destruction horizon involving building debris mixed with abundant MMIIIA pottery. After the destruction this material was reused as a fill underlying MMIIIB floors. Many types of vases are amply documented, involving finewares and coarsewares: shallow cups with out-turned rims, semi-globular and cylindrical cups (some with ribbed or grooved walls), basins, kalathoi, many tripod cooking pots, jugs, amphorae, miniature cups, chalices and kantharoi, some with crinkled rims, and a bird's nest cup-rhyton. More than 20 footed, circular, portable hearths, a type known from an MMII Phaistian cultic assemblage, testify to substantial religious activity inside the building. Many fragments of wall-plaster were discarded alongside the pottery in the same space. They come from pictorial wall-paintings with subjects similar to those previously reported, i.e. twigs with leaves in blue and a red 'net'. These fragments, along with those found in 1992 which belong to the same composition, date to MMIIIA. They are contemporary with the fragment of wall-painting excavated in the palace. Coming from uncontaminated deposits, these are the earliest well-dated fragments of pictorial wall-painting from Crete.

In all likelihood MMIIIA was the great era of Galatas. Not only was a palace created out of nothing, but also splendid urban buildings were erected, luxuriously decorated with wall-paintings probably by painters trained at Knossos.

Galatas Survey. L.V. Watrous (Buffalo/ASCSA) reports on the first study season. Much of the PH, Byz, Ven and Ot pottery was restudied for the purposes of fabric analysis and dating. Ovicaprid and bovid bones from 2 Neo sites were identified. A total of 169 Neo–Ot sites were recorded on period maps. Regional developments during the BA were related to the history of the palatial site of Galatas.

Pediadha Survey. N. Panaghiotakis and M. Panaghiotaki (University of the Aegean) report the completion of studies of the regional topography, geology, hydrology and botany; studies of pottery and clay analyses are well advanced. In recent years, field studies have focused on documenting the architectural remains on BA, Cl and Rom sites before they are destroyed through agriculture or illegal antiquities collecting.

Demos of Tymbaki

Agia Triada. V. La Rosa (SAIA/Catania) reports on the 2008 excavation season, which focused on the large stoa in the so-called agora, which can be assigned to a late phase of LMIIIA2 (2nd half of the 14th Ct BC).

A reconstruction of the monument made in 2005 proposed the working hypothesis that the furthest 2 areas of the building and the steps at the N limit were a late addition to the complex. To test this hypothesis, a trench was opened to the E of the steps to expose the foundation wall of the building which appears to be bonded with the E wall of the staircase. A 2nd trench, inside area VII, produced no indication in the bedrock for the existence of an earlier end wall that was later removed. At present, therefore, there is no evidence that the furthest 2 areas of the building were later extensions.

Surface clearing in front of area VI of this building confirmed that the large wall with off-sets (of the start of LMIB) was already in ruins before the layout of the square in front of the stoa. A white-stuccoed channel which ran across the whole area was almost certainly connected with a workshop: the link with the various structures in the area suggests a construction date towards the end of the 15th Ct BC.

Phaistos. M. Benzi (SAIA/Pisa) reports on the 2nd season of survey around the city and in the territory of Phaistos, conducted as a collaboration between the Universities of Pisa and Salerno and the 23rd EPCA.

Mapping and georeferencing work was completed. Geo sherds were located on the summit and slopes of Marathovigla. Intensive survey was conducted in an area immediately NW of the cemetery of Ag. Pavlos and the village of Ag. Ioannis. Preliminary study of the results allows the recognition of a settlement quarter densely settled in the M period and again in Hel times. A significant discovery is a Cretan LGeo aryballos (end 8th–E7th Ct BC) preserved almost intact. For the study of the Cl and Hel city, great interest attaches to the discovery of 7 walls which define the contours in the area investigated. Their dimensions and lengths mean that none can be ascribed to buildings; one example represents the remains of the S city wall.

Publication: O. Palio, *I vasi in pietra minoici da Festòs* (Padua, Erasmo 2008).

Kommos. J.W. Shaw and M.C. Shaw (ASCSA/Toronto) report on site maintenance involving the strengthening of walls and scarps, and the digging of foundation trenches for a possible future shelter to protect the Gr temples and the N stoa area of monumental M building T. The new study centre/apotheke was completed, and a programme to clean, repackage and organize the storage of all antiquities initiated. Further information about the site is presented on the web-site (http://www.fineart.utoronto.ca/kommos/index.html): the on-line archives include most of the site publications as well as field records (https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/handle/1807/ 3004).

Demos of Viannos

Kato Syme

Publications: P. Muhly, *The Sanctuary of Hermes and Aphrodite at Syme Viannou* IV: *Animal Images of Clay: Handmade Figurines; Attachments; Mouldmade Plaques* (Athens, ASA 2008); N. Zariphes, *Η αρχιτεκτονική του Ιερού του Ερμή και της Αφροδίτης* (PhD thesis, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki 2008).

WESTERN CRETE (Nomos of Rethymnon)
(25th EPCA: 28th EBA)

Demos of Anogeia

Zominthos. Y. Sakellarakis (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2008], 98–111) on continuing excavation of the M settlement, focused on room 15 and area 19 of the central building (plan: *AR* 53 [2006–2007], 112).

The investigation of room 15 was almost completed. The room had an E entrance, a window in the W wall and 2 niches in the S wall. The floor was paved, and on it was found a large quantity of vessels of various types such as handleless conical cups, bridge-spouted and cylindrical cups, large and small lopades, kalathoi, amphoriskoi, braziers, prochoes, stirrup jars, chytres, vessel lids, pithoid vessels and lamps, which date to LMIA. It is likely that room 15 was used as a workshop to judge from the number and position of the vessels, from certain features and from the discovery of pieces of quartz (rock crystal). The latter is found in the area around Zominthos. On the basis of his research at Zominthos and in the neighbouring cult site in the Idaean cave and the M peak sanctuaries of

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Iouktas, Kofinas and at Ag. Giorgios on Kythera, the excavator proposes that natural, polyhedral crystals were used in certain M cult practices.

In room 15, pieces of pyrolusite (manganese oxide) were also found; this has a semi-metallic sheen, comes from Melos and Lavrion, and can be used in the preparation of pigments and the production of porcelain. The excavator's view that room 15 was a workshop is strengthened by the discovery of tools such as grinders and obsidian blades.

Three large cylindrical ceramic vessels with feet, decorated with the well-known M reed motif, were found in one of the 2 niches in the S wall (**Fig. 129**); these are similar in shape to stone vessels. All 3 have holes in the base and were used as rhyta. According to the excavator, 'the discovery of these vessels underlines the dual purpose of the foundation of the large central building at Psiloreite, at an elevation of 1,187m, namely industry and cult', noting also that it was located very close to the route leading to the Idaean cave.



129. Zominthos: rhyta from room 15.

In area 19 of the central building, to the E of room 15, research concentrated in the E part. At some depth a wall of stone slabs was found, running from E to W and preserved to a height of 3 courses. Among the finds were 4 conical cups and fragments of other shapes such as kadoi and pithoid vessels, and beads of sard and agate.

Demos of Arkadi

Eleutherna
Publications: T. Kalpaxis, *Ελεύθερνα* II:3: Βυζαντινό σπίτι στην Αγία Άννα (Rethymnon, University of Crete 2008); A. Kotsonas, *The Archaeology of Tomb A1K1 of Orthi Petra in Eleutherna: the Early Iron Age Pottery* (Athens, University of Crete 2008).

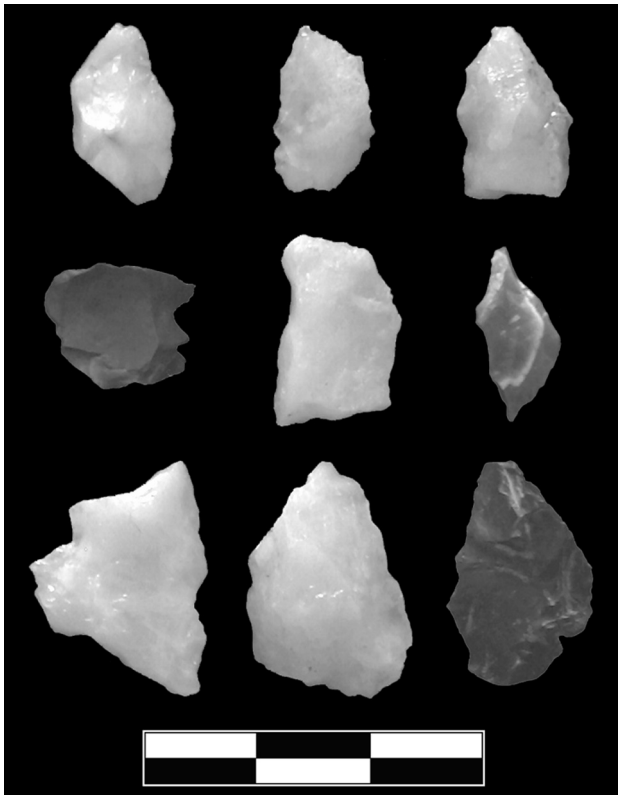
Demos of Phoinika

Plakias Mesolithic Survey. T. Strasser (ASCSA/Providence), P. Murray (ASCSA/Boston), E. Panagopoulou (EPSNE), C. Runnels (ASCSA/Boston) and N. Thompson (EPSNE) report on a survey which focused on finding pre-Neo remains on Crete.

The Plakias and Ag. Pavlos coastal areas in the nomos of Rethymnon were selected because they have environmental characteristics that closely approximate the preferred site locations of Mes foragers as demonstrated by discoveries in Epirus, the Argolid, the Sporades, the Cyclades and Cyprus. Numerous gorges cut S to the Libyan Sea, with perennial streams that would have created extensive wetlands in the E Holocene as the sea level rose. In addition, many local fault scarps have caves and rock-shelters, usually associated with springs, suitable for habitation.

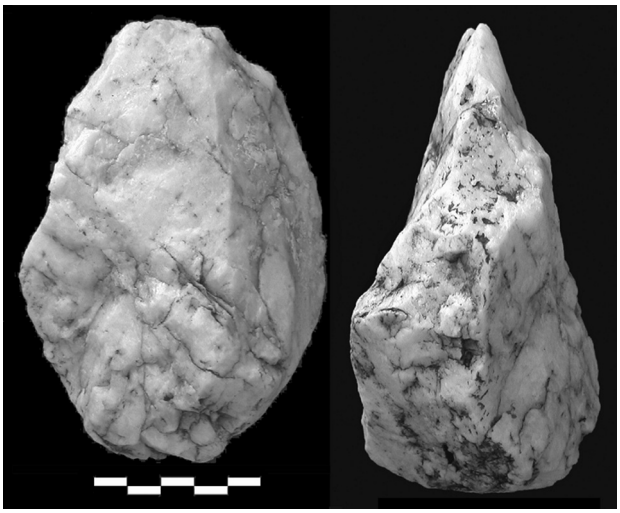
Survey focused on limestone caves near freshwater estuaries in regions where the present shoreline is near the E Holocene sea level. Fieldwork targeted paleosols where Pleistocene and E Holocene remains are likely to be preserved. Using these criteria, 18 lithic scatters were found and a sample of 1,764 stone artefacts collected. Small artefacts of Mes type were found at all but 3 of the sites, and large tools of Pal type were found at 4 sites.

The project found Mes sites in coastal regions where freshwater streams and rivers entered the Libyan Sea (i.e. the Damnoni, Ammoudi, Schinaria, Preveli and Ag. Pavlos regions). The Plakias Mes surface remains are similar to assemblages from Franchthi cave, Klisoura cave 1, Sidari, Kandia and Maroulas. The assemblages primarily consist of microlithic (ca. 0.01–0.04m) flakes struck from small pebbles of quartz and chert by direct percussion (**Fig. 130**). Flakes of different sizes were then retouched, often on multiple edges. Retouch, uniformly small and discontinuous, is seen also on the cores and on debitage of all sizes and shapes, suggesting somewhat expedient use of raw materials. Differences among the assemblages may have chronological or functional significance. Chert artefacts were more plentiful at the sites around Damoni, Ammoudi and Ag. Pavlos, and quartz was the preferred raw material at the sites from Schinaria and Preveli. The lithic scatters appear to represent temporary or seasonal campsites. Only at Damnoni 3 was evidence observed for possible activities other than flaked stone production and use: 2 or 3 possible circular stone features were located on a low shelf directly below the mouth of the cave.



130. Plakias: Mes flakes.

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131. Plakias: Pal hand-axes.

Three to 4 sites believed to date to the Lower Pal were identified in locations similar to the Mes sites, to facilitate hunting strategies incorporating access to fresh water and outcrops of raw material. The S-facing cliffs of the Preveli gorge had 2 to 3 sites. Two scatters are close together and after further analysis may be combined. Another site was found on the E side of the Kotsiphos gorge in an area that remains to be thoroughly investigated.

The Pal assemblages employ mostly dull, opaque and blocky quartz, often poorer in quality than that used in Mes times, which is translucent, lustrous and fine-grained. Use of other materials is suggested by a quartzite biface fragment from Preveli 2. The Pal industry is distinguishable from the Mes by the larger size of the cores, debitage, flakes and tools, which are typically 0.08m to more than 0.15m *l.* (**Fig. 131**). There are also technological differences: cores are typically unidirectional, bifacial or flat with centripetal flaking. Flakes were the desired end products of the reduction strategy, averaging about 0.08m in size and very thick (typically 0.035–0.045m) with broad and sometimes dihedral platforms up to 0.03–0.04m *w.* The retouched tool types are distinctive and include bifaces, hand-axes, cleavers, side scrapers, double converging denticulates, pointed flakes, truncations, denticulates, burins and Clactonian notches on flakes.

There was good reason to believe that Mes material would be found on Crete, since sites have been discovered on Kythnos, Youra, Alonnissos and Cyprus. The Lower Pal Acheulean tools are surprising, though lithics of all phases of the Pal have recently been reported from Gavdos. Since Crete has been an island since the Messinian Event almost 6 million years ago, early hominids had to use a sea-craft to reach Crete. This pushes back the evidence for early sea-faring in the Mediterranean to at least 250,000 years ago, and possibly much earlier.

WESTERN CRETE (Nomos of Chania)

Community of Gavdos

Gavdos. Siopata-Katalymata. K. Kopaka (University of Crete) reports on excavations at Katalymata near Siopata, in the complex of about 450m^2 explored in recent years.

Its main period of habitation is LBI, when it was destroyed, very probably by an earthquake, and partly burnt. MBA pottery and some architectural remains are also present. This building hosted mixed activities, as shown by its rich contents, whether fallen or *in situ.* Storage, grinding and pounding, and more specialized industrial work, perhaps related to perfume, metal and pottery manufacture, were certainly among them.

The pottery is mainly locally made and includes pithoi, jars, basins, cooking pots, dishes, jars and many jugs and/or amphorae, but few cups, as well as some small, nicely decorated eye-jugs (**Fig. 132**) reminiscent of Cyc ones, and at least one small stirrup jar. Local clays are generally soft to medium hard, pale and gritty, and the coarse fabrics recall Cretan oatmeal fabric. Despite its obvious M style, the pottery shows long-lasting and conservative local technical and aesthetic features. Thus, handmade vases and pushed-through handles are dominant throughout the 2nd millennium BC, and there is a clear preference for glossy surfaces, often painted with vivid orange-red colours, and with familiar, repeated motifs (for example, crosses, pairs of spirals, groups of pendent semicircles and wavy lines etc.) which point to a Gavdiot workshop.

Among other finds are small stone vases and several stone and clay lids, a few bronze items, and jewellery, including beads in faience, Egyptian blue, rock crystal, steatite, agate



132. Gavdos, Katalymata: two jugs.



133. Gavdos, Katalymata: beads and jewellery.

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