

CRETE

by Todd Whitelaw and Catherine Morgan

Publications: M. Andreadaki-Vlazaki, G. Rethemiotakis and N. Dimopoulou-Rethemiotakis (eds), *From the Land of the Labyrinth: Minoan Crete, 3000–1100 BC* (Athens, Ministry of Culture 2008); H. Hughes-Brock with J. Boardman, *Oxford. The Ashmolean Museum. Corpus der minoischen und mykenischen Siegel* (Mainz am Rhein, von Zabern 2009); J. Phillips, *Aegyptiaca on the Island of Crete in their Chronological Context: a Critical Review* (Vienna, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften 2008); A. Xenaki-Sakellariou, *Iraklion archäologisches Museum: Sammlung Giamalakis. Corpus der minoischen und mykenischen Siegel* (Mainz am Rhein, von Zabern 2007).

EASTERN CRETE (Nomos of Lasithi)
(24th EPCA: 13th EBA)**DEMOS OF ITANOS**

Palaikastro. L.H. Sackett (BSA/Groton) reports on a further study season. A team of environmental specialists worked on flotation material, including charcoal, shells, foraminifera, seeds (grape, lentil and olive) and bone, as well as other fragments such as plaster. An unusual lead ring bezel recognized from building 5 may be a companion piece to the gold ring with hunt scene from the same area.

Zakros. E. Platon (ASA/Athens) reports (*Ergon* [2008], 124–26) on a study season focused on pottery from excavations conducted by N. Platon in the M palace and town of Kato Zakros.

Pottery from rooms 44 and 45 of the S workshop sector comprises coarse household ware, strengthening the interpretation of the assemblage as linked to the production and storage of foodstuffs and other goods. The relatively few examples of LMIB painted ware were accompanied by animal bones, including jawbones of ovicaprids and bovinds. The pottery from areas 70 and 71 in the E wing comprises undecorated vessels for the storage of liquids. In the town, the pottery retained from building Θ was studied. The discovery of part of a probable LMII Ephyrean goblet from the area immediately N of the building shows that the area was reoccupied almost immediately following the destruction of the settlement and the palace at the end of LMIB, and that there were links with Knossos, from where table vessels of high quality were imported. Pottery from the upper terrace on the slope of Ag. Antonios included vessels for liquids, mostly handleless conical cups and kyathoi, many preserved more or less intact. This supports N. Platon's interpretation that the artificial terraces constructed from large unworked stones were used as a kind of open-air sanctuary.

DEMOS OF SITEIA

Mochlos. J. Soles (ASCSA/ North Carolina) and C. Davaras (Athens) report on a further study season. Experimental pottery production continued with the M potter's wheel reconstructed in the artisans' quarter. Site conservation was completed for large parts of building C.7 and house C.3; the Prepalatial remains along the S façade of C.7 were also consolidated and left exposed to view.

Publication: J. Soles, *Mochlos IIA: Period IV: the Mycenaean Settlement and Cemetery: the Sites* (Philadelphia, INSTAP 2008).

Papadiokambos. C. Sophianou (24th EPCA) reports on fieldwork at this M harbour town between the Mirabello and Siteia bays.

The excavation and conservation of house A.1 at the W end of the settlement was completed, and a ground-penetrating radar survey of the surrounding yard undertaken (**Fig. 111**). Ten rooms were uncovered on the ground floor (ca. 80–90% of the original plan): the undisturbed collapsed upper storey will allow for an unusually detailed understanding of the layout and contents of the upstairs rooms. House A.1 has 2 architectural phases, the 2nd of which is LMIB, though probably not as late as the F LMIB phase identified at other sites in E Crete. The 1st phase of the house, dated to MMIIIB/LMIA, ended with the Theran eruption.

In area B, trenches were opened in house B.1, 150m SE of area A. House B.1 is a more impressive construction than house A.1, both in terms of its architecture and the finds, which include a copper ingot fragment and a pithos stamped 10 times with 2 different seals.

All visible walls were mapped in areas B, C and D, which probably includes the centre and E end of the M town (**Fig. 111**). The town appears to cover 4–8ha. Geological studies were aimed at reconstructing the BA landscape and the geological and tectonic events that may have been factors in the destruction and preservation of the site. In area D, waves have exposed a thick layer of tephra from the BA Theran eruption, which covers M walls and pottery.

The first stage of the pottery study of house A.1 has been completed. Samples were collected from all ceramic and many stone objects (600 artefacts) and 100 samples chosen for the final organic residue study. More than 400 soil flotation samples have now been sorted and studied. House A.1 produced an exceptional record for the preparation and consumption of shellfish and fish, while soil samples from the hearths and jars from houses A.1 and B.1 contain a rich collection of carbonized plant remains (olive, legumes, grape, fig and almond). Preliminary studies of the artefacts and ecofacts suggest that the inhabitants produced small amounts of olive oil and wine in the houses.

Pseira. P.P. Betancourt (ASCSA/Temple) and C. Davaras (Athens) report on fieldwork focused on mapping the geology of Pseira and the quarries used by the Minoans.

Three major quarry areas have been identified on the island, of which 2 were used to quarry metacarbonate, an altered limestone with a layered structure that breaks easily into slabs, and the 3rd produced hard and compact dark gray limestone. Other small areas where stones were removed from bedrock have also been identified. These materials were used differently in the architecture of the town. The metacarbonate was used primarily for floor slabs, thresholds and staircases, while the dark gray limestone was used for load-bearing walls. These 2 materials, plus mud-brick, formed the major components of the Pseiran houses, along with smaller amounts of other stones, including sandstone quarried from the coast near mod. Mochlos and a crystallized limestone from an unknown location.

DEMOS OF LEUKE

SE Crete, Archaeological Land Survey. S. Apostolou (Director, 24th EPCA) and N. Schlager (Austrian Institute/Vienna) report on the 2008 survey season, a continuation of a collaborative project begun in 1996 (see AR 43 [1996–1997], 117–18) and continued in 2000.