Smaller scale cleaning around the **hypostyle crypt** and the NE approaches to the **palace** were also undertaken (*ADelt*, 873–74): details of walls and pavements were recovered.

In the **Quartier Delta**, I. Bradfer-Burdet and M. Pomadere (both EFA) report on the study carried out in 2006, following the 2005 excavation season, on **building Π** in the M settlement. Examination of the stratigraphy and the architectural remains has confirmed the succession of at least three Neopalatial architectural phases. Some clay pieces carry prints of branches or rushes laid in a row and may have come from a light roofing. From the walls came many fragments of plaster in solid white, blue and red; some had a figurative motive (indiscernible in detail because of their small size), others were simply decorated in red or black stripes. Different soil types were represented in making the floors.

Registration, study and restoration of the pottery and the small finds commenced. Initial work on the stone vases has revealed that they are, in essence, typically M shapes, with the exception of one likely Egyptian import. The paleo-environmental remains included shellfish, bones and seeds, alongside much carbon. Their sorting by flotation revealed both a seal of a marine animal (the second Neopalatial one recovered in the building) and a small piece of gold leaf (4.5mm in *l.*). This last seemingly has the shape of a shellfish, with embossed details.

A survey of the E part of the 'Street to the Sea' was carried out, so completing the plan of the urban zone surrounding building Π. This permits a better understand of its relationship with the surrounding buildings and with the W court of the palace, where this street ends.

Finally, a restoration campaign on buildings Δβ and Δγ successfully completed the work begun in 2005.

Malia Valley Survey. S. Müller-Selka (CNRS and EFA; *ADelt*, 874–76) reports on the work in 1999. The aims of completing the topographical record and starting the artefact studies proper were overtaken by matters arising from public works in the area. After some sites had been damaged by the construction of the new national road, the **cave** of Fragkandoni, 500m S of the mod. village, was surveyed. The access corridor and the vaulted entrance had been shaped, and a cutting made into the ceiling of the main chamber. There were found a small bench fitted to the S wall, a pillar and walls of small stones. Originally the space was enough to accommodate a standing person. Surface sherds are later in date; a coin of Constantine was found. A rescue excavation was planned for the following years.

The M sandstone **quarry** at Hagio Pnevmatos was completely destroyed by the construction of a marina at Malia. At the Hellenic Palace hotel at Hagia Varvara, a layer of pumice associated with LM IA vases has been disturbed (**Fig. 124**); elsewhere damage has been sustained to the House of the Fisherman. Study of remains (lithic and ceramic) from central and E marshy areas reveals that occupation began there in L EM, continued down to LM IIIB and was revived in the LRom and ECh times, 4th–6th Ct AD.



124. Malia Valley Survey: LM vase with pumice inside

Quarries. S. Müller-Selka (CNRS/EFA) reports on the 2006 season in the continuing survey of the sandstone quarries (*ammouda*), focussing on the two most extensive examples hereabouts, at Pyrgos (between the archaeological site and the mod. village) and Potamos (immediately to the W of the Mill beach).

Examination of the dimensions of the architectural blocks left at their removal was followed by a companion campaign, detailing the elevations of the W stores of the palace, almost exclusively composed of sandstone blocks. Some rectangular pits (very probably used as tombs) were discovered under a half metre of water in the E part of the Potamos quarry. These can be compared with similar pits identified in 2004, situated to the E in the same quarry: their date is impossible to specify. Work on material recovered in the survey also continued.

CENTRAL CRETE (Prefecture of Herakleion) (23rd EPCA; 13th EBA)

Byz central Crete. (*ADelt*, 881–97, 902–03) Vorizia (Valsamonero Monastery) 1428 murals; Pyrgos (Hagioi Georgios and Konstantinos) murals of N aisle of the 13th Ct, of S of 1314/1315; Evangelsimos (Panagia) murals 1380; Diavaide (Hagios Georgios) murals 14th Ct; Episkopi (Hagios Georgios) murals 14th Ct, (Hagia Paraskevi) murals 15th Ct, (Archangel Michael) murals 14th Ct, (Panagia Faneromeni) murals 1642, (Hagios Antonios) murals 15th Ct; Kitharida (Panagia Eleousa Monastery) restored katholikon 13th–14th Ct; Hagios Myron (Hagioi Apostoli) murals 15th Ct; Meleses (Tholous fortress) 16th–17th Ct work; Hagioi Apostoloi Tholon church dated to 1614; Houdetsi (Hagios Nikolaos) church and murals 13th Ct; Roukani (Hagios Iannis) 11th Ct church, with second of Venetian time attached to S, Venetian tombs and part of LRom building.

Demos Chersonisou

Chersonisos. K. Galanaki (23rd EPCA; *ADelt*, 844–48) reports on the rescue excavations undertaken in 1999 in the harbour area.

Seven areas and oikopeda were investigated, of which five were of relatively minor importance. In each of these last were found **structures of Rom date** in the form of walls and, at times, rooms, some with up to three phases of development. Arrangements for water supplies were common enough. One also had two **Rom tombs**: a tile grave in poor condition and a cist which, though damaged, yielded ten glass vessels, a ceramic lamp (Medusa), three bone pins, a winged item of bronze and four coins, and a piece of lead. A similar range of goods accompanied the buildings: vessels of clay and glass; items of stone, including statue fragments; clay lamps; bone pins; clay objects (loomweights, plaques, lamp moulds); lead and bronze pieces, with bronze coins.

In the Apostolakis plot, 150m NW of the Rom theatre, a variety of material came to light. At the E, two **tombs** had been dug into the bedrock: of LCl–EHel date, they are part of a known larger cemetery. To their W was a horse burial. Further W still were uncovered **structural remains**: a large part of a temple-like building, orientated E–W, had some of its N and S

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walls standing to 5m *h.* Floor and wall (red) plasters were found. Cisterns for water and various pipes for its transport are noted, by one of which lay a life-size marble statue of Trajan (**Fig. 125**). Nearby in pits was recovered pottery of LCl–EHel and Rom times, of exquisite quality. Finds included clay lamps and daily-use vessels, and also of glass; clay loomweights of two sorts and spindle-whorls; clay plaques and figurines; bone pins; and bronze coins.

At the **Navarchos Nearchos Road plot**, eleven walls, associated with floors of tiles, stamped soil and lime plaster, form perhaps part of some **harbour installation** of the Rom and Hel periods. Finds included a marble column base and another stone architectural fragment (with ivy carvings); clay loomweights, whorls; objects of glass paste; and items of lead, iron, bronze and gold. Three box-like **tombs** of ECh date (aligned E–W) were found: though looted, they had sherds of clay (jugs and aryballoi) and glass vessels.

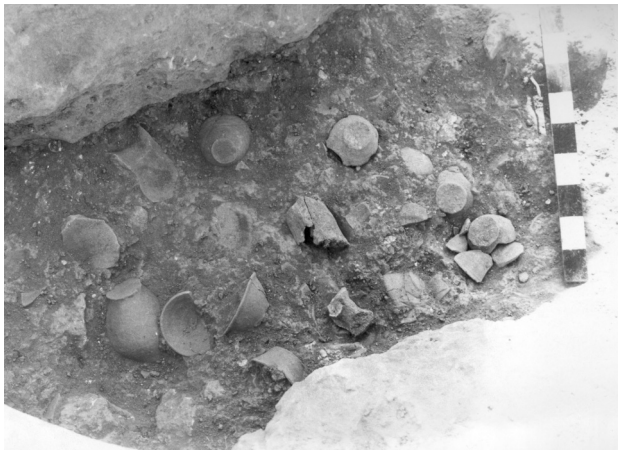
S. Mandalaki (23rd EPCA) reports on excavations made in 2005 and 2006. In 2005, a rectangular **cistern** of Rom date was excavated: the biggest so far found here (15m by 3m by 4m), it probably supplied the nearby baths in the area of the theatre. Its water supply was carried from the central reservoir at 'Palatia' by a channel that ran on its S side. In 2006, seven Hel **graves**, dug into the bedrock, were opened: they are part of a larger cemetery. Some had rich offerings: rf pottery, gold and bronze jewellery and glass necklace beads.



125. Chersonisos: Rom statue of Trajan



126. Galatas: LM IB pithos within destruction level, room 60



127. Galatas: foundation deposit

Demos Thrapsanou

Galatas. G. Rethemiotakis (Herakleion Museum; *ADelt*, 850–52) reports first on the 1999 excavation season of the **M Palace**. Work was undertaken in two sectors: building 2, which was completed, and a start was made on the interior of the N wing of the palace.

In **building 2** rooms 10 and 11 were excavated: a burnt destruction level yielded pottery, mainly conical and semi-spherical cups, as well four pithoi (**Fig. 126**), some with small feet and one with a Linear A inscription. Thus building 2 consists of eleven spaces: nine rooms and two staircases. Its date is LM IB as the pottery shows (marine style).

In the N wing of the **palace**, work begun at the W, and eight areas were opened. These have been damaged due to later agriculture. Tests below the floors show walls and sherds from MM IB houses (so differing from the E wing which has material of MM IIIA date below it). Construction seems to have been carried out at the N and W during MM IIIB/LM IA. Abandonment may have occurred earlier in LM IA in the W wing than at the N, with its mature LM IA. This last has cups with wavy bands, a hemi-spherical one with spiral decoration and examples of the floral style (papyrus and crocii). The final destruction deposit, as a result of an earthquake, left slabs from the upper flooring in the lower rooms: some of schist measured 0.80m by 0.80m by 0.16m.

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At the NW corner, involving a fissure in the bedrock, was a foundation deposit: 60 vases of MM III, mostly cups, but also basins and jugs (**Fig. 127**). With them were burnt organic matter, a few animal bones and goat's horns. Set above was a rectangular table of offering, from serpentinite. Areas 37, 38 and 39 contained few finds: pithoi pieces and a conical lamp of serpentinite. Access to these and then to other areas to the N and E was gained through a large hall (40), behind the main N entrance. Room 42 yielded a gourna; room 44 a generous amount of good quality wares, a pithos and pedestled stone lamp.

Considerable observations on the architectural techniques and finishing can be made. Many masons' marks were recovered (80 in total for the site): tridents and stars in particular, with rarer cross and 'dumb-bell'. There was extensive use of wood; white plaster floors (rooms 39, 40 and 42); plastered fresco associated with the N exterior wall (bands of blue – light and dark, red and cherry-red); and some low relief associated with windows and doors.

Architectural elements show a limited occupation in the N wing in LM IIIA2–B, after the destruction. A potter's wheel and a fragmentary bronze vessel (recalling others recovered in 1996 from S of room 22 in the W wing) argue for workshops in these crafts at this time. W of the N wing, a strong-built wall was found: part of another **building**. The two rooms sampled produced a pithos, a ceramic female figurine and a steatite sealstone. One hundred and fifty sherds from the excavation were sent for residue analysis.

In 2006 work was conducted in two sectors. The first, in the **palace**, involved the **E part of the N wing**, revealing the exterior wall on the E and the complex access way to the central court and the M hall in the N wing. The M hall played a key role in regulating all the circulation in a local web of corridors, spaces and stairways: of the last, there exists one on each side. That abutting the external E wall of the N wing is especially noteworthy. Arranged in two flights, it provides passage from the hall first down to a stepped access and finally out to a road running outside the W and N wings; it also deals with the difference in elevation caused by the considerable slope away to the E. Retaining walls in this last area hold firm the fill of a ramp and a terrace that are also part of the access system to the central court from the N and E.

The room fills and further destruction debris accumulated upon them contained abundant MM III pottery and fallen ashlar blocks from the exterior walls of the palace. A footed table of offerings, circular and of serpentine, resembles those found at the sanctuary of Syme Viannou. In the NE corner a pit-like structure went deep into the foundations: over 100 intact vases were recorded and also fragments of many more (cups, jugs and rhyta for liquids, shallow plates), a rectangular offering table (again of serpentine), an abundance of carbonized wood and burnt soils, as well as animal bones (mostly sheep, some cattle). Perhaps burnt offerings were part of the ritual alongside libation and drinking rituals? The bulk of the pottery dates to MM III with some LM IA lying over it: the pattern of deposition suggesting continuity of the offertory practice.

In the second sector, the focus was S of the palace, in the **court of the baetyl**. A large platform was uncovered, abutting the external face of the S wing. The face opposite the baetyl was in ashlar, set on a slighter lower course, with remnants of a flagged surface stretching towards another platform discovered earlier. Taken as a whole, this open-air area acted as a venue for viewing the ceremonies that took place in the paved area and on the elevated platform of the baetyl; the stepped exedra served as a seat for the viewers. This combination of baetyl and platform fits the cult scenes portrayed on the metal rings, as with that from Archanes.

A dense scatter of sherds on the bedrock attests to libation rituals as well as the consumption of food and drink, though much may have derived rather from the nearby (and unexcavated) building 6. Many shapes are represented, albeit in a fractured state: communion cups, libation jugs, cylindrical vessels, bridge-spouted jugs, pithoid jars and pithoi, amphorae, kalathoi, plates, large trays and tripod cooking pots. Also retrieved were the head of a hollow animal figurine, the base of a stepped libation table of serpentine, a bronze dagger and many animal bones, including an ibex horn.

Whilst consolidating building 2, a small limestone model of a 'horns of consecration' was found wedged into the masonry. The horizontal and vertical striations under the horns proper seem to reflect dressed ashlar masonry, on top of which the horns were placed.

Galatas Survey Project. L.V. Watrous (Buffalo/ASCSA) reports on the 2nd field season of the systematic survey around the **palace of Galatas**.

The area surveyed in 2006 was located between the villages of Thrapsanos, Apostoli, Sambas, Filissia, Hagia Paraskies, Astritsi and Alagni. The project found or investigated 78 sites in this area, ranging in date from LNeo to Venetian/Ot. This brings the total number of sites in the area to 124.

Several sites deserve special mention. A large Neo settlement with seven well-preserved structures was discovered on the hill of Platilas overlooking Stironas to the S. Surrounding the village of Sambas, a large E–LM settlement was mapped: a massive fortification(?) wall is preserved at the W edge of the settlement. An EM I–II and Neopalatial site was found on a hilltop S of Filissia: at its edge and on the highest spot a M platform with traces of mud-brick(?) and burning was found. This structure, with a clear view N to Jouktas and Episkopi, may be a M signal tower (*soros*). NE of Thrapsanos, a small M structure was discovered situated amid Neopalatial pottery and an enclosure wall. N of Alagni the excavated M farmhouse was noted. A cave located on the W edge of the gorge between Voni and Zophoroi produced Neopalatial, LM III and ProtoGeo/Geo finds, some of which (conical cups, a pilgrim flask, fine ware vases and a seashell) look like votives. The IA site at Astritsi Kephalas was measured and mapped. In the area of Limnes, N of Thrapsanos, a tholos-like Rom? building was found next to an anc. road. N of Zophoroi on the top of a hill, another circular built platform with traces of fire was found: based on the pottery, this structure appears rather to be a Venetian period signal tower. In an attempt to determine the size of the M settlement at Profitis Ilias Archalochori the site was divided into sectors and material collected.

At the end of the season we returned to the settlement of Galatas to try to measure the size of the settlement in the Protopalatial and Neopalatial periods. In addition, some ten sites found in 2005 were revisited to clear up specific questions of chronology and function. On one the measurement of walls revealed a large (60m by 16m preserved) M building, constructed with an inset and supplied with magazines and pithoi.

Finds recovered include: Neo black burnished pottery, stone axes, chert and obsidian blades, cores and scrapers; EM wiped wares and MM IA? handmade vessels; Protopalatial straight-sided and carinated cups, pithoi and jars; a range of Neopalatial vase shapes, as well as a stone bowl and drill-bit guides; LM III kylikes, goblets, an octopus stirrup jar, a stamped amphora/jug handle. Material of ProtoGeo, Geo and Or date; Ar relief pithoi, cups, loomweights, skyphoi, mortars, kraters; Cl and Hel black glaze cups, bowls, plates, imitation West Slope ware; Rom plates (E, but mostly L), cups, bowls, roof tiles; Byz, Venetian and Ot glazed wares.

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The **pattern of settlement** (from LNeo to Venetian/Ot) in the area of Galatas is becoming clearer. The earliest sites date to the Neo period (but not its latest phase), frequently located on hilltops at strategic places that could control the movement of animals between valleys. EM sites are found on hilltops, often on the N edge, so providing an extensive view toward the N. Protopalatial sites increase in number and size, and occupy different types of locations. Some 85 are on defensive locations; others, however, are established on prime agricultural positions, near arable land and a source of water. At the beginning of the Neopalatial period many new sites are founded in the area immediately surrounding Galatas. The location and density of these sites suggest that they played some sort of support role for the palace at Galatas: one probable such role is the production of agricultural surplus intended for the palace. In LM III many sites are deserted; few new ones are established. By LM IIIC the population of the area has dropped further and is severely nucleated at a few sites. This pattern continues through the Geo, Ar, Cl, Hel and ERom periods. In the 3th Ct AD some small sites, probably rural farms and hamlets, are tentatively established across the landscape. Settlement during the 2nd Byz era, e.g., the village of Galatas, probably continues this practice. Only in the Venetian period, perhaps by the 13th Ct, is this pattern reversed. After that, land use and settlement, especially around present day villages, such as Thrapsanos, becomes more intense.

DEMOS GOUVION

Gournes. K. Galanaki (25th EPCA; *ADelt*, 853–56) reports on the excavations in 1999 at the IΘABIK site on the former American base.

An **EM I–II cemetery** of 36 tombs was found. It has strong similarities with that known at Hagia Photia, Siteia. Most are ellipsoid chambers with an antechamber dug underground into the kouskouras, the entrance closed by slabs of sandstone or limestone with other stones used in the construction of the tomb chamber proper; some are more in the nature of shallow pits. Three were located under the MM–LM house. Skeletal material was lacking in all but one tomb. The finds were recovered equally from in and outside the main chambers and in the pit-like graves. One hundred clay vases were recovered: some in Pyrgos, Hagios Onouphrios and local Palaikastro styles. Fruitstands, pyxides (round and conical) of different sizes and their lids, many with incised patterns, amphorae, bowls, kernoi, cups of small to medium range, jugs and others were found. Ten groups of seashells were found. Also recovered were 31 Melian obsidian blades, often placed in the pyxides; a silver necklace of disc-beads, a bracelet and other jewellery; three bronze pins, a bead and other bronze items; three bracelets of steatite beads of different sizes and a separate bead. The vases compare with others in Crete (Kokkini Chani, Knossos, Haghia Photia), the islands (Cyclades, Samos, Lemnos) and the coasts of Asia Minor and Palestine; as indications of trade and contact in the EBA.

Close by is an **MM–LM rectangular building**: orientated N–S, it is of two phases. It is constructed of limestone and boulders. The first phase had two internal spaces, with the entrance at the W. Then the N section was sub-divided into two, and the W entrance replaced by two others. The one in the SW has a sandstone threshold. The walls stand to 0.50 *h.* Many sherds of MM–LM vessels are known: conical cups, cups and basins up to larger vessels including cooking pots and pithoid forms. Three pieces of obsidian, and chert and steatite; and seashells complete the list.

A **water cistern** was located at the NE. Only the foundations survive (3.50m by 2.50m, with the walls standing to 0.50m *h.*). Associated pottery gives no date, though an underlying layer of soil had material of MM II in it.

Skoteino. A. Kanta (Institute of Cretan Studies) and L. Tyree (ASCSA) report on the continuing study of the material from the **M sacred cave**, excavated by K. Davaras. The main ritual use was during Neopalatial times. Most material dates to then, with LM IIIA and B well represented too. Rom re-use is known. The Neopalatial ritual involved drinking, as is indicated by the multitude of pouring and drinking vessels: a typical shape is the chalice. They exist in several variations and sizes; one fragment bears a Linear A inscription. The consumption of food was also part of the ceremony, as tripod cooking pots of mainly small to miniature size show. During LM III, prominent among the shapes are deep bowls and stirrup jars. The Rom revival is marked out by lamps, some with religious scenes.

L. Tyree (ASCSA) and A. Stamos (INSTAP-EC) continued in 2006 the EDM work to ground map the cave.

DEMOS KASTELLIOU

Smari. D. Hatzi-Vallianou (Archaeological Institute of Crete; *ADelt*, 910–25) reports at length on the 1999 excavation season of the **Geo and M houses** and conservation measures taken for some. Only the simplest précis is offered here.

Inside the acropolis were a series of Geo houses, erected over M ones. In **megaron A**, apart from details of the central hearth, part built of slabs in the central hall of the Geo building, the finds were broadly M in character. Parts of M walls, built on to the natural rock, were uncovered, defining spaces, of which one had a trodden earth floor. Up to two architectural phases were noticed, one with some carbon and burning associated. MM (I–II) finds were commonest, including clay vessels (conical cups, basins, amphora, pithos, tripod cookpots etc.), clay whorls, obsidian blades, bone pin; though material as E as EM–SubNeo was also noted (burnished pottery). The relative quantities of obsidian led to the suggestion that some craft activities were taking place. **Megaron B**, in contrast, seems to contain largely Geo material, though it is suggested that its earliest manifestation was also MM in date. Earlier work had ceased at the LGeo/Or horizon associated with paved floors. Below in the central room lay fills, also carbonized remains of a possible column. A 'grate' of stone (1.09m by 1.63m) contained ashes and burning as well as vases, including a cup. Other vases recovered included pithos, pithoid vases, many cups and an iron blade. Rear rooms told a similar tale: fallen stones and earlier pavements of more than one level were found with bones and olive pips, obsidian, vessels that included pithoi, basins, skyphos and many other fragments of medium and larger sizes. Lower still along with the same environmental material were recovered more such pottery, stone vase pieces, obsidian, stone tools and weights, seashells including conches, clay beads etc.

Between megaron A and the **Temple of Athena** (K1), the removal of Geo debris from the destruction revealed what was an open area, no doubt intended for the inhabitants of the Geo settlement to congregate for the worship of Athena. Immediately W of this opened two rooms (M1, M2), with a paved area E of the latter. The first chamber is large for the settlement in the Geo phase. In it, amidst scattered carbon, were various clay vessels, including krater and everyday wares, including a baking tray. Lower down was a level of M date. In

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the second room, equipped with a built-in stone 'table' on the S wall, excavation went below the Geo floor, finding daily use and storage vessels of clay, confined by the stone walls and a clay structure. Their date is uncertain.

To the N (areas H and N) and NE (area L), a series of rooms and spaces was investigated. In many cases Geo clay vases were recovered, sometimes with earlier architectural phases, and everywhere the levels below yielded MM wares, some fine and some of coarser/storage character and a stone vase lid.

Outside the acropolis, and its LM peribolos wall, some structures were found. Building 1, a single-storeyed room (5.75m by 7.75m), lies to the S. Its walls were preserved to varying degrees, enclosing the fallen stones of itself. Excavation produced a number of levels, marking stages of destruction(s). Within them were many vases (pithoi and others), stone tools, a clay loomweight, a bronze fragment, a steatite 'button' and remains of olives and other seeds. The building it seems was dedicated to storage and processing. It dates to LM IIIC. To the NW is a 'round' construction (3.50–3.90m across, with wall 0.60–1m *w.*). Its interior has fallen stone slabs over soils with evidence of burning. Many high-footed kylikes give it a date of LM IIIC–SubM.

Demos Viannou

Sithonia. S. Mandalaki (23rd EPCA) reports on the excavations of 2006. Architectural and ceramic remains attest to the existence of a **M settlement** from Protopalatial to Postpalatial times.

Syme Viannou. To the *Ergon* reports on the continued excavation of the **Sanctuary** by A. Lembesi (Honorary Ephor) may be added those of *PAE* (2002), 107–21 and (2003), 79–97.

Demos Herakleiou

Knossos. R. Sweetman (St Andrews; *ACC* 206–07) reported at the 10th Cretological Congress on the **ECh basilica** at the Knossos Medical Faculty. She offered a new analysis both of the basilica, with its cemetery and temenos, and of post-basilica features. The study provides evidence to show that Knossos was a major communication point within Crete in the L antique period, being as vibrant and influential a city then as it had been in its Rom heyday.

Knossos Urban Landscape Project (KULP). M. Bredhaki, A. Vasilakis (both 23rd EPCA) and T. Whitelaw (BSA/UCL) report on the 2nd study season (2006) of the KULP survey, a synergasia between the BSA and the 23rd EPCA.

The 4.2 tons of material collected in 2005 was washed and sorted, providing a full overview of the material and preliminary dating of pottery from the systematic samples (*ca* 2,500 collection units). These and the finds from the systematic samples (280,600 sherds and 5,000 other finds) were sorted and entered into the databases. Some 55,000 sherds are decorated or preserve features and thus are reasonably diagnostic: 10,279 were PH, 26,732 were ProtoGeo to Hel, 8,265 were Rom, 7,649 were ProtoGeo to Rom and 2,020 were post Rom. Seven hundred and twenty seven represented rare fabrics which cannot yet be dated.

Sixty four certain and likely Neo sherds were identified from immediately NE of the palace, on the edge of the tell. Their virtual absence elsewhere is indicative of the nucleated and spatially restricted pattern of Neo settlement in the valley. Seventy four readily diagnostic Prepalatial sherds were recognized, spanning the EM I–MM IA periods, in a low density scatter throughout the area. This supports the view that dense settlement was restricted to the tell through most of the Prepalatial period. The bulk of the later PH fabrics remain in use through both the Protopalatial and Neopalatial periods, so the numbers of sherds as yet assigned to specific phases are limited. Nearly 1,000 Neopalatial sherds identified by shape or decoration are distributed widely across the site, defining an area of 60–65ha as the maximum extent of the PH city. Two hundred and twenty certain and likely LM II–III sherds were recognized, spatially comparable to the Neopalatial distribution; finer chronological distinctions will have a significant contribution to make to debates over the nature and chronology of the decline of Knossos as a centre, following the destruction of the palace.

Approximately 800 sherds of the EIA were identified. Their wide distribution N of the palace, in areas not previously tested by excavation, is a significant addition to the comprehension of EIA Knossos. Detailed attribution to phases within the EIA will contribute to our understanding of the growth of the site during the process of polis formation. No attempt was made at this point to distinguish material within the broad LAr to Hel phase, though it is now clear that the major expansion of the centre took place by at least the end of the Hel period, rather than later with the foundation of the Rom colony in the L1st Ct BC. This suggests that the site grew in parallel with the expanding political dominance of Knossos over much of N central Crete, during the Hel period.

The importance of Knossos during the Rom period is well known, if not particularly well documented archaeologically: the N half or so of the site is the best understood. The survey coverage to the E and W has filled in the picture very significantly. The distribution here of diagnostic later Rom–Byz material, minimally represented elsewhere from excavated deposits at Knossos, documents a significant reduction from the full extent of the Rom city. A clear contraction to the NW helps to explain why so little contemporary material has been recovered from major excavations around and to the W of the palace. Nearly 1,000 glazed post Rom sherds (in addition to some 500 obviously recent examples) should provide a richer understanding of the later history of the site, after it ceased to function as an urban centre.

Little Palace N. S. Thorne (BSA) and M. Prent (Amsterdam) report on the study season of 2006 for the project of E. Hatzaki (BSA).

Work was devoted mainly to material of the Cl and Hel periods. Study of the EIA was completed for publication in 2008. Architectural survey work was conducted and phase plans were produced in autocad.

The **Cl and Hel area** is defined by robbed M walls at the S and W, and by foundations for Rom walls at the N and E; it is further divided N–S by two other Rom foundations. Much of the very fragmented pottery found had been used as floor packing.

Four major phases have been distinguished. First and earliest, a build-up of hillwash and fill against the N wall of an LM IIIB building had been levelled and paved. While predominately LM, the material below the paving contained pottery from the 7th and occasionally from the 6th Cts BC. The size of the paved area, dated to the **Cl period**, suggests that it was originally left open. In the second phase, the area was subdivided by the construction of two N–S walls, built directly over the paving. Domestic deposits of the L5th to M4th Ct were found against these walls, with associated traces of possible earth floors. To the W the construction, or reconstruction, of a terrace wall is dated by the fill behind it to *ca.* 350 BC.

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Next, scattered potsherds indicate that occupation continued during the **Hel period** of the 3rd Ct, but new work in the 2nd Ct had displaced much of this. These renovations of the final and 4th phase entailed both cutting back the hillside to the W and filling the slope to the E, where much of the 3rd Ct material had been found. The second-phase walls were replaced by a new N–S one: constructed of re-used M ashlar blocks. Indeed the W wall of the LM IIIB house referred to above was still standing and had long served to help retain or terrace the hillside. It was now extended to the N, so forming the W wall of the enlarged 2nd Ct house. The area to the E, later cut by the foundation for a Rom wall, was again paved, while flooring in the W consisted of small, black water-worn pebbles set in a bed of crushed kouskouras. Several relayings of these pebble floors were found, dating to the L2nd to E1st Ct BC.

The original pebble floor sealed a whole pithos which had been sunk up to its neck. It contained material from the 1st half of the 2nd Ct BC, but the surface with which it went has yet to be securely identified. Much may have been lost here in the L2nd Ct reconstruction.

Katsamba. *Eleftherotypia* (18/09/2006), *Ethnos* (24/09/2006) and *Erga & Imeres* (27/10/2006) carry reports on **M shipsheds** and **dockyard installations** by A. Vasilakis (23rd EPCA).

The main structure recovered below a thick deposit of sea sand comprised two wings with a N–S access way or corridor between them. Each wing is made up of a series of elongated, rectangular spaces that individually measure at least 21–23m *l.* by 6m *w.*, with an internal area of 150m^2 or more: their full lengths are unknown. The six walls so far revealed, each 1m *w.* and containing ashlar blocks, define parts of five rooms on a N–S axis: the fullest preserved are two at the W. The floors are of earth, on which the burnt destruction debris rests. The whole complex is of impressive size. Finds made inside them fix their date to LM II–IIIA. They variously include a hearth, plain vessels (cups, jugs, amphorae, tripod cooking pots, pithoi and especially stirrup jars), clay weights for fishing purposes, bone and bronze pins and unusual amounts of raw materials including obsidian, steatite and pigments. Quantities of lead items had been damaged by the heat of the final fire destruction.

The structures further confirm the existence of the M harbour town in this region, at the mouth of the Kairatos river that flows down from Knossos, as already indicated by finds, houses and burials. The shipsheds lie about 100m from the present course of the river and 150m from the original seashore.

Excavation below one shed's floor to the water table revealed traces of a further pair of walls of comparable quality that suggest there were earlier Neopalatial? buildings of the same sort on the site. Their disuse (*ca* 1490–1450 BC) may have been accompanied by a ritual deposit: a large concentration of bones and horn-cores of cattle and goat was found, along with many conical cups, other vases and a spear-shaped bronze blade.

DEMOS GAZIOU

Fodele. M. Borboudakis (13th EBA; *ADelt*, 903–04) reports on the discovery at the **church of the Panagia** of the baptistry; the whole built on the ruins of the basilica. The interior space, called the fotistirion, is a rectangular area, paved with slabs. It contained the pool in which the actual baptisms took place.

DEMOS GORTINAS

Gortyn. Six Italian teams have been conducting excavations at Gortyn in recent years. G. Montali, *Il teatro romano di Gortina. Studi di archeologia cretese 4* (Padova, Bottega d'Erasmo, A. Ausilio 2006) presents a study. Of the following, the first report is from 1999, the others date to 2005–2006.

Praetorium. A. Di Vita (Macerata; *ADelt*, 856–57) mostly worked S of the Temple of the Augustan Deities and a little inside the same. The rear wall of the court of the praetorium abuts that of the W side of the stadium (built on the 1st Ct BC), at the S end of which runs a descending stairway connecting the praetorium's court to the stadium's entrance. Between the stadium and the temple an exceptional find was made: an Augustan altar. Orientated E–W, of monumental proportions (3.10m *h.* above foundations), it has pediments decorated with spirals and akroteria and a staircase on the E; so the priest faces the sunset. Though damaged by an earthquake, it remained until the 6th–7th Ct AD, at which point it became engulfed in debris from the nearby baths. The reason for this may be sought in a small *cippus* altar (of the later Augustan period) that is dedicated to the 'supreme god': this may have earnt the edifice the respect of the later Chs, and so protected it. Repairs possibly conducted by Trajan incorporated some 50 broken lamps; perhaps indicating rituals conducted at nightime.

In the adjacent **Temple of the Augustan Deities**, erected by Marcus Aurelius in the 2nd Ct AD, part of a large stone sculpture (the lower torso and legs) was recovered built into a later internal dividing wall. It is from a female clothed figure, perhaps the cult statue itself.

Gymnasium. At the 10th Cretological Congress (*ACC* 132–33), M. Livadioti (Bari) reported on the work carried out by Di Vita between 1989–1995 at the Praetorium, with especial reference to the earliest phase, the structure of which is seen as a gymnasium of the E1st Ct AD, set adjacent to a 1st Ct BC stadium. The large yard (35.5m by 28.8m) and its portico in the Doric-Tuscan order were orientated N–S. On the E it abutted the tiers of the stadium and was accessible from it. In the W were a set of rooms, to the S another possible set were eradicated by the insertion of the warm rooms of the thermal baths (see below) in the time of Trajan. Features of construction align it with Cretan Gr traditions rather than the newer Hel ones, though Italian L Republican features (e.g., the portico's order) are detected, as are Ptolemaic ones in some of the units of measure. Contemporary with the Trajanic baths was a remodelling in the W, when a three-apsed structure was inserted.

Profitis Ilias settlement. N. Allegro (Palermo/SAIA) reports on the Geo and Or periods of excavation. This campaign concentrated on the terraces beneath the settlement and on the E–W road which separates them from the settlement. In the E part of the upper terrace, between the E–W road and the N–S alley which flanks the LGeo house, was discovered a great court paved with compacted earth and fragments of stone. This may have been part of a vast 7th–6th Ct complex. At the S side the court remained open; on its E was a covered room connected to a courtyard; and on the W a narrow and elongated space, perhaps a portico.

Excavations in the lower terrace yielded new data about work completed in the last phase of the settlement (8th–7th Ct). During the construction of the E–W road a massive terrace wall was completed; the central section was composed of a wall of stones and earth buttressed on both sides by two mighty triangular structures. General erosion in this area, however, has removed the features of the most recent phase. (The presence of Hel elements can be attributed to the construction of defences and

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their garrisoning between the 3rd and 1st Cts.) Some remnants of buildings are visible at the E end of the terrace. Here were explored two rooms of 8th–7th Ct date, flanked at the E by a paved ramp which joined the E–W road. Two stratigraphical trenches yielded pottery sherds which demonstrate that this part of the hill was utilized from the last centuries of the 2nd millennium.

The theatre of the Pythion. F. Ghedini (Padua/SAIA) reports.

A wide trench between the scenic building and the base of the cavea was opened in order to investigate the characteristics of the deposit below collapse levels removed in 2005. The construction is dated to the 1st half of the 2nd Ct AD. Between the cessation of theatrical activities (L3rd to E4th Ct) and the earthquake which caused the theatre's collapse (later 4th Ct, perhaps after the terrible quake of 365 AD; two horses were caught in the collapse) this area was used as a rubbish dump. The newly exposed architectural elements, however, have been covered with a calcareous material and sand in order to protect delicate and precious surfaces; such as the *opus sectile* in polychrome marbles used for the paving of the orchestral ground.

The thermal baths to the S of the so-called praetorium. G. Bejor (Milan/SAIA), restarting work here, reports.

The excavations brought to light a thermal bath probably built around the mid 4th Ct AD, with transformations on into the L5th Ct at least. The structure stretches N, up to the road connecting the stadium to the area of the Pythion.

The frigidarium, occupying a 10m^2 area, has been revealed. At the edges mighty pillars indicate an original cross-vault. Its floor, in polychrome *opus sectile*, is particularly rich and remarkably well preserved, despite many anc. renovations and two great gaps where pillar bases had been removed. At the centre was unearthed a loutron (5m in *di.*) with three steps and a floor composed of slabs of white marble alternating with ones of slate (the lead drainage pipe is also still visible). The foundations of the loutron are most closely connected with the preparation of the floor and, therefore, may be said to belong to the same building phase.

From this central room access was gained to two baths: a broad and rectangular one was entered between two columns (still preserved); the second and apsidal bath was decorated with marbles. This last, at some later date, was filled in and covered with a new floor in marble slabs. Excavation between this later floor and the original bottom of the bath has yielded a notable quantity of pottery of the L5th Ct.

The Byz quarter of the Pythion. E. Zanini (Siena/ SAIA) reports on the continuing investigation here (including the area between the monumental complexes of the Temple of Apollo Pythios and the so-called praetorium) aiming to obtain a better understanding of the occupation phases between the 5th and the 8th Cts AD, of which three major phases existed.

In Rom times the area was occupied, at least partially, by buildings, whose foundations follow different orientations. In the E they were aligned with those of the praetorium, and in the W with those of the Pythion. In L antiquity, many buildings of smaller dimensions existed, infilling the earlier layout and often restructured before becoming part of the great proto Byz building. New street systems evolved, too. The socio-economic make-up altered fundamentally: a new social stratum occupied the earlier monumental centre. An artisan-peasantry both tilled the land and seasonally worked in the urban centre with iron, animal skins/bones and perhaps glass.

Of proto Byz date, a pebbled road was unearthed. This constituted the cross axis of the quarter and was connected with the road which ran to the N of the praetorium. NW of this road three rooms of an important building have been partly excavated. The building has an entrance with a great threshold of stone, paved with rectangular re-used slabs. An adjacent room had an imposing drainage system. On the opposite side of the road was located a large space, perhaps left open, which led up to the cistern fountain (E of the buildings already investigated). On the axis of the road were emptied two mod. pits. They revealed details of the preceding road levels as well as of an articulated water distribution. Work within rooms excavated earlier permitted comprehension of the stratigraphy in the L antique and proto Byz eras. The hypothesis that a great building with several floors was constructed around the M6th Ct has been confirmed: its different phases are now clearer.

After the M6th Ct AD, the road axes were maintained until at least the end of the 7th Ct. In the zone overlooking the cistern fountain, a necropolis area was established in the later period: at least two graves 'à caisson' exist (similar to some recovered here in the past). Several dumps of discarded materials of the 7th Ct have furnished interesting information about the quality of life and the material culture in Gortyn at that time.

The basilica of Mitropolis. R. Farioli (Bologna/SAIA; *ADelt*, 904–05) in collaboration with M. Borboudakis (13th EBA) report.

Work was continued in several areas: this included the cleaning of the collapsed debris from the two minor S aisles and further investigation in the E apsidal sector (room II N). The first is characterized by collapsed structural material, including blocks with painted plaster, an arch in brick and rectangular building blocks. These blocks are most probably to be associated with a pillar (comparable to situations seen apropos the dividing columns of the small aisles, which had fallen besides their respective bases). Also unearthed were levels of damaged paving, fragments of limestone floor slabs and, along the S perimeter wall, segments of a bench. The mosaics were especially numerous: some bore geometric patterns, others contained motifs drawn from the plant and animal worlds. One bore a circle, linked to smaller ones at the corners of the field, with a garlanded kantharos from which two peacocks drunk; the circle carries two rows of lettering, mentioning the archbishop ΒΕΤΡΑΝΙΟΣ, an otherwise unknown figure.

In the E apsidal sector was found a trapezoidal room, covered by collapsed material, much quarried later, and also by a great quantity of tiles, which lies above a layer with traces of fire. The room is also paved with tiles of several dimensions: larger ones dominate. Along with a communicating and adjacent chamber, this room is a later addition to the Justinianic complex of the synthronon-peribolos. The stratigraphical relationships of the walls and the associated finds suggest a date in the high Med period. The narthex was investigated in the basilica.

The **rotunda**, to the N of the basilica, was also investigated (see also M. Ricciardi, *ACC* 206): it is identified as a fountain or baptistry. An *ambulacro* was found on the interior of the circular structure, opening at the S: it probably connected with the N aisles of the basilica. Columns and capitals (one a little impost with monogram) were located; also hundreds of marble *sectilia*, differently coloured, and the system for hanging the *opus sectile*. A L5th–E6th Ct AD date is confirmed, with many and major alterations over the next centuries.

At the 10th Cretological Congress, A. Di Vita (Macerata; *ACC* 128) reported on stratigraphic work undertaken by M. Englezou on the **odeion**. This permits some of its history to be defined better. The Great Inscription, originally from a circular 5th Ct BC monument, had been reduced already by the time of Augustus and was further damaged in the 2nd–3rd Ct AD destruction. Also at the time of Augustus, the arcades, fashioned in *opera quadrata*, divided the two *ambulacra* around the cavea; only the scena was restored at the time of Trajan (E2nd Ct); and a rebuild was carried out in the L2nd–E3rd Ct.

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DEMOS TYMBAKIOU

Hagioi Deka. M. Borboudakis (13th EBA; *ADelt*, 903) reports on continuing excavation at the **Hagios Titos basilica** in 1999. Work revealed the narthex and a circular construction at the N side of the great courtyard. The circular building is related typologically to those with eight internal divisions, between each of which stood a pillar.

Chalara. M. Benzi (Pisa/SAIA) reports on the study season of 2006. This had the following aims: to complete the cleaning of the area SE of the palace of Phaistos; to produce a new topographical geo-referential map; to analyse the level of degradation of both the anc. structures and restoration works; and to consolidate previous studies of the site. Particular attention was given to the analysis of the preservation state of the buildings.

Hagia Triada. *Eleftherotypia* (09/12/2006) and *Ethnos* (11/12/2006) report on a public lecture in Herakleion by M. Tsikritsis. He reviewed the mathematical abilities of the BA inhabitants of Crete, mentioning in particular a fractional system (down to 1/8): this was exemplified by a calculation scratched into the wall-plaster on a corridor of the villa at Hagia Triada, of Neopalatial date.

V. La Rosa (Catania; *ADelt*, 857) reports on the excavation and conservation of 1999 at the **tholos tomb area**. W and SW of the small rooms close to tholos A, work confirmed that the seriously disturbed nature of the soils (LRom, Venetian and mod. pits and trenches) prevented a proper understanding of the levels and the structures.

Only one area produced EM deposits: it lies beneath a small structure (perhaps the first annexe, ?MM IA, for tholos A to the NE) and S of room 9. A large MM IA deposit yielded vessels involved with ceremonies for the dead, from rooms 1–10: conical cups, jugs, small plates and baking plates argue that food and drink were prepared and consumed. A wall erected in MM IA–B acted as a boundary, though later structures of MM II and MM III–LM I were then erected.

A wall of cyclopean character, set directly on the ground surface, had been identified as part of the tholos periphery (preserved to 12.85m *l.* and up to 0.90m *h.*). This was built when the tholos itself had already been partly dismantled: its date lies between LM IIIA and ProtoGeo times. It is assumed that it defines an area of worship in relation to the deserted tomb.

Pitsidia. D. Hatzi-Vallianou (Archaeological Institute of Crete; *ADelt*, 906–10) reports on the excavation and study season of 1999 on the **M agricultural complex or villa**.

A small amount of cleaning and excavation for photographic purposes was undertaken in three rooms (XVII, XXIV and XV). From the first a number of clay loomweights and a clay vessel of a sort said to be connected with working wool were recovered. Their recovery led to a postulation that the villa was connected in part with textile production, and that the N end of it was the women's preserve.

An application for a covering for the site was prepared and submitted to KAS.

Conservation, photography and other studies were carried out on large numbers of small finds (e.g., clay vessels, stone tools and metal objects), grouped according to their findspots. Organic materials were also dealt with: evidence for olive cultivation in LM I is noted.

Kommos. J.W. Shaw and M.C. Shaw (Toronto; *ADelt*, 857–59) report.

1999 saw much work in presenting to the public the results of the excavations. 2006 has been devoted to the maintenance of the site, to seeking new storage facilities in Pitsidia and to the completion of publication responsibilities. For the first, work has reinforced high scarps and walls in the S area. Plans are under way towards opening the site to the public: the most recent initiative is for a protective roof to arch over some 600m^2 of the Gr temples and part of the best preserved M ashlar civic structures. In Pitsidia, efforts continue to purchase a plot for a storage facility large enough to house present material, with room for what any future excavation might unearth.

The publication of *Kommos V: The Monumental Minoan Buildings* completes the volumes giving a broad-spectrum approach to the geomorphology and habitation history of the M harbour town and port, as well as the Gr sanctuary built upon the M ruins. Aspects of the Kommos site and its exploration are also featured in a popular book, *Kommos, A Minoan Harbor Town and Greek Sanctuary*. The study of the élite M house X progresses. Work continues to complete the Kommos Research Website (https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/handle/1807/3004) where all the major publications are made available.

WESTERN CRETE (Prefecture of Rethymnon)
(25th EPCA; 28th EBA)

M Andreadaki-Vlazaki and V. Niniou-Kindeli (25th EPCA) produced *Αρχαίοι τόποι και μνημεία Νομός Χανίων* (Chania, 25th E.P.K.A. 2006) (ATM) based on posters displayed at the 10th Cretological Congress. This is a well-illustrated booklet that reviews the results of recent work in this Ephoreia: the sites and themes involved are Chania, Aptera, Vryses Kydonias, Gavdos, EIA tombs in the Kisamos area, Diktynnaio, Elyros, tholos tombs, Kisamos, Lisos, Meskla, Nerokourou, Nopigeia, Polyrhenia, Prepalatial sites, Rokka, cave sites, Stylos, Suia, Tarra, Tsiskiana, Hyrtakina and Phalasarna. As examples of the coverage, Aptera and Vryses are entered in the Chaniot Prefecture.

Byz W Crete. Myriokefala (Panagia) murals, of the 11th Ct, replaced L12th to E13th Ct (*ADelt*, 900).

DEMOS GEROPOTAMOU

Pera Galinoi. E. Banou (25th EPCA) and E. Tsivilika (National Museum of Athens; *ADelt*, 867) report on an excavation at Trachiloi, where architectural remains and sherds prove the occupation of the area in M times.

DEMOS ANOGEON

Zominthos. Y. Sakellarakis (ASA) reports (*Ergon*, 65–71, supplemented by *To Vima* [01/10/2006], *Ta Nea* [08/10/2006] and *Eleftherotypia* [14/10/2006]) on the excavation of the **M settlement**, conducted in collaboration with D. Panagiotopoulos (Heidelburg).

The main focus in a settlement said to be bigger than Gournia is a two-storey **central building** (**Fig. 128**): with over 40 rooms on the ground floor (totaling 1,436m^2), the walls at times 2.5–3m *h.*, with doors and windows preserved, this inevitably has prompted comparisons with a palace. It dates to the Neopalatial, being destroyed by earthquake, probably in LM IA. At the NW is a room housing a potter's workshop: water cistern, wheelhead and tools, as well as an external kiln,

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