb chambers in tumuli, Kızılbel and Karaburun, near Elmali. Up until her last year in the field she oversaw the restoration and conservation work led by Italian experts and continued by Turkish colleagues including the construction of a protective structure to preserve the paintings and prolong their life-expectancy. In the final publication of Kızılbel she places the archaic painted tomb chamber in context of ancient mural painting: “The Elmali plain with its recent revelations of major and minor arts in its tumuli of the seventh and sixth centuries is beginning to reveal the survival and vigor of
West Anatolian cultural and artistic traditions. The traditions and their stylistic idiom had their effect on the birth of East Greek art. In the other direction, the Iron Age Anatolian surviving art began to respond to the art of the Ionian cities and sanctuaries. The complexity of the ethnic and cultural traditions mingling in sites from Ephesus to Sardis, Gordian and North Lycia is beginning to come to light by the excavations of tumuli.

Mellink counteracted looting regionally and in the field, and further was an early advocate for international controls over the traffic in illegally obtained antiquities, was in the forefront of archaeologists in the USA who objected to the purchase and display of unprovenanced artifacts by museums. She was instrumental in many ways in the retrieval of the pillaged treasures from several tumuli in the neighboring Lydian region. Lawrence M. Kaye, one of the New York attorneys representing the Turkish Republic testified to Mellink's role in the recovery of the treasure from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York during the Symposium on Topics in Anatolian Archaeology (June 20th, 1998) "It was universally thought that it would be impossible to regain, but all of those people were not aware of Machield. ...360 pieces were identified and returned, ...where they now can be seen in the Uşak Museum. When we thought we wouldn't be able to do it, Machield's energy got us through."

After the treasure returned to the area of its origin, Mellink continued her efforts to reframe the recovered objects within the Anatolian Iron Age discourse. She features as one of the core contributors of the publication: "Heritage Recovered-The Lydian Treasure" which presents the treasure in the context of burials in tumuli, with painted tomb chambers and precious burial gifts.

Machield J. Mellink's publications on Lycian affairs and the publications of her students in form of articles and dissertations have provided the scholar of the ancient Eastern Mediterranean within one generation after the first expedition to the Elmalı plain with a wealth of information and insight that will have an impact for many generations to come. With Homer as her favoured reading companion Mellink's mind and heart were at home in Lycia. Linking her insights into second millennium Luikka based on Hittite records, to Lycian inscriptions and Homeric references concerning Lycians and their role as the leading allies of the Trojans, she continued her investigations of Bronze Age Lycia beyond her own field-work. Her contribution to Emily T. Vermeule's Festschrift ends with her pleading for "proper rehabilitation of the historical reality behind the world of Sarpedon and Glaukos, and Bellerophon and his father-in-law and a call for a "Xanthos valley project of Bronze Age focus setting new horizons for future research."

**TROIA**

Mellink never dug herself at Troia-Hisark, but she may as well have. Her training in Homeric studies and interest to understand Aegean and West Anatolian Bronze Age developments brought her to the Troad regularly. The first volume of the Blegen era final publication which documented the American excavations at the mound, came out a few years after Mellink had entered Anatolia as a field, just in time to provide her with detailed new information about the site, feeding her curiosity for the next few decades. She contributed to the Trojan discussion with review articles of all final publication volumes for the American Journal of Archaeology.

In the 1981 annual meeting of the American Institute of Archaeology Mellink and Güterbock presented papers in tandem discussing the state of the 'Abhiyawa-Achaian question' on philological and archaeological grounds respectively. These papers presented a base of departure for a whole series of new archaeological investigations in West Anatolia, that were conceived and
carried out in the course of the 1980's and 90's. Three years later, on the occasion of Bryn Mawr College's centennial celebrations, Miss Mellink organized a symposium on "Troy and the Trojan War" inviting former members of the Blegen team as well as Manfred Korfmann, the future director of the third installment of excavations which began three years later. In the postscript to the conference she synthesizes the state of research in archaeology, philology, ancient history and the epic tradition until that date expressing hope that eventually some historical evidence would surface among the prehistoric bulk. Mellink was one of the masterminds in the preparation and realization of the latest Trojan field expedition and remained a loyal partner of the project, with her visits at the end of each season eagerly awaited. The investigations carried out by a dynamic multi-national and interdisciplinary team owe much to her careful observations and continued intellectual support.

Her involvement with the site and the multiple levels of questions to be answered, remained one of the constants of her archaeological activities over the years.

HATTUSHA

Hittite Archaeology was of paramount interest to Mellink throughout her career. She nurtured a relationship of mutual esteem with the Dean of Hittite Studies Kurt Bittel who dedicated his article in her Festschrift to a highly respected colleague, and she maintained dialogue and friendship with American Hittitologist Hans G. Güterbock. In her article in Güterbock's Festschrift, on Hittite friezes and gate sculptures, she records that "the study of Hittite sculpture for this writer began with a guided tour through the large hall of the Belesian where the honored recipient of this volume had recently finished the installation of the sculptures."

She regularly paid visits to Hattusha/Boğazköy updating herself about the results of excavation. She initiated and was instrumental in having Bryn Mawr College invite Kurt Bittel, long time director of excavations and eminent Anatolian scholar, as the Mary Flexner Lecturer to the College. Bittel delivered six lectures about Hattusha which were then published in English by Oxford University Press. Bittel, generally frugal with praise and aggrandizing words acknowledges Mellink's help in the preface of the book as follows "I am deeply indebted to Professor Machteki J. Mellink of the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology. From the day of my arrival in Bryn Mawr to the completion of the printing of this book, which without her unfailing care and great patience could never have been published, she helped me in the kindest way. For this I most warmly thank her". The book remains a classic to introduce students, especially those with little or no German skills, to the Hittite capital even in the face of more then two generations of excavation after its publication.

A keen follower of David J. Hawkins's progress in deciphering and reading Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions it was one of her greatest joys to join him on location in Bogazköy, for example in front of the long time illegible Nişantaş inscription.

Mellink's undergraduate and graduate teaching included Hittite Archaeology on a regular basis introducing countless of American and international students to Central Anatolian traditions, archives and debating their ramifications.

BEYOND ANATOLIA

Mellink was not exclusively involved in Anatolian affairs. Her background in classics and classical archaeology provided her with a firm base on which to found her in depth knowledge of Aegean Studies. Minoan archaeology remained one of her favoured teaching topics. She followed with great interest developments in Cypriote Archaeology and contributed occasionally to debates in form of arti-
icles or reviews of Cypriote publications. Together with Jan Filip, Mellink was entrusted the preparation of the Propyläen Kunstgeschichte volume on prehistoric art "Frühe Stufen der Kunst" which appeared in the mid 1970's. Her chapter on the beginnings of art in the Eastern Mediterranean and Near Eastern region witnesses her wide horizon, especially in the field of early Aegean art. Another field, then in the making, which commanded her enthusiasm was Hurrian studies. Particularly interested in this, archaeologically until quite recently somewhat elusive people through her Cilician "upbringing", where Hurrians constitute a large part of the population, she contemplated their influence on Hittite culture. Her article on Hurrian Art in the Reallexikon der Assyriologie remained for a long time the main source where one began investigations into this subject.

**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY**

The first review article for the American Journal of Archaeology Mellink wrote half a century ago, in 1950. Reviews remained one of her favoured form of written communication. Her reviews, often the caliber of an article, would not only introduce a publication, but discuss it in all relevant aspects, initiating debate. Her choice of books to be reviewed, reflected what she considered to be noteworthy, so that reading her reviews one was exposed from Aghios Kosmas in Attica to Mari in southeastern Syria, and the most important publications in between.

The journal further became a forum for her to internationally advocate the archaeological heritage of Turkey and current research about it. This was mainly achieved by her widely acclaimed and lasting contribution, the annual review article of Archaeology in Turkey. Before, archaeological work in Turkey was covered in the AJA within the so-called Archaeological Digest, where principal periodicals of the field were reviewed on a regular basis. Mellink introduced her own format first, in 1955, and continued her reports for 35 years. Her introductory preface to the recent state of excavations, and recent publications distilled for the reader the importance of new discoveries and new directions in research. With this annual article she created a school, a tradition that guided for many generations students of Anatolian studies internationally.

Mellink was elected president of the American Institute of Archaeology to serve between 1980-1981. The AJA awarded Mellink with the Gold Medal for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement in 1991. She was the 26th American scholar to be honored in this way. In 2001 the American Institute of Archaeology established in her honor the Machtejd J. Mellink Lecture in Near Eastern Archaeology.

**TURKEY**

Mellink was a regular visitor to several Turkish universities, especially attached to the academic environments of both the Ankara and Istanbul Universities. She cultivated long standing friendships with colleagues of both institutions. In Istanbul, she made a point of going by the Prehistoric laboratory which she always praised and admired explicitly. She promoted Halef Cambel as a role model for future academics in Turkey praising her independent mind, courage and outspoken attitude in the face of challenge and difficulties. Mellink once described her as a scholar of the caliber that Atatürk wanted to instill in the Turkish nation. In Ankara, Tahsin and Nimet Özgüç provided her with a home. Her friendship to and appreciation for the Özgüç's did endure decades and is reflected in her joining the editorial committee of both of their Festschriften. Mellink collaborated with Nimet Özgüç when it was brought to light that a group of ivory inlays, formerly thought to be of North Syria, originated from the mound of Acemhöyük, an identification confirmed by similar discoveries from the excavations at this mound led by Nimet Özgüç. Her intellectual
Asit ÖZYAR  -  İkkürr ÖZGEN

Mellink was from the beginning perhaps the most loyal attendant of the Ministry of Cultures annual Excavation Reports Symposium held traditionally in Ankara, more recently in varying locations throughout Turkey. She is best remembered for consistently sitting close to the projecting screen, all week long, through all presented periods, and taking notes in the dark for her annual review article in the A|A, with the aid of a small torch. Through her diligent reporting prefaced by the enlightening introductions that all in the field cherished, she transposed, literally transported, the Symposium to a world wide platform.

The Ministry of Culture of Turkey acknowledged her as Senior American Excavator in Turkey in 1984, and then as Senior Foreign Archaeologist in Turkey in 1985.

THE PERSON

Mellink had served as the president of the AJA (1988-1991) and was Trustee of the American Society of Oriental Research. She had been a prominent member of the international community of scholars: she was a Member of the American Philosophical Society, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Research Associate of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, and Corresponding Member of the Turkish Institute of History, the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, the German Archaeological Institute, and the Austrian Archaeological Institute. These affiliations, however, are not what distinguish her from other successful colleagues in the field.

Miss Mellink’s erudition was beyond imagination to all who witnessed her. In the words of Emily T. Vermeule “Miss Mellink has been for years that most difficult of role models for young women, an energetic polyglot polymath. It’s so daunting. I tried to tell her once that there was no point in reading everything at once, that you should save, for example Thasos or Zanthos for a time when you needed it and then read it all at once, she answered acerbically, ‘How do you know you don’t need it right now, if you haven’t read it?’ And so she has always read everything, in every language, every day of every year, and what is worse, she has remembered it.’”

As a publishing scholar, she was a master of the written word. Her writing remains famed for its brilliant clarity and brevity without embellishment, a result of true insight and organized thinking.

As an archaeologist, she was a master in establishing historical and prehistorical connections, regional and diachronical. She excelled in presenting all stratigraphic and ceramic matters in a such a way that the people whose traces we study regained face and mind.

As a teacher, she was patient, disciplined, considerate and provided students, young and old, with care and advice when needed. We, her students, knew her warmth and the personal attention she gave to everyone of us, at all times. She made one feel special and an accomplice.

As a person, she was endowed with a strong character, independent thinking, gifted with the highest intellectual faculties, had a strong dislike of greed and personal benefit, and opposed injustice, consistently, throughout her life.

She was in a class of her own with very few to join her league. Besides, she had humour, and enjoyed a good dose of mischief as the many stories and anecdotes cherished by her friends and colleagues will testify.

Machteld J. Mellink balanced the multiple threads that made up her scholarly life so naturally, in such harmony and seemingly with such ease, that one may be tempted to do it all, as well. Alas, merely to retrace her steps would
need a number of good people working together, to continue her legacy will require scores of well equipped specialists, whom she fortunately raised in large quantities. One of her last wishes was that her ashes be returned to her archaeological homeland, the Elmali plain in ancient Lycia. Her presence will be dearly missed. May she rest in peace.

De archaeologia merere

Publications of Machteid J. Mellink

MELINK, M.J.
1986 From the introduction to her Festschrift: Ancient Anatolia. Essays in Honor of Machteid J. Mellink, J.V. CANBY, E. PORADA, B.S. RIDGWAY, T. STECH, The University of Wisconsin Press, IX.
1986 Troy and the Trojan War. Byyn Mawr, PA.
1992 Elmali-Karatas I. The Neolithic and Chalcolithic Periods: Baghça and other Sites. ESLICK Ch., Byyn Mawr, PA, III.
1994 Elmali-Karataş II. The Early Bronze Age Village of Karataş. WARNER J., Byyn Mawr, PA, III.
BITTEL, K., MELINK, M.J.
TOWNSEND, E. T., MELINK, M.J.

Fig. 1: In Istanbul, in front of the Süleymaniye Mosque in October 2000. (Photo: Courtesy of Prof. Dr. Rainer M. Boehmer).
Fig. 2: Macneil j. Mellink in her youth in Holland. (Photo: Courtesy of Mellink Family Archives).

Fig. 3: M.J. Mellink and Dr. P. A. Mountjoy in Troy.