Following the abandonment of the structure as a place of worship, excavation has revealed 2 L antique phases. Initially it became a public building, with a portico, and remained as such to the start of the 7th Ct; later, and into the 8th Ct, it was used as a manufacturing centre. Three cisterns against the N side yielded some valuable statuary: apart from small fragments, noteworthy are a head of a youth, the lower part of a man in a toga (a composite piece) and a large torso of a woman, a *peplophoros*. This last seems to be a 2nd Ct AD reworking of a Demeter Capitolina type.

Lebena
Publication: M. Melfi, *Il santuario di Asclepio a Lebena* (Athens, SAIA, 2007).

DEMOS TYMBAKIOU

Phaistos. M. Benzi (SAIA/Pisa) reports on a new project begun in 2007. This will consist of a survey of the hills surrounding Phaistos where many sites have been discovered through non-systematic exploration in recent decades. The focus of this year's work was identification, GIS-referencing and information gathering for sites in the area already known or suggested from the archives of the 23rd EPCA and the SAIA. PH ceramics and structures were located on the hill of Marathoviglia Petrokefali.

Field survey was accompanied by the recording of materials originating from Italian excavation in locations around the palace, in part kept in the Stratigraphical Museum of Phaistos.

Kommos. J.W. Shaw and M.C. Shaw (Canadian Institute/ Toronto) report on the 2007 season.

Post-excavation activities continued. The final Kommos volume is being prepared: an in-depth study by M. Shaw of House X, providing studies of the architecture, stratigraphy and frescos, with a chapter on local and imported pottery by J. Rutter (including a new transitional LM IB/LM II phase which he has named LM IC).

See http://www.fineart.utoronto.ca/kommos/index.html.

Publication: P.P. Betancourt *et al*., *Krinoi kai Limenes, Studies in Honor of Joseph and Maria Shaw* (Philadelphia, INSTAP Academic Press, 2007): this contains many Cretan-based articles, including summaries of recent excavation work at Phaistos, Petras and Priniatikos Pyrgos.

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

DEMOS GEROPOTAMOU

Mnemata. E. Tegou (25th EPCA) reports on a rescue excavation at one of the cemeteries of Eleutherna, resulting from road-works between Alpha and Eleutherna. Sited on the W slopes and terraces of a gorge to the N of the city, the site is extensive: the tombs investigated all lie within the zone of the works, with the mod. road marking its limits to the W. The cemetery has been mentioned in the literature for some time, but only now has it been investigated.

Before work began, traces of rock-cut cist tombs were observable in 6 places. Many more were found: 128 have been definitely identified, in 5 main groupings. All are orientated N–S, except for 11 which lie E–W. They are cut into the bedrock, a soft limestone; some were executed carefully, others less so. Many were disturbed and damaged – the result of the road preparations, so that only 3 preserved in place their triple covering slabs. For many the sides were to be seen in outline as were the sockets cut to receive the cover slabs.

Pottery is the most numerous find: the 657 pieces recorded comprise several sorts of closed and small shapes – perfume bottles, lekythoi, jugs and oinochoai. Important for determining burial customs were 2 gold mouth covers, both inscribed. The burials can be dated broadly to the Hel period, with the earliest assigned to the L4th–E3rd Ct BC.

DEMOS ANOGEON

Zominthos. Y. Sakellarakis (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2007], 66–76, supplemented by *To Vima* [25/11/2007] and *Eleutherotypia* [01/10/2007]) on the continuing excavation of the M settlement, conducted in collaboration with D. Panagiotopoulos (Heidelberg).

The M main building, of 2 or 3 storeys, covers ca. 1,500m^2; its 2 entrances, good façade and frescoes establish its élite status. It was a working establishment, perhaps central to the exploitation of the upland terrain in which it is located. It had its own potter. Three chronological phases are distinguished: Prepalatial, Protopalatial and Neopalatial. Burnt after an earthquake, it was later replaced by a Myc structure. Some 50 pithoi have so far been located, among numerous other vessels, and bone and metal tools (knives, double axes). Over 30 types of seed have been found (barley, wheat, lentils, horse-beans), plus evidence of aromatic materials, and the bones of sheep, goat, hares and quantities of deer.

In the excavations of 2007, 5 rooms along the N face of the main structure were investigated. Room 7 had quantities of plaster and stones fallen from its upper storey/roof; wall-fresco pieces were still in place at their junction with the floor (thin coloured bands are detectable). Room 8 has a window (as have rooms 9, 14 and 15), plus more fresco *in situ*, 3 small vases, bits of wood and bronze, and some upright stones arrayed in arcs at the W that block an easy passage into the door with room 9, whose lintel still remains. Room 17 contained a fallen pithos and various clay vases including spouted jars, hemispherical and conical cups, and jars, as well as bones and burnt wood. Corridor 16 was partly blocked by a stone floor of schist and limestone fallen from above, partly by fallen vases, plaster and burnt wood. Room 15, a basement, has collapsed stones with a pithos and smaller vases, cooking pots, part of a set of Horns of Consecration, bones and burnt wood (**Fig. 106**).

Geophysical survey of the area of this M structure and its Myc successor revealed traces of a considerable number of walls. Environmental studies (animal bones) and conservation in the building continue.

DEMOS ARKADIOU

Eleutherna. *To Vima* (21/10/2007) reports on the discovery by N. Stampolidis (Crete/Museum of Cyc Art) of 3 Geo pithos burials (ranging from the L8th to M–L7th Ct BC). The pithoi (ca. 2m *h.*) were set on their sides between 2 parallel stone walls and had stones arranged over them, forming a sort of false vault as they rested on the curve of the vases. The inter-connection of the 3 was emphasized by their being laid so that the base of one closed the top of the other. All contained skeletons (at least one adult and some children) and grave goods. A marker further identified the spot.

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106. Zominthos: room 15, collapsed basement

The earliest burial had 3 bodies: perhaps one interred before the other pair. The oldest person, a female, had a gold sheet diadem attached to the forehead by a now perished cord. Finds associated were gold pins, beads of rock crystal, carnelian and other stone, and a scarab with winged deities. An impressive bronze ladle had a deep bowl and a 0.5m *l.* handle with a bird terminal: by the mouth of the pithos was an 8th Ct Cypriot oinochoe. The 2nd pithos held a single skeleton associated with one gold and one iron pin. The last pithos too held one body, with a necklace of gold sheet rosettes, a gold relief bead with a head in EIA style and more pins of bronze and iron.

The goods in the first pithos resembled others found earlier in a pit grave which held the burnt remains of a 'warrior-prince'. The excavators surmise that there may be earlier BA burials in the area – perhaps the source of offerings such as sealstones and stone vases in Geo burials.

Also in this area is a Geo structure of the 8th Ct BC, partly sunk into the ground. It is not fully excavated, but has substantial walls (2m *h.* x 1.5m *w.*), stone benches and tables inside and is equipped with kraters and many cups. The report speculates on a possible connection with rites for the dead.

Finally, 3 ash urns were found, similar to those associated with the warrior-prince pit burials; they had been closed by bronze bowls imported from Egypt or Asia Minor.

Ta Nea and *Eleutheros Typos* (05/02/2008) carry reports of a unique item that is compared with the Antikythera mechanism and interpreted as a Rom lock. Recovered in 2002, it has been subjected to extensive scientific examination at Rethymnon (D. Kalligeropoulos and S. Vasileiadou). It was recovered in a pottery store of a small Rom bath-house, the roof of which collapsed in the 365 AD earthquake, killing at least one person. Probably once attached to a ceiling beam by its 10-link chain (0.53m *l.*), a potential key to it was located nearby. The mechanism is cylindrical, around 1kg in weight and of metal: it has further bands of bronze attached to the exterior. The interior was divided into 2, with 3 cogged wheels of iron set on a pin and a further ovoid plate.

WESTERN CRETE (Prefecture of Chania)
(25th EPCA: 28th EBA)

Demos Kandanos

Kavalariani

Publication: A. Lymberopoulou, *The Church of the Archangel Michael at Kavalariana: Art and Society on Fourteenth-Century Venetian-Dominated Crete* (London, Pindar Press, 2006).

Koinotita Gavdou

Gavdos

Katalymata. K. Kopaka (Crete) reports on continuing work on the building on the hill of Tsirmiri, in the interior of the island. The structure, of which several rooms have been excavated, is reminiscent of a M 'villa'. Probably associated is the M 2nd millennium pithos burial, reported in *AR* 53 ([2006–2007], 121).

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