CRETE (PREHISTORIC)

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Publications of fieldwork continue to appear slowly, but the latest volume of *ADelt* for Crete, covering the years 2001–2004, appeared in print in summer 2012 (*ADelt* 56–59 [2001–2004] B5). Inevitably, given the years covered, some of the activity summarized in this volume has already been noted in *AG* and brief notices of some appears in the decadal summary of the activities of all the prehistoric and Classical ephorias (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes; *AR* 58 [2011–2012] 58). Emphasis here is on those activities not already noted in *AG* or those where significant new information appears in the new volume of *ADelt*. The second meeting on *Archaeological Work on Crete* (*AWiC*2), alluded to last year (*AR* 58 [2011–2012] 58), has been published and can be read online through the University of Crete's Library (http://elocus.lib.uoc.gr/dlib/d/0/5/metadata-dlib-1368695830-557833-31681.tkl#). A third meeting is scheduled for December 2013 and will hopefully be made accessible with equally commendable promptness. The proceedings of the *Tenth International Cretological Congress* held in Chania in 2006 (see *AR* 53 [2006–2007] 96) are still to appear in print, although e-offprints of individual contributions continue to circulate. New material in this year's entry is therefore drawn primarily from *ADelt* 56–59 (2001–2004) B5 and *AWiC*2.

Publications

The past year has seen a number of significant publications on prehistoric Crete, including the proceedings of several conferences. The publication by the BSA of *Intermezzo: Intermediacy and Regeneration in Middle Minoan III Palatial Crete* (Macdonald and Knappett [2013]), containing papers presented at a workshop held in 2008, complements volumes noted last year (*AR* 58 [2011–2012] 58) on Late Minoan IB ceramics (Brogan and Hallager [2011]) and on the Prepalatial and Protopalatial periods (Early Minoan to Middle Minoan II) (Schoep *et al*. [2011]). Although the focus on a single period (MMIII) might seem excessively narrow, it is a critical period, during which developments occurred that set the scene for what many regard as the heyday of Minoan Crete. Taken together, the three volumes facilitate a much improved understanding of socio-cultural developments on Crete from the later third to the mid second millennium BC, particularly in offering better correlations (especially Brogan and Hallager [2011]; Macdonald and Knappett [2013]) between archaeological sequences at sites excavated in different traditions and over many years. As a result, the potential to understand the emergence, development and (apparent) collapse of the first complex polities on the island is greatly enhanced. The absolute dating of the Thera/Santorini eruption (for example Warburton [2009]), however, a key to definitively calibrating the Minoan sequence to that in Egypt and the Near East (a topic treated in a recent Austrian PhD thesis: Höflmayer [2012]), still eludes consensus.

It is pleasing to note in the above volumes the substantial contribution of younger generations of Minoan archaeologists, particularly in relation to the study of older material as well as recent finds at Phaistos, Agia Triada and Malia, and also at newly-excavated sites such as Petras, Sisi and Gaidourophas (see below), to name a few. As a result of programmes of study and re-study, supported by regional investigation and crucially coupled with prompt publication, sites like Phaistos, Agia Triada and Malia are arguably better understood than Knossos, despite over a century of investigation there. Early-career scholars are also to the fore in another recent conference volume: *Minoan Realities: Approaches to Images, Architecture, and Society in the Aegean Bronze Age* (Panagiotopoulos and Günkel-Maschek [2013]) containing seven papers from a workshop which took place in November 2009 at the University of Heidelberg. Finally, it is partly due to the commitment of a younger colleague that a worthy companion to the Aegean collection in the Ashmolean Museum (covering all its aspects: its history, Cycladic, Minoan, Mycenaean, scripts and seals) has been published (Galanakis [2013]).

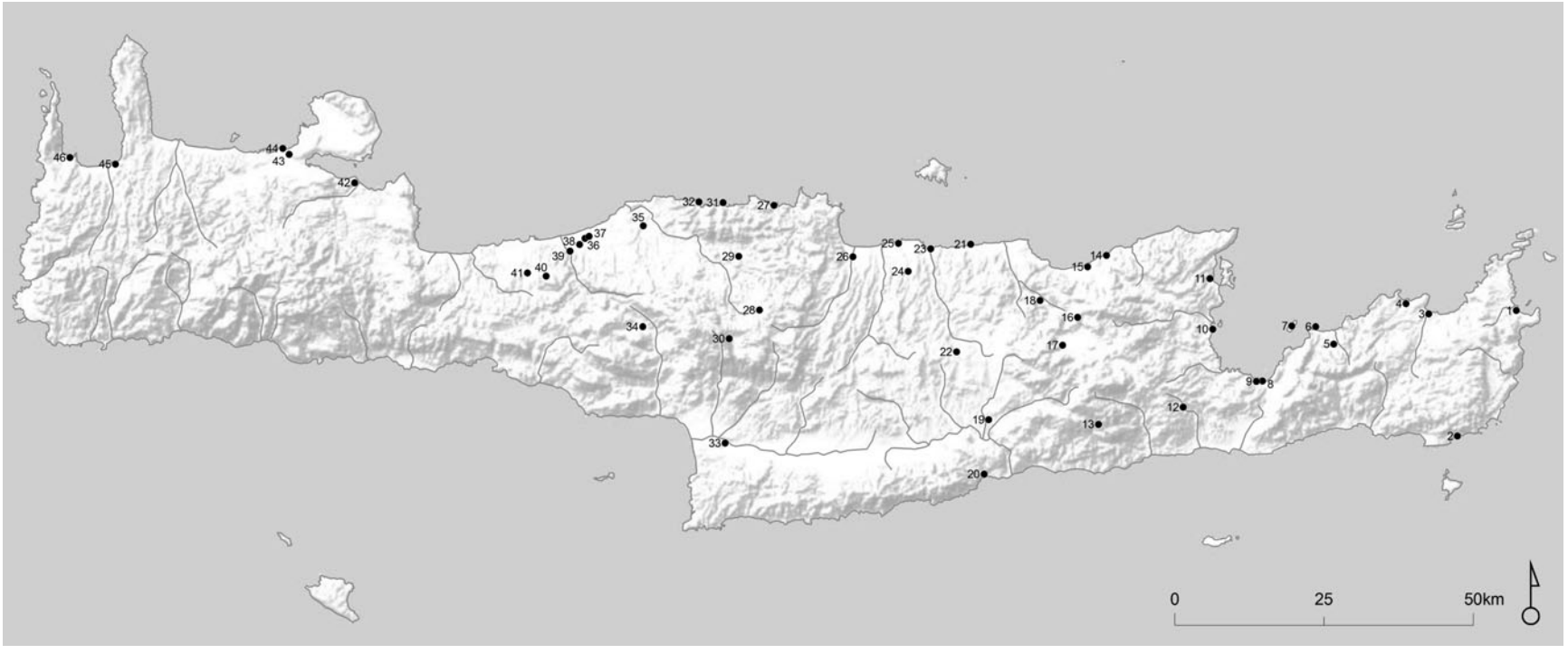
At the opposite end of the career trajectory, several volumes have recently appeared honouring senior figures in the field of Minoan archaeology. *Philistor* (Mantzourani and Betancourt [2012]) honours Costis Davaras with 29 contributions spanning the Prepalatial to the end of Bronze Age and *Κρήτης Μινωίδος* (Carinci [2011]) contains 32 contributions plus several reminiscences of Vincenzo La Rosa. A less conventional volume, *Θα 'θελα αυτή τη μνήμη να την πω* (Sapouna-Sakellaraki and Deligianni-Kotsi [2012]), celebrates the life of Yiannis Sakellarakis (see *AR* 57 [2010–2011] 63) with a series of memoirs by 65 archaeologists and others who knew or worked with him. *Φιλική Συναυλία* (Graziadio *et al*. [2013]), a volume in honour of Mario Benzi, although not limited to Crete, contains a section with nine papers dedicated to the island's Neolithic and Bronze Age.

Parallel Lives (Cadogan *et al*. [2012]) contains the proceedings of an original conference, held in Nicosia in 2006 to explore the parallel trajectories of the Mediterranean's two largest Greek-speaking islands (Cyprus and Crete). It contains a series of contributions, each pairing a Cypriot and a Cretan specialist, who compare developments on the two islands under several key themes. Not surprisingly, since the two islands lie over 500km apart and in different parts of the Mediterranean, the contrasts are perhaps more frequent than the similarities, but the comparison is often thought-provoking. Also published in the last year was *KOSMOS*, proceedings of the 13th Aegean conference (Nosch and Laffineur [2012]), on the topic of jewellery, adornment and textiles; among its 800-plus pages are many papers on prehistoric Crete.

The *KOSMOS* conference was remarkable at the time, because it happened during the 2010 eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which disrupted travel for many and forced its quick-thinking organizers to deliver many papers by live streaming over the internet; potential disaster became a great success. Increasing familiarity with internet-based resources is characteristic of the 'younger generations' mentioned above, who are tending to communicate and share information through academia.edu (http://www.academia.edu/) and facebook. Space precludes an exhaustive list of such resources (*cf*. also *AR* 56 [2010–2011] 71–72), but here are a few 'highlights'. Early-career archaeologists in Greece have founded Aigeus/Αιγεύς (http://www.aegeussociety.org/en/index.php/), a web-resource (with enhanced services for subscribers) collecting information about lectures, exhibitions, publications (books and articles, including reviews) and other newsworthy activities in the field of

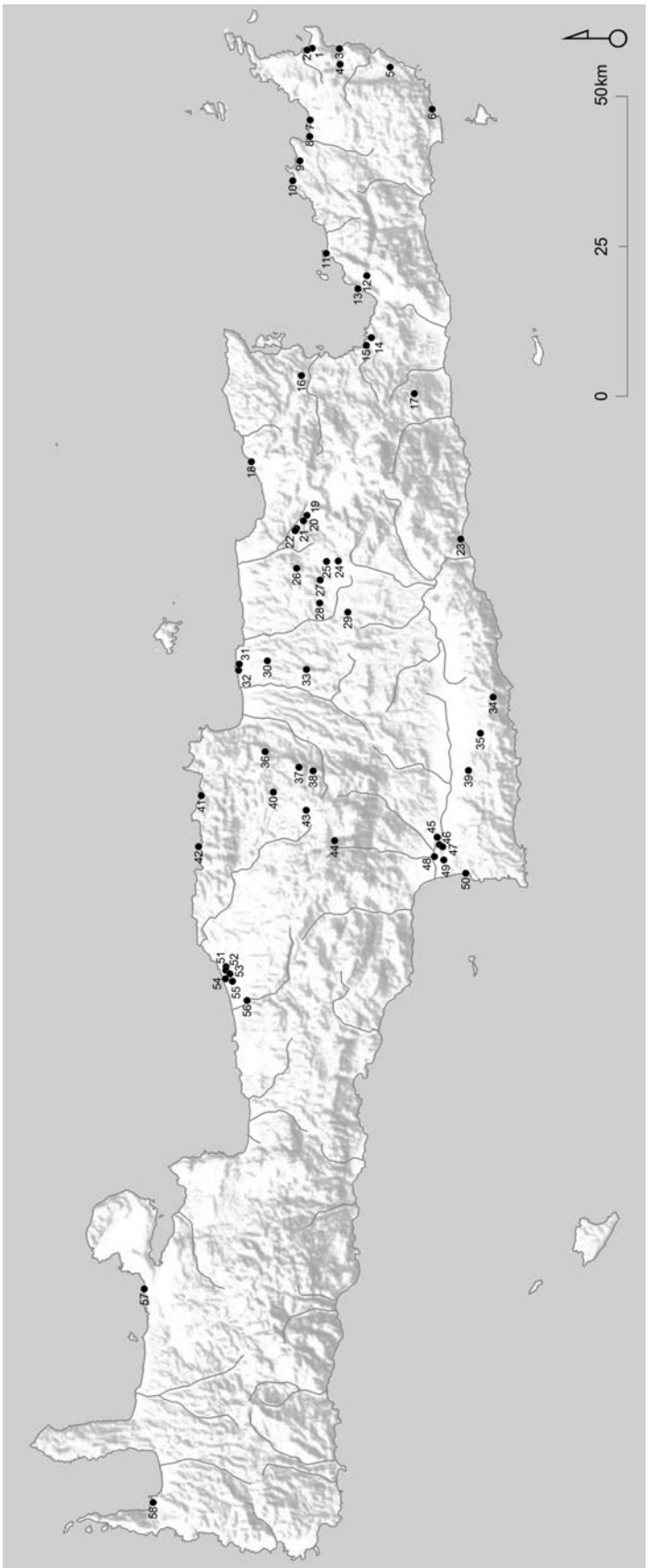
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Map 4. Crete 2011–2012: prehistoric sites. 1. Palaikastro; 2. Goudouras Livari Skiadi; 3. Petras; 4. Skopi-Mesorrachi; 5. Tourloti; 6. Mochlos; 7. Pseira; 8. Pacheia Ammos; 9. Gournia; 10. Agios Nikolaos; 11. Elounda; 12. Kalamavka; 13. Kato Symi; 14. Sisi; 15. Malia; 16. Karphi; 17. Agios Charalambos; 18. Sphendyli Kephali; 19. Skinias, Kolokithi; 20. Inatos-Tsoutsouros; 21. Gournes; 22. Galatas; 23. Agia Photeini; 24. Knossos; 25. Poros-Katsambas; 26. Herakleion Gulf; 27. Pera Galenoi; 28. Zominthos; 29. Kryoneri; 30. Idaean Cave; 31. Katevati; 32. Bali; 33. Phaistos; 34. Monastiraki; 35. Angeliana: 36. Choiroi; 37. Pigi-Saounatsos; 38. Adele; 39. Maroulas-Mezaria; 40. Vrysinas; 41. Armenoi; 42. Koiliari; 43. Chania – cemeteries; 44. Chania – settlement; 45. Nopigeia; 46. Viglia Kalyviani.

Readers can now compare the range of sites reported for 2011–2012 (above) with those referred to in *AG* 2013 (map 5).



Map 5. Crete 2012–2013: prehistoric sites. 1. Petsophas; 2. Palaikastro; 3. Karoumes; 4. Chochlakies; 5. Choiromandres; 6. Goudouras Livari Skiadi; 7. Agia Photia; 8. Petras; 9. Skopi-Mesorrachi; 10. Papadiokambos; 11. Mochlos; 12. Kavousi; 13. Chrysokamino; 14. Vrokastro; 15. Priniatkos Pyrgos; 16. Drakos; 17. Gaidourophas; 18. Sisi; 19. Avdou, Agios Leontios; 20. Mesochorio; 21. Sphendyli Kephali; 22. Sphendyli, Paliotavernas Armi; 23. Keratokampos Kastri; 24. Liliano Kastelli Kephala; 25. Kastelli; 26. Smari; 27. Sklaverochori Stou Mamaloukou; 28. Sampas; 29. Galatas; 30. Knossos; 31. Katsambas; 32. Poros; 33. Iouchtas; 34. Kophinas; 35. Koumasa; 36. Pyrgos; 37. Gonies, Korphi tis Kerias; 38. Krousonas, Korphi tou Tarou; 39. Apesokari; 40. Gonies; 41. Pera Galenoi; 42. Katevati; 43. Zominthos; 44. Idaean Cave; 45. Kalivia; 46. Phaistos; 47. Agios Ioannis; 48. Agia Triada; 49. Kamilari; 50. Kommos; 51. Magnesia; 52. Chamalevri Pateras; 53. Arsani; 54. Sphakaki; 55. Pigi-Saounatsos; 56. Maroulas-Mezaria; 57. Chania; 58. Viglia Kalyviani.

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prehistoric Greek archaeology. It also publishes a monthly newsletter as a downloadable pdf. Nestor too, of course, has published its monthly newsletter and bibliography in the same format for some time now, while continuing to maintain a cumulative web-based searchable database (http://classics.uc.edu/nestor/index.php/nestorbib), a valuable research tool for our field. Although many journals and books have been available online for a long time, it is pleasing to note that pdf versions of The Institute for Aegean Prehistory's series are becoming available and Oxbow Books too is commencing publication in the same format. The *Minoan Realities* conference mentioned above was published simultaneously in physical and pdf format by the Presses universitaires de Louvain in their collection *AEGIS: Archéologie du monde minoen*, which is building a small library of publications, including the first three volumes of preliminary reports of the **Sisi** (**ID2824**) excavations. Apart from the possibility for prompt publication, for those of us looking at our groaning bookshelves, this must be the way forward.

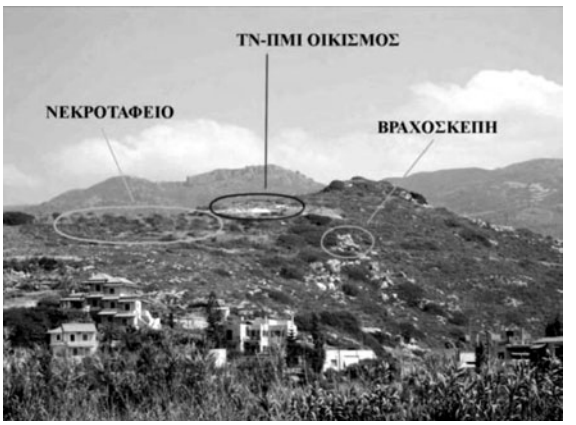
Eastern Crete

Although perhaps never justifiably labelled the 'wild country east of Dikte', the 'feel' of the historical sequence and the landscape in eastern Crete (from the Mirabello Bay region to the eastern coast) is different from regions in the centre and west. Recent discoveries and publications, however, mean that the characterization 'wild country' is even less appropriate; indeed, it is arguable that published documentation of this part of Crete is as good, if not better, than for any other part of the island. In part this is due to a series of intensive archaeological surveys carried out in the region. The Mirabello Bay area has been covered more or less completely by the Vrokastro (Hayden [2005]), Kavousi (Haggis [2005]) and recently published **Gournia** (**ID1783**; Watrous *et al*. [2012]) surveys. This has allowed the key excavated sites of **Priniatikos Pyrgos** (**ID2003**), **Vrokastro**, **Gournia** (**ID2860**), **Kavousi** (most recently, Day and Glowacki [2012]) and **Chrysokamino** (Betancourt [2006]) to be interpreted in a broader, landscape context. The excavated sites of **Pseira** (**ID1911**; recent publication in Betancourt [2012]) and **Mochlos** (**ID2816**; both the island and the mainland opposite) bring us almost round to the important Neopalatial site of **Papadiokambos** (**ID1792**; *AWiC*2 70–80) and the Siteia Bay region, surveyed in the 1980s (Tsipopoulou [1989]), where the early sites of **Petras** (also an administrative centre in later phases) and **Agia Photia** lie. Finds from the Final Neolithic and Early Minoan settlement and tombs (house and rock-shelter) at **Kephala Petras** (**ID1793**; *AWiC*2 60–69) (**Fig. 80**) resonate with material from the **Agia Photia** cemetery (most recently, Davaras and Betancourt [2012]); both show links to the Cyclades, in the case of Kephala going back perhaps into the Final Neolithic (Papadatos and Tomkins [2013]).

Also reflecting cultural diversity in this region is the recent discovery of a Mesara-type tholos tomb at **Skopi Mesorrachi** (**ID3577**, **ID2802**; *cf*. *AWiC*2 49–50; *AR* 58 [2011–2012] 72), first constructed in the Early Minoan IA phase, that is about as early as any of the tombs in the Mesara itself (**Fig. 81**). It is paralleled on the opposite, south coast by a slightly later example at the site of **Goudouras Livari Skiadi** (**ID3572**, **ID1785**; *cf*. *AWiC*2 50–52; *AR* 58 [2011–2012] 72), in use from EMIB to III and showing links both to the Mesara and to another 'displaced' Mesara-type tholos at **Krasi** in the Pediada region. It is worth noting that the tomb at Livari was also a survey find by the Austrian team that has been investigating the southeastern corner of Crete for several years now (for example Schlager *et al*. [2010]).

The eastern coastal region of Crete, from the Sidero peninsula to Ambelos in the southeast has also experienced archaeological survey. The **Itanos** survey (**ID1784**; http://prospection-itanos.efa.gr/; *cf*. *AR* 56 [2010–2011] 72) covered much of the Sidero peninsula, but did not extend to Siteia Bay in the west or the Palaikastro region in the east. An earlier survey of the Roussolakkos location at **Palaikastro** (MacGillivray *et al*. [1984]) has now been superseded by the first season of renewed investigations at the site (**ID2901**): these involved the creation of a high-resolution geo-database of the 'greater Palaikastro' area, requiring ground-truthing and mapping of visible remains, as well as geophysical survey on the site itself. In addition to landscape features, such as terraces and check-dams, investigations in the wider region produced a new Linear A-inscribed offering table from the peak sanctuary of **Petsopha**. As I write, the first excavation season (of four) of has recently finished.

The *Minoan Roads Research Programme* (**ID1874**) first revealed and explored in the 1980s a network of roads and structures ('guardposts'), some identified by Arthur Evans in 1896 (Brown [2001] 225–27), linking the Palaikastro area with that around Kato Zakros and extending to Xerokambos/Ambelos on the southeast coast (Tzedakis *et*



80. Petras: view of the Kephala site, showing (from left to right) cemetery, settlement and rock shelter. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 24th EPCA.



81. Skopi Mesorrachi: view of the tomb (foreground) and settlement (background). © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 24th EPCA.

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al. [1989]; [1990]). The research programme continues (*cf*. *AR* 56 [2009–2010] 173 and earlier reports), conducting survey and excavation at various locations. Two 'forts' (*phylakia*) were excavated in the **Karoumes** Bay area between Palaikastro and Kato Zakro: the so-called 'fort of the sea' (Middle Minoan IIB to Late Minoan IB, with LMIIIA2 reuse) and the 'Mitriko fort' (LMI and LMIIIA2/B) (**ID3573**). Survey between the bay and **Chochlakies** village (**ID3641**) identified sites including a small Late Neolithic to Early Minoan settlement north of Chochlakies itself, a limestone quarry at Skoinias Bay and a cave site at the base of Mount Traostalos. South of Kato Zakros, survey and excavations continued in 2001–2004 at and around the site of **Choiromandres** (**ID173**; first identified by Arthur Evans in 1896, known as 'Siromandres': Brown [2001] 321–23). Excavation and subsequent study in 2001–2004 (**ID3565 to ID3568**) clarified the sequence at the 'guardpost': construction and use in MMIIB, ending in MMIIIB, reconstruction and use in LMIA, ending in LMIB–II, with some reuse in LMIIIA (**Fig. 82**).



82. Choiromandres: plan of the site in 2006. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 24th EPCA.

Also visited by Evans in 1896 was the upland region of Ziros, connected to both the Xerokambos/Ambelos and the Goudouras regions of the southeastern coast (Brown [2001] 225). The region was surveyed by a team led by Keith Branigan in the 1990s (Branigan [1998]; *cf*. *AR* 41 [1994–1995] 71), which documented habitation from Late Neolithic to Roman.

High places

On his travels in Crete in 1898 Arthur Evans identified a 'fort' at a site he called 'Gaiderouphas' to which a bronze dagger in the Herakleion Museum (HM 624) was attributed (Brown [2001] 261, 326–27). Pendlebury ([1939] 297) includes 'Gaiderouphas' among his 'sites with remains of uncertain but probably Minoan date', adding that Bosanquet purchased a white limestone circular libation table (HM 102; Warren [1969] 67 [P346]) and a bronze axe (Buchholz [1959] 36 [9]) from Agios Stavromenos, north of Anatoli, probably the same site. Faure ([1958] 513–14) also notes house remains and ceramics here and at nearby locations. In 2012 Yannis Papadatos (Athens) commenced excavation at this site 500m directly north of the chapel of Agios Stavromenos on a summit (951masl), known properly as **Gaidourophas** (**ID2896**); in the first season (of five) two rooms were cleared to floor level and the date of the site established as Neopalatial.

Gaidourophas has been compared to **Zominthos** (**ID3408**), even higher at almost 1,200masl, on a small upland plateau on the approach to the Nida plateau from the north (**Fig. 83**). Excavations recommenced here in 2004 and continue under Efi Sapouna-Sakellaraki (ASA). In 2012 work focused on the central building, clearing several ground-floor areas, mostly floored in schist, and removing debris, in the form of compacted red clay and timbers, from the flooring of a second storey; access was via a staircase (in area 19). The high status of the building is suggested by the presence of polychrome wall-painting and a possible lustral basin, as well as the discovery of a fragmentary bronze vessel (area 43), a Late Minoan IA bronze male figurine in characteristic pose (area 28) (**Fig. 84**) and a lentoid seal depicting a scorpion (area 54), all fallen from the upper storey. The project is unusual in maintaining an informative blog (http://interactive.archaeology.org/zominthos/category/field-notes-2013/; *cf*. *AR* 57 [2010–2011] 72), one of whose highlights in 2013 was mention of the discovery in area 53 of a Linear A-inscribed offering table. One possible interpretation of the site is that it was a way-station on a 'pilgrimage route', probably from the east, through the Krousonas gorge, to the Nida plain and the **Idaean Cave** (**ID2091**). Excavation at this Bronze and Iron Age cave sanctuary was another



83. Zominthos: view of central building looking northwest. © ASA.



84. Zominthos: bronze male figurine of LMIA date. © ASA.

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project of the late Yannis Sakellarakis (ASA) and a full publication appeared this year (Sakellarakis and Sapouna-Sakellaraki 2013).

In addition to cave sanctuaries, themselves not always located in high places, the peak sanctuary is one of Minoan Crete's most characteristic site types, often inter-visible, with both low-lying settlements and with each other (*cf.* Soetens *et al.* [2008]). Well-known examples are Iouchtas, south of Knossos, Kophinas, high in the Asterousia mountains southeast of Phaistos, and Vrysinas, south of Rethymnon (*cf. AR* 58 [2011–2012] 69). Most date to the Middle Minoan (Protopalatial) period and have been associated with the emergence of 'palaces', but a small number, including Iouchtas, either commence use earlier and/or continue in use into the Neopalatial period. Peak sanctuaries are particularly well attested in the distinctive, highly dissected landscape east of the Ierapetra isthmus, but investigations in 2001–2004 confirmed the identification of four new examples in central Crete. Two are in the eastern foothills of the Ida massif. **Korphi tis Kerias**, high to the south of the village of Gonies (**ID3634**) overlooking the north side of the Krousonas gorge, was excavated by Adonis Vasilakis (then 23rd EPCA) in 2001. A bronze figurine had been recovered in 1966–1967, while Vasilakis found fragmentary clay human and animal figurines and ceramics over an area of *ca*. 350m^2, as well as burnt soil in cracks in the rock. The site is inter-visible with the known sanctuaries of **Philioremos** and **Pyrgos** (**ID2845**) to the northwest and north-northeast respectively. Overlooking the entrance to the Krousonas gorge on its opposite, south, side, and also presumably inter-visible, is the sanctuary of **Korphi tou Tarou** at about 1,300masl on Mount Gournos (**ID3623**; *cf. AR* 51 [2004–2005] 112) investigated by Giorgos Rethemiotakis (Herakleion Museum). Material here, also found in rock crevices, included sheet-bronze strips and double axes, miniature amphorae and figurines (mostly animal) and ceramics of Middle Minoan III(A) date, as well as a fragmentary circular hut-like model, apparently with modelled 'horns of consecration'. Below the peak lies a Late Minoan IA and LMIIIC settlement at the Rizoplagies location (*AR* 39 [1992–1993] 71).

Giorgos Rethemiotakis also investigated two peak sanctuaries in the Pediada region: **Sklaverochori Stou Mamaloukou** (**ID3627**; *cf. AR* 50 [2003–2004] 79–80) (**Fig. 85**) and **Liliano Kastelli Kephala** (**ID3625**; *cf. AR* 50 [2003–2004] 79). Stou Mamaloukou was the earlier, in use in Middle Minoan IA–B and abandoned in MMIIA, when it was succeeded by Kastelli Kephala, abandoned in turn in MMIIIA (Rethemiotakis and Christakis [2011] 212). Stou Mamaloukou is remarkable for a circular structure (2m in diameter) at the north end of the summit with large amounts of obsidian (both flakes and cores) and some MMIA ceramics. Four deposits around the peak contained ceramics and figurines in rock crevices; the ceramics (mostly conical or carinated cups, but with some other shapes) in the westernmost deposit dated to MMIB, those in the other three to MMII. The figurines comprise human (male and female, including a pregnant female) and animal examples, the animals predominantly cattle, some explicitly modelled as bulls. The small- and medium-sized figurines are solid, but the large ones (some up to 0.5m tall) are hollow, a feature without precedent in the Protopalatial period. A hollow male figure, estimated as 0.9m tall, is unique in Protopalatial deposits. Clay building models, one showing a second storey, and circular periboloi are also



85. Sklaverochori Stou Mamaloukou: figurines *in situ* within rock cavity. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 23rd EPCA.

attested, as well as modelled landscape features including rocks. The finds at Kastelli Kephala, though similar in type, were less plentiful (*ca*. 10% of the number) and the material dated to MMIII. Figurines include animals (mostly bulls, some goats) and humans; there is a Π-shaped peribolos model that the excavator likens to the sanctuary depicted on the Zakros stone rhyton.

Both sanctuaries lie *ca*. 2km (Stou Mamalouka to the west, and slightly closer, Kastelli Kephala to the south) distant from the important Minoan site of **Kastelli** (*cf. AR* 44 [1997–1998] 114; more recently **ID1813**, **ID3632**), occupied from Middle Minoan IB at least into Late Minoan IA. Only *ca*. 10km to the west lies the major local centre of **Galatas**, situated on the ridge-top of Galatiani Kephala, occupied from Early Minoan to LMIII, with a gap in MMII and a short-lived 'palace' in MMIII to LMIA (**ID2778**; *cf. AR* 56 [2009–2010] 186 and earlier reports going back to *AR* 47 [2000–2001] 127–28). (Summaries are provided of the 2001–2004 excavation seasons at Galatas in *ADelt* 56–59 [2001–2004] B5; [**ID3617**, **ID3619**, **ID3620**, **ID3621**], but this information was already presented in *AR* 48 [2001–2002] 105–06; 49 [2002–2003] 78–80; 50 [2003–2004] 78–79; 51 [2004–2005] 110.) Also in this vicinity, a few kilometres to the north, lies the site of **Smari** (**ID192**; **ID3655**), also on a prominent hill-top, occupied in MMI–II, then not again until LMIIIC and the Geometric. Finally, investigations in 2001–2004 at a site known variously as Vorno, Pyrgos or Prophitis Ilias near the village of **Sampas** (**ID3636**), *ca*. 5km north-northeast of Galatas, revealed two occupation phases: Early Minoan II and Middle Minoan I–II. A valuable overview of settlement and sanctuary use in the area is offered by Giorgos Rethemiotakis and Kostis Christakis ([2011] 213–15), who point out the importance of this agriculturally rich area southeast of the Knossos region, crossed by key land communication routes and bounded by the Lasithi massif to the east. They note a distinct discontinuity in settlement and sanctuary use in MMII, as noted at the sites discussed above, and also the region's links to the open-air sanctuary of Kato Symi in the Viannos region further to the southeast. More data will soon be available to explore the history of this key region when the ***Galatas Survey Project*** (**ID786**), which inventoried 169 sites from the Neolithic to the Ottoman period, and the broader ***Pediada Survey*** (**ID787**) are published.

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The world of the dead

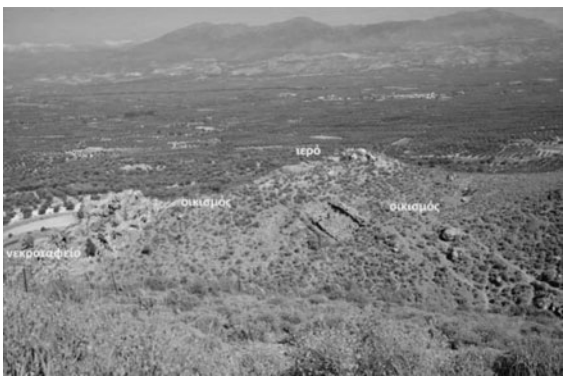
Among the most frequent and regular discoveries on Crete are tombs, as those already noted above in eastern Crete demonstrate. As ever, the area east of Rethymnon, under considerable pressure from development, continues to contribute new data. There is an isolated Late Minoan IIIA2–B chamber tomb at Saounatsos (corrected spelling) near **Pigi** (**ID1828**, **ID3613**), a group near **Maroulas** (**ID2825**, **ID3610**) and a new chamber tomb is reported at **Sphakaki** (**ID3654**) (**Fig. 86**) close to the extensive Hellenistic to Roman cemetery (*cf. AR* 58 [2011–2012] 61). It appears to have two use phases: transitional LMIIIA2/B and LMIIIB. At a place-name given as **Arsani** (**ID3661**), a LMIIIB chamber tomb has been excavated, presumably one of two mapped by Epameinondas Kapranos (25th EPCA) near the Arsani monastery (*AWiC*2 412, map 2). The tomb, entered from the north, but apparently without a dromos, contained four larnakes, with bones under the larnax nearest the entrance; 24 pots (mostly drinking vessels) were recovered as well as three conical weights (conuli?) and a bronze dagger. Two more chamber tombs, almost certainly LMIII from their description, are also noted by Eleni Papadopoulou (25th EPCA) on the Kladovasilaki property near the village of **Magnesia** (**ID3657**) *ca*. 1.5km to the east: the first contained four larnakes and faience objects; the second was only partially investigated, but did contain larnax fragments. Finally, Eleni Papadopoulou also reports a LMIIIA2–B chamber tomb near the eastern edge of the Apokoronas region that borders Rethymnis to the west on the Kaniadaki property near the village of **Kastellos** (**ID3596**): although the roof had collapsed, human bones (five skulls) and remains of larnakes and ceramics were recovered.

In the Mesara, renewed investigations have begun in the region of two well-known tholos tomb pairs. At **Koumasa** (**ID3409**) Diamantis Panagiotopoulos (Heidelberg) has renewed exploration in collaboration with the 23rd EPCA. In 2012 tholos tombs B and E were cleaned and excavations carried out in the settlement and sanctuary on the Korakies hill (**Fig. 87**). Most material from the excavations was Neopalatial, but one area produced evidence of Protopalatial occupation; the extent of the settlement is estimated at 'at least' 3ha (30 stremmata), but this seems quite large. About 6km northwest of Koumasa lies the village of **Apesokari**, where reinvestigation has been initiated by Georgia Flouda (Herakleion Museum) and Giorgos Vavouranakis (Athens). Flouda's study of **tholos A**, originally excavated by August Schörgendorfer in 1942, involved restoration of the ceramic assemblage and study of funerary practice, and established a date range for the tomb from late Middle Minoan IA to the end of MMIB, with some indications of use in MMIII (*AWiC*2 132–43). Construction of **tholos B**, originally excavated by Costis Davaras in 1963 and re-examined by Giorgos Vavouranakis, was placed at the end of Early Minoan I or early EMIIA, with the addition of rooms to the complex in two phases: EMIII to MMIA and MMIB to MMIIIA (*AWiC*2 144–53). Further information about the project is available at http://apesokari.jimdo.com/.

Further recently reported tombs are, from west to east: a Late Minoan IIIA rock-cut tomb above the south coast near Viannos at **Keratokampos Kastri** (**ID3737**); a small LMIII to Protogeometric tholos at **Kera** (**ID3575**), discovered during construction of a road linking the village of Krasi with the Lasithi plateau; two LMIIIC to Protogeometric pithos burials between the villages of **Drakos** and Kalos Lakkos *ca*. 5km north-northwest of Agios Nikolaos (**ID3640**); a circular LMIII rock-cut tomb containing a pithos burial in the cemetery at **Mochlos** (**ID3578**); and a LMIIIA–B chamber tomb containing four larnakes and remains of four more at **Mesonisi** near Palaikastro in the far east of the island (**ID3582**).



86. Sphakaki: LMIII chamber tomb, showing larnax *in situ*. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 25th EPCA.



87. Koumasa: view of settlement, sanctuary and cemetery. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 23rd EPCA.

News round-up

First, some updates on major well-known sites. At Knossos a welcome addition to the series of BSA volumes documenting early material presents data from an enigmatic funerary monument and a nearby 'deposit' excavated in the 1930s on the northern end of the **Monastiriako Kephali** (Acropolis) hill west of the palace site (Preston [2013]). Study of material from the ***Knossos Urban Landscape Project*** survey (**ID2900**) continues with a focus on refining the chronology of prehistoric and Early Iron Age material; Todd Whitelaw (BSA/UCL), Adonis Vasilakis (for the 23rd EPCA) and Maria Bredaki (Institute of Cretan Studies) suggest that extensive but low density scatters of sherds identified on and flanking the Kephala-Isopata ridge represent extensive cemeteries. That ridge leads to Knossos's harbour area, the region of **Poros-Katsambas** (**ID3651**), which continues to produce material emphasizing its importance in the prehistoric period from Early Minoan to Late Minoan III. Ioanna

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Serpetsidaki (23rd EPCA) reports on excavation carried out in 2008–2010 on two plots: the Kalogerakis plot, west of the Katsambas stream, and the Markopoulos plot on the Tripiti hill in Poros *ca*. 400m to the west. Both produced EMI to EMIII/MMIA ceramics and obsidian blades as well as Protopalatial structural remains founded on bedrock. Neopalatial material, although present in the Katsambas plot, is better attested on the Tripiti hill: earth and schist floors, red and blue wall-plaster, evidence of upper storeys and evidence of craft production (crucibles, grindstones, moulds and weights) and a pottery kiln (**Fig. 88**). Ivory objects, a gold earring, faience beads and a fragmentary triton shell were found in one rock-cut deposit. Material from the LMIB (floral and marine style), LMII–IIIA1 and LMIIIA2–B (including a probable metallurgical furnace) periods is attested and the Katsambas plot has evidence of a burnt destruction in LMIIIB.

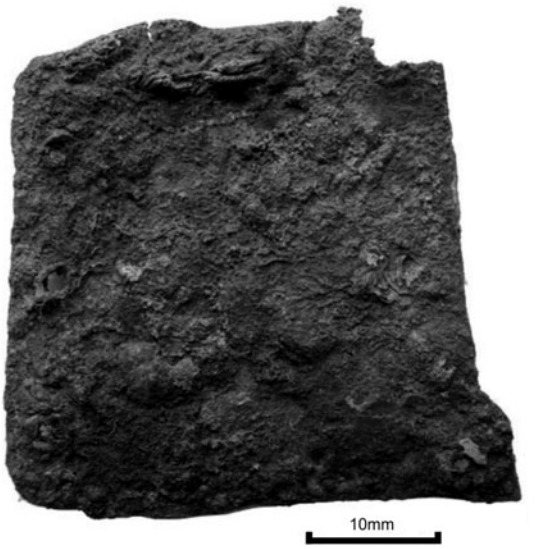
In the Mesara, another section of the important coastal site of Kommos was published in 2012: *House X at Kommos: A Minoan Mansion Near the Sea* 1: *Architecture, Stratigraphy, and Selected Finds* (Shaw and Shaw [2012]). Kommos functioned as a harbour-town for the sites of Agia Triada and Phaistos, where Irini Antonakaki (23rd EPCA) reports the discovery of Protopalatial walling on the Manousidakis property (**ID3628**; *cf*. *AWiC*2 285, fig. 2) near the village of **Agios Ioannis**, which lies *ca*. 700m south of the palace site. The existence of Kamares ware ceramics and coloured plaster here seems to confirm that the city surrounding the palatial centre reached at least this far at the time and this datum is used by Maria Bredaki (23rd EPCA), Fausto Longo (Salerno/SAIA) and Mario Benzi (Pisa/SAIA) as part of their assessment of the overall extent of the prehistoric settlement, based on preliminary results of the 2009 and 2010 seasons of the *Phaistos Survey Project* (*AWiC*2 274–87). They estimate that the Protopalatial settlement may have been as large, if not larger, than the Hellenistic one, with structures extending from the palace to Agios Ioannis and covering much of the lower slopes of Apfendis Christos, the upper acropolis, west of the palace itself (*cf*. Whitelaw [2012] 121–22).

Vincenzo La Rosa (Catania/SAIA) summarizes the work of the Italian School at both Phaistos and Agia Triada in the period 2009–2010 (*AWiC*2 164–72). At **Phaistos**, restudy of earlier material, including that from the Kamilari tholos, continued; at **Agia Triada**, soundings within the Casa delle Sfere Fittili identified six phases in the complex spanning Late Minoan IA to LMIIIA2. The complex proper had two phases (III and IV), both within LMIB, the earlier contemporary with the destruction of the 'villa', the latter post-dating it, but still within LMIB. This observation reflects the emerging refinement of our understanding of this phase at Agia Triada and elsewhere (see also Puglisi in Brogan and Hallager [2011] 267–89). Slightly further afield, on the west slope of the hill on which the well-known **Kamilari** tholos tomb sits, Irini Antonakaki (23rd EPCA) notes the discovery of a badly-preserved LMIIIA structure (**ID3631**) with paved floors and possible remains of a staircase. There are indications of other structures in the immediate vicinity, perhaps a settlement connected to the tomb's reuse in this period.

Using the refined sequence from the Casa delle Sfere Fittili, Pietro Militello (Catania/SAIA) suggests that the spherical loomweights that gave the complex its name were attached to a loom in room 9 in level 112a (advanced Late Minoan IB, La Rosa's phase IV above), the main evidence for which is a series of five irregularly spaced holes in the floor. He goes on to propose, based on replication experiments carried out by the Centre for Textile Research in Copenhagen, that the size of the loom and weight of preserved loomweights imply production of specialized textiles within the overall economic framework of the site (*AWiC*2 204–12). Militello also presents two fragmentary finds of actual thread (*AWiC*2 203–04), accompanied by analytical appendices. First are the remains of a piece of string attached to a bronze plate found in 1903 in one of the tombs in the LMIII cemetery at **Kalivia** *ca*. 1.5km east-northeast of Phaistos. Analysis by Christina Margariti (National Museum Athens) suggests the Kalivia find (HM 1903.688) was a three-ply string (**Fig. 89**), Z-twisted (in common with most of the very small number of extant threads from Bronze Age Crete) from an organic fibre, either flax or hemp (*AWiC*2 213–15). The second example is a small (5cm by 10cm) collection of fibres including needles found in 1952 in a



88. Poros-Katsambas: LMI pottery kiln. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 23rd EPCA.



89. Kalivia: bronze plate showing position of thread (top). © National Museum, Athens.

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Middle Minoan IIB final context in room IL (49) of the Phaistos palace, perhaps a mat, on the basis of better-preserved parallels Pietro Militello cites from Akrotiri on Thera. Christina Margariti in collaboration with Marie-Louise Nosch (Copenhagen) and Irene Skals (National Museum Denmark) analysed this assemblage too, and they suggest it contains two types of plant fibre, not woven as a conventional textile, but that further analyses would be required for any specific identification (*AWiC*2 216–18).

Further significant finds are summarized here, from west to east. In the far west, more information is provided by Maria Skordou (25th EPCA) about the Middle Minoan (Protopalatial) site of **Viglia Kalyviani** (**ID3603**) that lay on the prehistoric coastline *ca*. 3–4km west of the town of Kisamos and *ca*. 2km northeast of the site of **Phournados** (*cf*. *AR* 58 [2011–2012] 60; *AWiC*2 525–36) (**Fig. 90**). About 150m^2 was excavated, revealing three rooms and four irregular pits containing large amounts of ceramics, including utensils, storage vessels, bowls, cups and incense burners. The presence of multiple rhyta (four in one room, 11 in another), plus a natural triton shell suggests a ritual function to the excavator (**Fig. 91**).

Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki (25th EPCA) adds some further information from excavation at two locations in the city of **Chania**, extensively summarized last year (*AR* 58 [2011–2012] 58–60). On **Parodos Kanevaro** on the Kastelli hill (**ID3585**), excavation revealed evidence for the earliest occupation of the site in the form of irregularly spaced postholes in the bedrock, perhaps for supports of Neolithic or Early Minoan dwellings; several walls and successive floor levels date to the Early Minoan period, while an Early Minoan II habitation level in another area was sealed by a large Early Minoan III to Middle Minoan IA ceramic fill. There was evidence of levelling for construction in the Middle Minoan period and, in addition to walls and a paved area, Neopalatial levels produced a Linear A-inscribed roundel (**KH Wc 2123**). Late Minoan III levels were largely disturbed by Geometric, Roman, medieval and early modern activity. At the junction of Siphaki and Daskalogianni Streets (**ID3586**), the remains were largely Neopalatial (MMIII to LMIA and LMIB), with some LMIII and later material. The Neopalatial remains include a building, founded in MMIII and in use to LMIA, defined on the west by a 1m-thick wall and containing a room with painted plaster, some *in situ*, some from an upper storey. Elsewhere (*AWiC*2 29–31; **ID3592**) Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki also summarizes the discoveries at 1 Katre Street (**ID1855**) covered last year (*AR* 58 [2011–2012] 59).

Moving east, Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki and Eleni Papadopoulou (25th EPCA) provide an update on an important Late Minoan IIIC complex at **Chamalevri Pateras** (**ID3607**). The complex spanned the 12th century BC in two phases. The first was characterized by an open area with small pits and a building (now destroyed) to the west; within this phase a room was added, as well as a ceramic kiln. The second phase saw extension of the complex by six more rooms, each with successive floor levels, the latest marked by signs of intense burning.

Further east, along the mountainous coast of Mylopotamos between Herakleion and Rethymnon, recent investigations have revealed a number of prehistoric settlements, summarized by Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki (2006). Among these are the sites of **Pera Galenoi** (**ID1832**), Sidero and **Katevati** (spelling corrected here) (*cf*. *AR* 58



90. Viglia Kalyviani: view of the site showing relationship to ancient coastline. Image supplied by the Ministry of Culture and Sport: 25th EPCA.

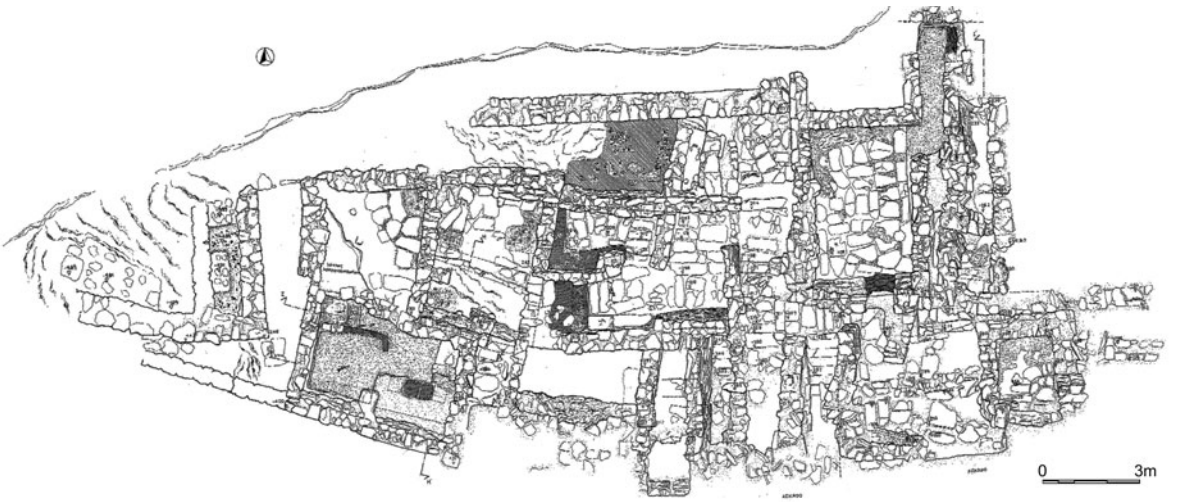


91. Viglia Kalyviani: rhyta and triton shell *in situ* in area A. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 25th EPCA.

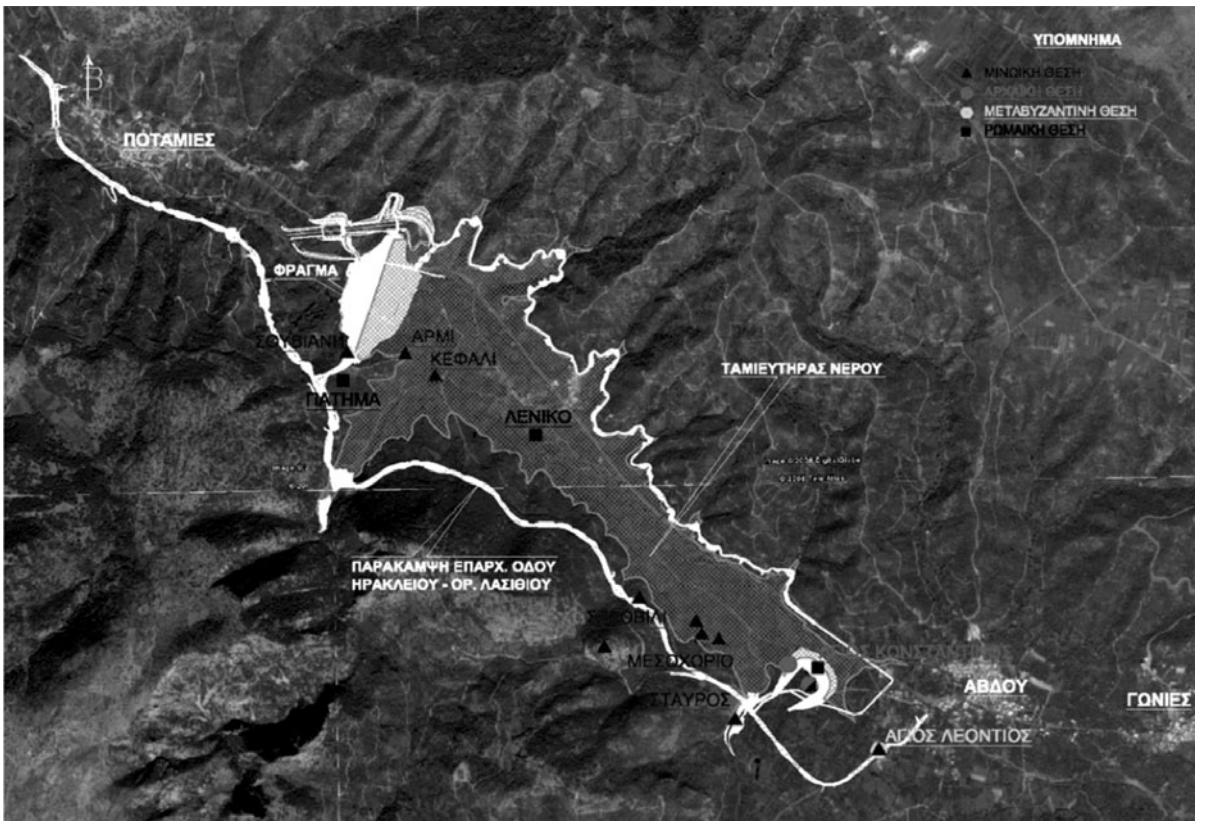
[2011–2012] 69). Eleni Papadopoulou and Loukia Flevari (25th EPCA) provide a valuable summary of the site at **Katevati**, which lies *ca*. 5km east of the coastal village of Bali (*AWiC*2 426–34; **ID3649**). The site, concentrated on the northernmost of three hills on a promontory protecting the east side of a small bay, was occupied in the Protopalatial and early Neopalatial periods (Middle Minoan IB to MMIIIB) and possibly abandoned before its destruction, perhaps at the same time as **Pera Galinoi**, *ca*. 10km to the east, with which it shares some characteristics. Excavation at that site in 2001–2004 (**ID3614**), on the hill of Kephali Soudas also overlooking a small bay from the east, described by Eleni Tsivilika and Eleni Banou (25th EPCA), concentrated on the southern, western and eastern sides of the building complex, as well as a wall enclosing the southern part of the site (**Fig. 92**). In the southern area of the building complex the fill included much burnt material, some datable to MMIIIB, and, among other finds, a metalworking crucible in a basement room. In the western and eastern areas excavation revealed evidence of burning in MMIIB–IIIA, as well as earlier material (MMIIA–IIB) in an open space to the west; a column base and painted plaster fragments were found east of the main complex. In 2004 a kiln was found.

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It is unusual to be able to document through excavation, as opposed to surface survey, sites of all periods across a large area, but the creation of the artificial reservoir in the Aposelemis river valley south of Chersonesos offers such an opportunity (**Fig. 93**). Maria Mavraki-Balanou (23rd EPCA) provides an overview of the archaeological resources at risk from construction of the dam (*AWiC*2 288–301; **ID3645**), including the significant 52-room Middle Minoan III to Late Minoan I complex at **Kephali** near **Sphendyli** (**ID2786**) (*AR* 58 [2011–2012] 62, 66). In addition to this site, which overlies a group of at least 25 (updated since last year) pit burials of either Early Minoan or Final Neolithic date, on the hill immediately to the northwest, called **Paliotavernas Armi**, there are remains of structures of MMIII to LMI and probably LMIII date, including a

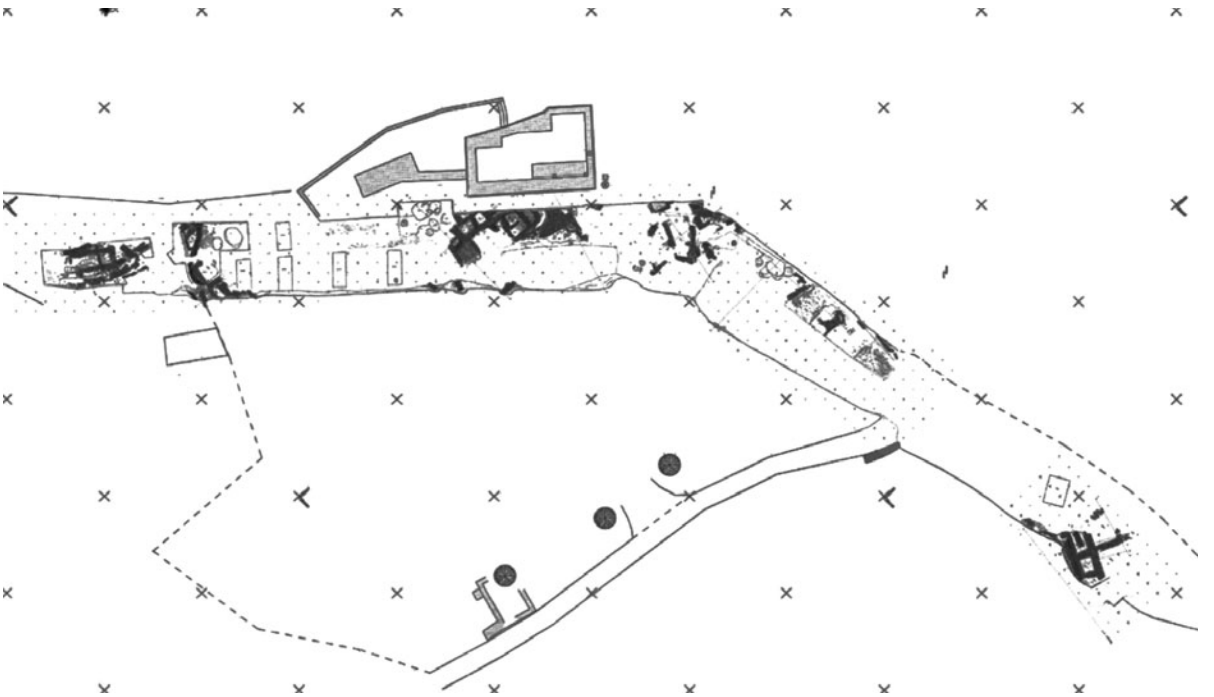


92. Pera Galenoi: excavation plan (2002). © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 25th EPCA.



93. Aposelemis dam: map of the area affected showing sites of all periods. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 23rd EPCA (map data: Google).

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94. Avdou, Agios Leontios: plan of settlement. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 23rd EPCA.

facility for the production of liquids (oil or wine); the building preserves a clear burnt destruction level containing mud-bricks. Further to the southeast, towards the village of Avdou, another MMIII to LMI structure, described as 'strongly-built', with clear evidence of destruction was investigated at the **Mesochorio** location; resemblances to similar structures in the area are noted. Finally, at the sites of **Petras** and **Agios Leontios**, *ca*. 500m west-southwest of the village of Avdou and just under 3km distant from the complex at **Sphendyli Kephali**, an extensive settlement was identified and excavated (**Fig. 94**). Founded in MMIII, it suffered damage late in that period and was reconstructed along similar lines before being abandoned, apparently suddenly, before the end of LMI. The complex was arranged around an open area and included paved corridors and roads, as well as some substantial monumental features. A significant find, incorporated into a later wall on the site, was a shrine-model (**Fig. 95**) with parallels only at Kato Symi. A number of other, less significant Minoan sites is noted on the map above (**Fig. 93**), as well as sites of later periods treated elsewhere. Clearly this infrastructure project has the potential to add considerably to our archaeological knowledge of this area lying between the coastal area of Chersonesos and the Lasithi plateau; the excavator tentatively suggests links with the palatial centre of Malia, but also notes the significant sites lying to the west in the Pediada already discussed above.

Finally, the fifth and final season of excavation at the Early Minoan to Late Minoan III site of **Sisi Boupho** (**ID2824**) was completed in 2011 and a series of three preliminary reports covering all five years of the project was rounded out this year with admirable speed by *Sissi* III, a preliminary report of the 2011 season's results (Driessen *et al*. [2013]; see also *AWiC*2 81–88).



95. Avdou, Agios Leontios: shrine model. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 23rd EPCA.

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