CRETE (PREHISTORIC TO ROMAN)

John Bennet
Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield

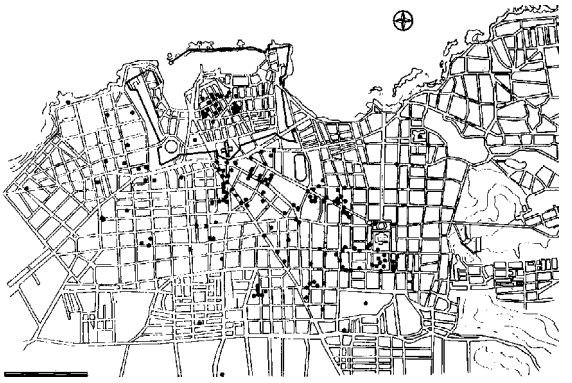
General observations

Once again, the flow of new publications has not been as great as in previous years, given the severe financial challenges all branches of government in Greece are facing. The next volume of *ADelt* for Crete is still not available, while publication of the second meeting on 'Archaeological Work on Crete' (*AWiC*), whose first volume made a major contribution to *AR* 56 (2009–2010), is still awaited (see *AR* 57 [2010–2011] 63). Just beginning to appear are e-offprints from the Tenth International Cretological Congress held in Chania in 2006 (see *AR* 53 [2006–2007] 96), some of which are summarized below. In the meantime, publication of the 11th International Cretological Congress held in Rethymnon in October 2011 is promised on-line; a substantial book of abstracts (*11th International Cretological Congress, Rethymno, 21–27 October 2011, Abstracts* [Rethymnon 2011]) was distributed to participants and is likely to be available in some specialist libraries, such as the BSA's. Next year's 'Archaeology in Greece' should draw on full publication of both the Tenth and 11th International Cretological Congresses, together with *AWiC* 2 and *ADelt* 56.

Publications are not completely lacking, however, and as indicated in the Introduction the former Ministry of Culture and Tourism has produced a substantial volume, under the general editorship of Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki (Director General of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage), summarizing the work of all the Prehistoric and Classical and Byzantine Ephoreias over the decade 2000–2010 that goes some way to filling the gap in publication of *ADelt* (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes). Inevitably, the information is brief and selective, but key discoveries are noted, some of which have already been noted in previous issues of *AR*. Several volumes of conference publications have also appeared. *Back to the Beginning* (Schoep *et al*. [2011]) is an important collection of 15 papers examining the Prepalatial and Protopalatial periods (EM–MMII) on Crete; they present both new data and new approaches, which, in general, tend to push 'complexity' back into the third millennium BC. Spanning the Prepalatial to the Early Iron Age is *Prehistoric Crete: Regional and Diachronic Studies on Mortuary Systems* (Murphy 2011), a collection of six papers on funerary practice most originally delivered at a colloquium at the 2007 Annual Meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America. A third conference publication, a collaboration between the Danish Institute in Athens and the Institute of Aegean Prehistory Study Center for East Crete, has a narrower chronological focus, but goes into much greater depth, devoting two volumes to LMIB pottery (Brogan and Hallager [2011]); each of the 16 substantive papers is followed by a short response. Finally, spanning both prehistoric and historical periods is *ΣΤΕΓΑ: The Archaeology of Houses and Households in Ancient Crete*, a substantial *Hesperia* supplementary volume containing 38 papers ranging in date from Final Neolithic to the early Roman Empire (Glowacki and Vogeikoff-Brogan [2011]). The historical period is represented by a general book on the Roman province of Creta (Bechert 2011). Publications of two recent theses, one doctoral (Lowe Fri [2011]), one masters (McGowan [2011]), have also appeared: the first an experimental archaeology of Minoan double-axe production and use, the second an attempt to understand Minoan seal imagery, particularly at Agia Triada.

Urban and rescue archaeology

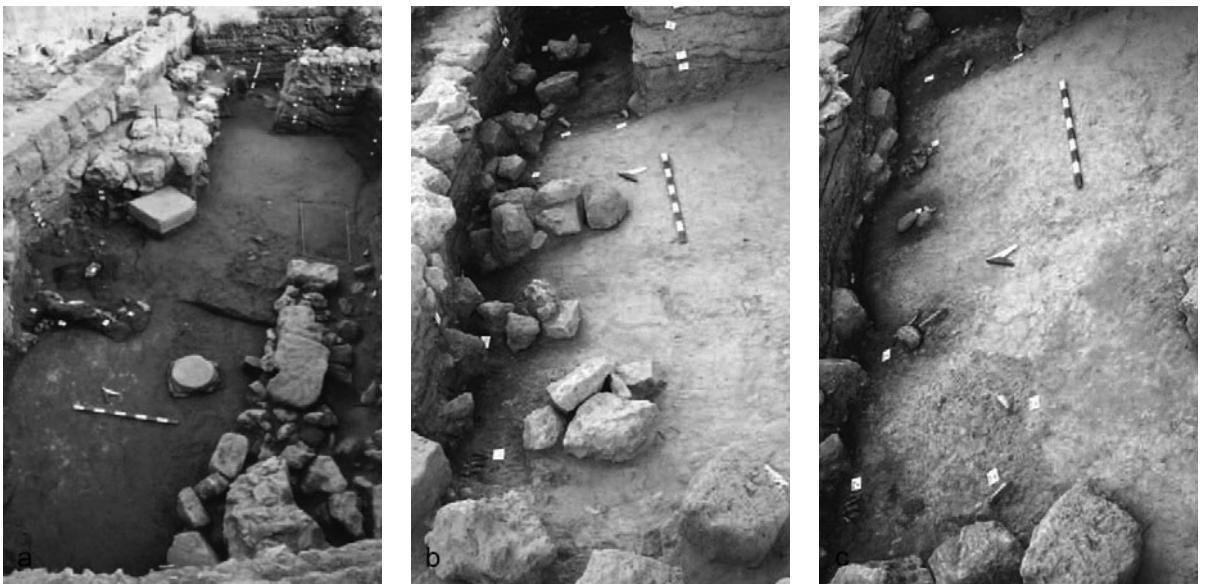
One of the points highlighted in www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes is the enormous contribution made by the Archaeological Service to the preservation and evaluation of archaeological remains threatened by urban or other development. This is particularly true in Crete's major cities. Publication in 2009 of a bilingual, extensively illustrated selection of the most significant urban archaeological discoveries in **Chania** (*Kydonia*; see *AR* 56 [2009–2010] 195) makes this particularly clear and also serves as a guide to the archaeology, much of which remains visible thanks to creative architectural solutions to the problem of preserving heritage in an urban environment (see also **ID2004**, **ID2832–39**, **ID2841–42**, **ID2844**, **ID2846–49**, **ID2851–53**). In general, the publication further emphasizes the fact that habitation and other activities in antiquity concentrated in the same regions as the Venetian to Ottoman city, on the Kastelli Hill and immediately east in the lower-lying Splantzia area, south and east of the harbour (**Fig. 93**).



93. Chania: map of the city, with dots marking locations of excavated antiquities. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EPCA.

The heart of the prehistoric settlement has been excavated in the Plateia Aikaterinis plot, originally as a rescue excavation from 1964, then as a systematic excavation by a Greek-Swedish team since 1970 (*Kydonia* 32–43; *cf*. *AR* 15 [1968–1969] 37–38 and regularly since). Habitation there began in EMII and all prehistoric periods are represented; most recently further discoveries were made when a protective roof was installed over the excavation area, with funding from the Third Community Support Programme (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 321; *Kydonia* 32–43). Urban excavations have uncovered Prepalatial (EMII–MMIA) remains at five other locations south of the Kastelli and extending to the southeast for almost 500m: at Karaoli and Demetriou and Katre Streets (*Kydonia* 56–61; *cf*. *AR* 53 [2006–2007] 118–19; **ID273**); at three locations on Daskalogianni Street (no. 63: *Kydonia* 70–77; *cf*. *AR* 42 [1995–1996] 47; *AR* 44 [1997–1998] 123; within the church of Agios Rokkos: *Kydonia* 78–85; and at no. 2: *Kydonia* 86–95); and at the

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94. Chania, 1 Katre Street: courtyard area of LMIIIB period (*ca*. 1300 BC). (a) with stone piles; (b) covering; (c) remains of sacrificed animals. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EPCA.

'Chania Bank' site at the junction of E. Venizelou and Michelidaki Streets (*Kydonia* 96–107; **ID1851**). These suggest that the Minoan town was already of some size in the mid- to late third millennium BC.

There is less specifically Protopalatial (MMIB–II) material, even in Plateia Aikaterinis, where later construction has removed it: finds, but no architecture in the church of Agios Rokkos (*Kydonia* 78–85), and clearer evidence of structures at 15–17 Kanevaro Street (*Kydonia* 44–49) and 10 Katre Street (*Kydonia* 50–55). Neopalatial (MMIII–LMIB) structures, some quite substantial, have been revealed above Protopalatial remains at the previous three sites and at Karaoli and Demetriou and Katre Streets (*Kydonia* 56–61; *cf*. *AR* 53 [2006–2007] 118–19; **ID273**), 43 Kanevaro Street (*Kydonia* 62–69) and 63 Daskalogianni Street (*Kydonia* 70–77), where an important Late Minoan complex, including high-status architectural features such as a lustral basin (with painted pillar) and Minoan halls, was uncovered. This complex was in use throughout the Neopalatial period, undergoing the refurbishments necessitated by earthquake damage. More recent excavations to the north of 10 Katre Street, in the 'Sevach' plot, have uncovered more Neopalatial structures with two construction phases, MMIII and LMIB (*AR* 53 [2006–2007] 118–19). At 1 Katre Street, almost adjacent to the Karaoli and Demetriou plot, excavations (**ID1855**) (**Fig. 94**) revealed two Linear A-inscribed objects (see below) in debris redeposited in a 13th-century BC destruction here that also included a fragment of Linear B tablet (see below). All of the preceding Neopalatial sites also produced LMIII material, suggesting a general destruction in the mid-13th century BC (LMIIIB1).

Material of LMIIIC to Geometric date is less plentiful, but there are LMIIIC levels in Plateia Aikaterinis, at 15–17 Kanevaro Street and 10 Katre Street, and a preserved hearth in the church of Agios Rokkos (*Kydonia* 82), while Geometric material was deposited in pits in the 'Chania Bank' plot (*Kydonia* 104) about 300m further to the south-southeast. This plot, together with the nearby excavation at 2 Daskalogianni Street (*Kydonia* 84), where Archaic to Classical habitation gave way to a Hellenistic ceramic workshop area, and a fourth-century BC pit in Agios Rokkos (*Kydonia* 84), document urban habitation in ancient Kydonia from the Archaic to the Roman periods. The centre probably remained, like its Minoan predecessor, on and around the Kastelli hill, where remains of the historical fortifications lie beneath the Venetian walls along the south edge of the hill (*Kydonia* 22). It is probable that the 'Chania Bank' site was close to the southeastern edge of the city, since remains of a Hellenistic city wall including spolia were found a short distance to the southeast of the site (*Kydonia* 104); to the south it is likely that the edge of habitation lay near Plateia Kolokotronis (*cf*. *AR* 53 [2006–2007] 119). Further excavation to the south and west of the ancient centre revealed habitation spanning the eighth century BC to Roman periods in the 'Agricultural Bank' plot at the junction of Skalidi and Manoussogiannakidou Streets, *ca*. 600m southwest of the Kastelli, and Hellenistic to Roman workshops (including murex-processing facilities) (**Fig. 95**) at a similar distance west-southwest at 32–34



95. Chania, 'Agricultural Bank' plot: Roman amphora kiln. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EPCA.

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Metaxaki Street (*Kydonia* 196–201). The first of these is particularly interesting, since it was used for burial in the Archaic period, before becoming a Classical to Hellenistic suburb, bisected by an east-west running beaten-earth road, and finally continuing as an industrial quarter in the Roman period with two transport amphora kilns (*Kydonia* 186–95; *cf. AR* 53 [2006–2007] 117–18).

The prehistoric and historical period **cemeteries of Kydonia** extended for up to a kilometre beyond the edge of the ancient city, especially to the southeast, following the modern streets of A. Papandreou and Apokoronas with a concentration in the Dikasteria-Mazali area. Chamber tombs are predominant in the LMII–IIIB periods, attested at 83 and 86–88 A. Papandreou Street (*Kydonia* 114–27), at 11 Malinou Street (*Kydonia* 172–79), with a particular concentration immediately south and east of the church of Agioi Petros kai Pavlos, and at 69–71 and 73–77 Igoumenou Gavriel Street (*Kydonia* 152–71). The latter comprised a group of 60 tombs, 54 prehistoric (the rest Hellenistic) spanning LMII to LMIIIB and showing similarities to contemporary examples at Knossos (*AR* 57 [2010–2011] 68). Classical and Hellenistic tombs are widespread, extending from Peace and Friendship Park, where a few Subminoan, Late Geometric and mid-second-century AD tombs were also found (*Kydonia* 103–13), to the region immediately west of the Law Courts (Dikasteria) at 31 and 31a G. Hatzidaki Street and at 9 Renieri Street (*Kydonia* 128–51) (**Fig. 96**), where a group of fourth- to third-century BC loculus tombs was found. Finally, an elaborate Roman funerary structure (*ca*. 110m^2 in area) with niches and arcosolia, originally located by N. Platon in 1958, was fully excavated at 161 Apokoronou Street. It may date late in the Roman period, and four rock-cut and two tile graves of the second to third century AD were also found a short distance away to the north (*Kydonia* 180–85).

To the west of Chania, the urban layout of the small city of **Kissamos** has been extensively revealed in the course of remodelling, again with assistance from the Third Community Support Programme: sections of the Roman street system, rich houses with mosaic floors, bath complexes, industrial establishments, large storehouses, central aqueducts and tombs, rich and poor. Also, a new museum now houses finds from the city and region (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 323; *cf*. **ID1862**, **ID1863**; *AWiC* 1.19). Only 3–4km further west, along the small coastal plain, tourist development at **Viglia Kalyviani** and **Phournado** have produced valuable results. At Viglia, a Middle Minoan establishment was investigated, the finds from which included clay rhyta in the form of feline heads (**ID2807**). At Phournado an agricultural establishment with multiple phases commencing in the Roman period was located; facilities for the production and storage of wine and oil were features of the complex (**ID2796**). Near the east edge of the Kissamos coastal plain is the important Minoan and later site of **Nopigeia**, possibly ancient Methymna (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 323; *cf*. *AR* 43 [1996–1997] 121–23).

East of Chania, rescue excavations on the edge of the modern settlement on the west edge of the site of ancient **Aptera** have revealed around 150 tombs of various periods, some with rich offerings of clay vessels, figurines, coins and jewellery (**ID216**; www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 323). The Third Community Support Programme also contributed to regeneration of the site: the entire fortification (*ca*. 4km in length) has been cleaned, revealing élite tombs at the western wall, together with the main western entrance. The ancient theatre (**Fig. 97**), much damaged in post-Roman times, has been cleared and studied, and a section of road running southeast, perhaps towards the city's eastern gate, uncovered ((**ID1870**); www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 323–24). Immediately below Aptera, to the east, in the vicinity of the village of **Kalami**, rescue excavations resulting from road improvement revealed a LMII tomb at the site of **Koiliari** (**ID1869**), only *ca*. 150m northwest of a similar tomb, containing a memorable clay pyxis depicting a lyre-player, excavated by Y. Tzedakis in the late 1960s (*cf*. *AR* 20 [1973–1974] 41). About 600m to the northeast excavations occasioned by the development of a beach complex at **Kyani Akti** revealed a Late Roman wine production and distribution facility (**ID2771**), while rescue excavations also uncovered a Hellenistic farmhouse (overlying Late Classical remains) about 1km west along the coast (**ID1871**).

Rescue excavations south of modern Rethymnon, at the sites of **Agia Eirini** and **Alpha Mnemata**, have revealed important new information. At Agia Eirini, just over 3km south of the modern city, a Hellenistic settlement of early third- to late second-century BC date was revealed in a series of four excavation areas (**ID1839**). Road widening at **Mnemata**, south of the village of Alpha, uncovered 128 cist tombs, predominantly of Hellenistic date that belong to the north cemetery of **Eleutherna**, whose city centre lies 1–2km further south (**ID2771**, **ID269**) (**Fig. 98**). These form part of a larger cemetery that extends south, on the west side of a steep gorge,



96. Chania, Dikasteria area: Mycenaean cemetery of Kydonia (*ca*. 1420–1300 BC). © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EPCA.



97. Aptera: ancient theatre. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EPCA.

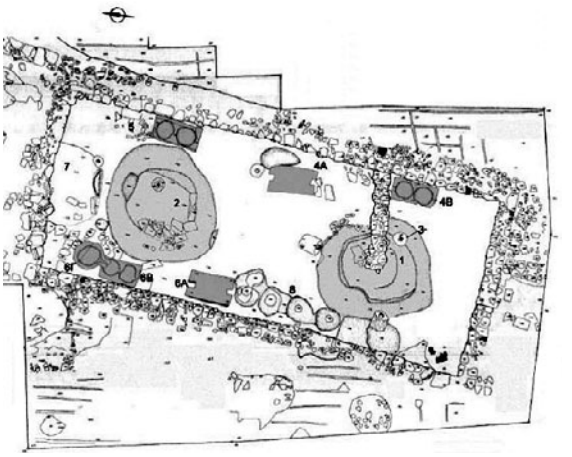
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98. Alpha: general view of Hellenistic cemetery at Mnemata. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EPCA.

almost to the edge of the ancient city itself. In addition to abundant ceramic finds and coins, the earliest dating to the late fourth to early third centuries BC, were two inscribed gold mouth-covers (tombs 56 and 84), similar to those recovered from tombs at **Sphakaki**, near Pangalochori and the coast *ca*. 8km northwest (**ID2803**). Work also continued in the systematic excavations of the earlier cemetery at **Orthi Petra Eleutherna** (**ID2857**, *cf*. **ID2005**). An oversized pithos containing four inhumations (a 60–70-year-old male, accompanied by an iron dirk and an iron brooch with textile traces, followed by three females aged 35–42, about 30 and 19) was investigated under Late Hellenistic to Early Roman settlement remains. The pithos had two bronze basins placed on top of it, with a third nearby, while pots (kraters, amphorae, hydriae, lekythoi and skyphoi in Cretan, Creto-Cypriot and Cypro-Phoenician style) were packed tightly outside it. More iron weapons with these finds probably accompanied an eighth-century BC inurned male cremation (aged 28–35). Nearby a chamber tomb contained remains of armed males deposited between 900 BC and the beginning of the seventh century BC.

The area on and near the coast to the east of modern **Rethymnon** has been described as the greatest centre for tourism in the region, while also being the most significant area of prehistoric settlement (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 325). The city of Rethymnon itself, while enormously significant in the Venetian and Ottoman periods (**ID2793** for how recent work has enhanced our knowledge of these periods in the city), seems not to have been a focus of ancient settlement, despite the recent discovery for the first time of a Hellenistic structure within the **Fortetza** (**ID1840**) and remains of Hellenistic shipsheds on its slope, partly destroyed by the modern road encircling the Fortetza (*AWiC* 1.21). Urgent rescue excavations to the east of the city have contributed to our knowledge of both prehistoric and historical activity in this region. In the area of **Chamalevri**, concentrated on the hills of **Kakavella** and **Tsikouriana**, are remains spanning all Minoan periods from MMIA to LMIIIC, the latter including deposits of ritual character and a ceramic kiln (**ID1826**; *cf*. *AR* 51 [2004–2005] 116). Excavation also revealed an extensive and well-preserved Roman olive-oil workshop at the **Manouses** location (**Figs 99, 100**). There were remains of two crushing mills (*mola olearia*) of a type introduced late in the first century BC, plus a domed millstone from a crusher (*tropeion*) typical of the Late Classical to Early Hellenistic period, as well as three pulp presses, storage facilities and a nearby amphora kiln (not excavated). About 80% of the ceramic finds within the structure were amphorae, mostly Cretan, but with some imported (possibly from Tunisia) in its earlier phase. The establishment, perhaps forming part of an industrial quarter, either belonged to a community or to a nearby shrine and had two phases of use: second to third century AD (construction and main use) and third to late fourth or early fifth century AD (south room). The destruction was by earthquake (probably one of those documented for the early fifth century AD), which also destroyed a bath complex to the north. Roman cist cemeteries were also documented northwest of the complex. A second-century BC public inscription was found in secondary context in the remains of the complex (**ID2828**; *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 157 [2006] 87–94 for the inscription). Close to this group of finds is the cemetery stretching between the villages of **Sphakaki** and **Stavromenos** comprising 38 Hellenistic and Roman tombs of various types: 15 tile graves, 25 simple cists, seven built cists and one pit (**ID2803**; *AR* 57 [2010–2011] 69; **ID211**).



99. Chamalevri: plan of olive-processing structure at Manouses. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EPCA.



100. Chamalevri: view of olive-processing structure from the north. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EPCA.

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Prehistoric tombs have also been recovered in the general area as a result of rescue excavations (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 325). Near **Pigi**, an isolated LMIIIA2–B chamber tomb was excavated at the Sounatsos location (**ID1828**), while a unique group of 16 MMI pithos burials was excavated at **Choiroi** (**ID212**). These are perhaps associated with the settlement at **Chamalevri**, which lies only 1–2km to the east. Slightly further west, a cemetery of 14 chamber tombs has been excavated over the past decade near **Maroulas** at the **Mezaria** location (**ID2825**; *AR* 53 [2006–2007] 114); ten of the tombs lie in a row, with others to their west and pithos burials to the east. Finds include ceramics (spanning the LMIIIA1–2 to LMIIIB period), 17 clay larnakes, beads and 11 sealstones, mostly carnelian and steatite. Further similar tombs have also been located near **Adele** (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 325). Unfortunately many of these LMIII tombs had been looted in the recent past. Tombs also continue to be discovered further east towards Perama in the area of **Angeliana** (*cf. AR* 37 [1990–1991] 76; *AR* 41 [1994–1995] 71), including the recent discovery by E. Kapranos (25th EPCA) of a LMIII 'cave tomb' containing larnakes (**ID2770**). Further east still, in the inland areas behind the Kouloukonas mountains, at **Kryoneri**, rescue excavation by M. Pateraki (25th EPCA) continued on a Middle Minoan building with seven rooms, two of which have been excavated to bedrock, revealing four pithoi (**ID2778**).

Urban archaeology in modern **Herakleion**, Greece's fourth largest city, has elucidated the Byzantine to Ottoman layout of the city, successor in Late Antiquity to **Knossos** (**ID1810**). For some time now, the modern city has been expanding in all directions, coming up against the archaeological zone protecting its ancient predecessor to the south. One of the goals of the *Knossos Urban Landscape Project* (KULP) was to document remains in the northern part of the larger city site where they were most threatened by development (**ID2815**). Study of material, reported by T. Whitelaw (BSA/UCL) and A. Vasilakis (for the 23rd EPCA), from the three seasons of archaeological survey (http://www.bsa.ac.uk/pages/media_drill.php?cat_id=93&media_id=IT2012_18.mp4) continued in 2011, focusing on a review of units collected in 2007–2008, outside the urban core area (**Figs 101, 102**). Among significant patterns emerging are: probable Middle Minoan (in addition to documented Late Minoan) occupation in the suburb on the Ailias ridge, plus a previously undocumented concentration on the northwestern point of Ailias; further evidence for Middle to Late Minoan cemeteries on the west slope of Ailias, as well as possible evidence for Late Minoan use of cemeteries on the Kephala ridge, modern Agios Ioannis, to the east and north of the North Cemetery, immediately south of the Zapher Papoura cemetery and on the west slope of Lower Gypsades, all awaiting confirmation on the basis of vessel forms represented. Although LMII–III material is less diagnostic, it does appear that habitation on Ailias does not continue in this period. Restudy offers further confirmation of a nucleated Early Iron Age settlement, rather than a series of dispersed hamlets. Resistivity survey in January 2011 on **Lower Gypsades**, reported by J. Bennet (Sheffield/BSA), E. Hatzaki (Cincinnati) and A. Bogaard (Oxford), focused on selected areas within the overall geophysical study area (**ID2813**, **ID1921**) (**Fig. 103**). In Area 1 (**Fig. 104**), indications appeared of a possible unpaved north–south roadway running for about 90m, before disappearing under a modern structure, perhaps leading to the gypsum quarries at the southern boundary of the study area; the quarries themselves may have been more extensive than they now appear, according to the resistivity survey. In Area 3, it is likely that a series of structures on terraces existed, continuing those already documented as Hogarth's Houses since 1900. I also note the welcome publication of Early Minoan material from the **Royal Road** excavations at **Knossos** (Hood and Cadogan [2011]).

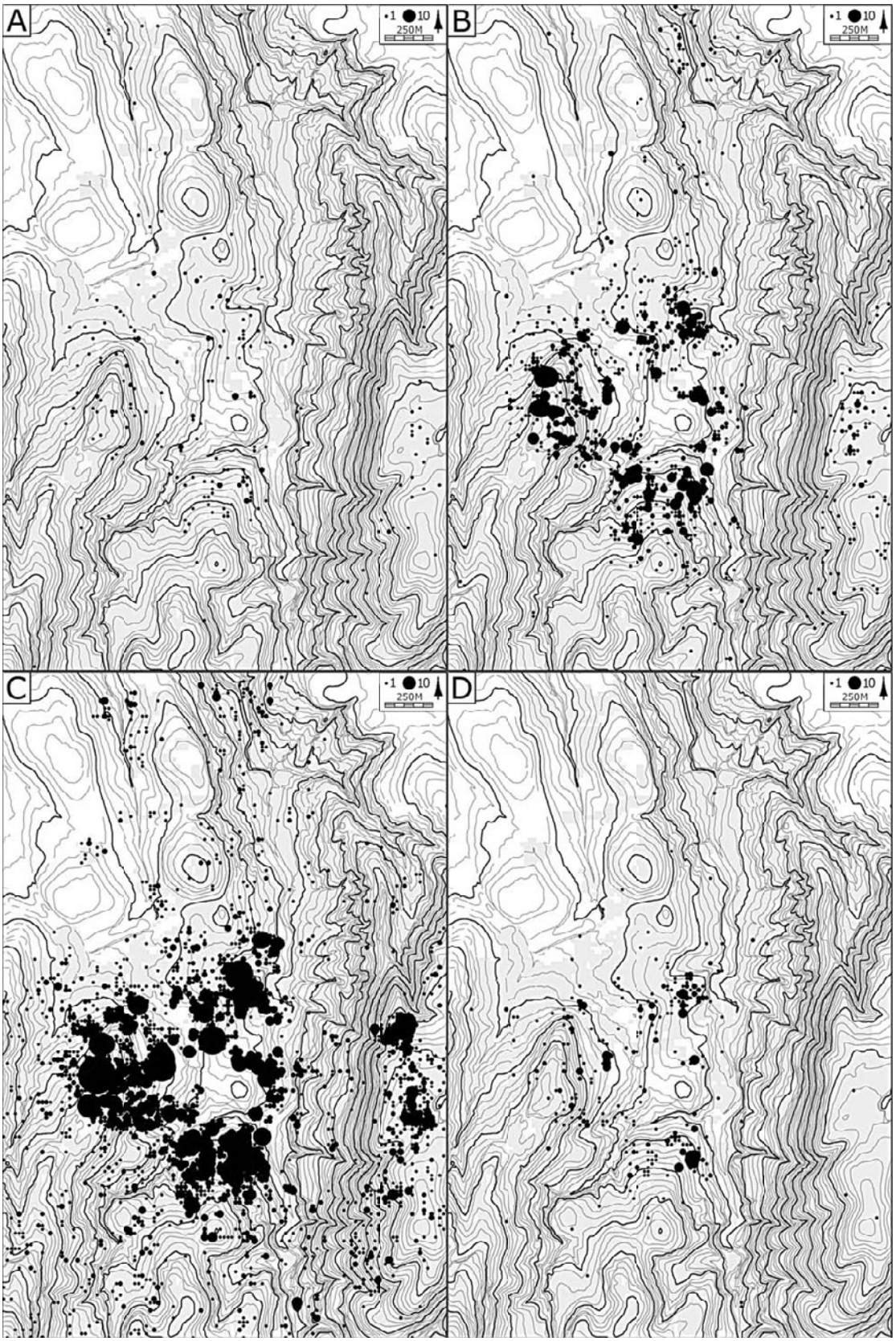
Rescue excavations revealed tombs in several locations. South of Herakleion proper, in the **Ambelokipi-Tekke** area, part of the larger Knossos North Cemetery (**Fig. 105**), a series of Protogeometric to Orientalizing tombs was revealed in 2010 by M. Rousaki (23rd EPCA): two chamber tombs, 17 pits and 12 irregular cists, mostly containing jar cremations, with only one inhumation. Finds included abundant ceramics spanning the Late Geometric to the end of the Orientalizing period, as well as bronze vessels and brooches, iron blades and fire dogs, a silver pin, glass, faience and rock-crystal beads; finds were less abundant in the pits and cists (**ID2804**) (**Fig. 106**).

In the well-known Neopalatial chamber tomb cemetery at **Poros** near the coast, a tenth tomb was found in 2002 by N. Dimopoulou-Rethemiotaki (Herakleion Museum), the smallest yet (at 55m^2). It had been disturbed, the bones pushed to the chamber walls, but produced fineware ceramics, plus an ivory plaque, two gold signet rings with epiphany scenes and a gold amulet in the form of a basket (**ID2797**) (**Fig. 107**). On the south-western outskirts of Herakleion, road works on the **Gazi-Krousonas road**, led to excavation by the 23rd EPCA of a LMIIIA/B chamber tomb containing multiple burials, a large clay larnax, many fineware vessels, gold jewellery and bronze objects, including weapons (**ID2858)**.

To the east of Herakleion, the next major coastal city is **Limen Chersonessos**, where rescue excavations in the polis area conducted between 1991 and 2010 by K. Galanaki (23rd EPCA) have uncovered 150 tombs (including two horse burials) in the Late Classical and Early Hellenistic cemetery that lies below Roman and Early Christian occupation (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 312–13; *cf.* **ID191**, **ID1805**). Most tombs are pit graves, occasionally covered with terracotta or stone slabs, but there are a few terracotta-lined cists. A broad range of black- and red-figure ceramics has been recovered (**Fig. 108**), plus jewellery, strigils, mirrors and possible bronze shoe buckles. Perhaps to be associated with Chersonessos and lying to the west, on a hilltop known as **Kephala** *ca.* 3km northeast of the village of **Skopela** between the Patsidianos and Ai Giannis (Chourmalis) streams, N. Panagiotakis reports the remains of a substantial structure (the foundations of the west wall are 52m long), probably the central building of a sanctuary complex dated by associated surface finds to the Archaic to Hellenistic period (**ID2854)** (**Fig. 109**). It is suggested that this might be the Sanctuary of Artemis Skopelitis, at the borders of the city-states of Knossos, Lyktos and Chersonessos, referred to in an inscription found by N. Platon at Fortetsa near Knossos (Platon [1948]).

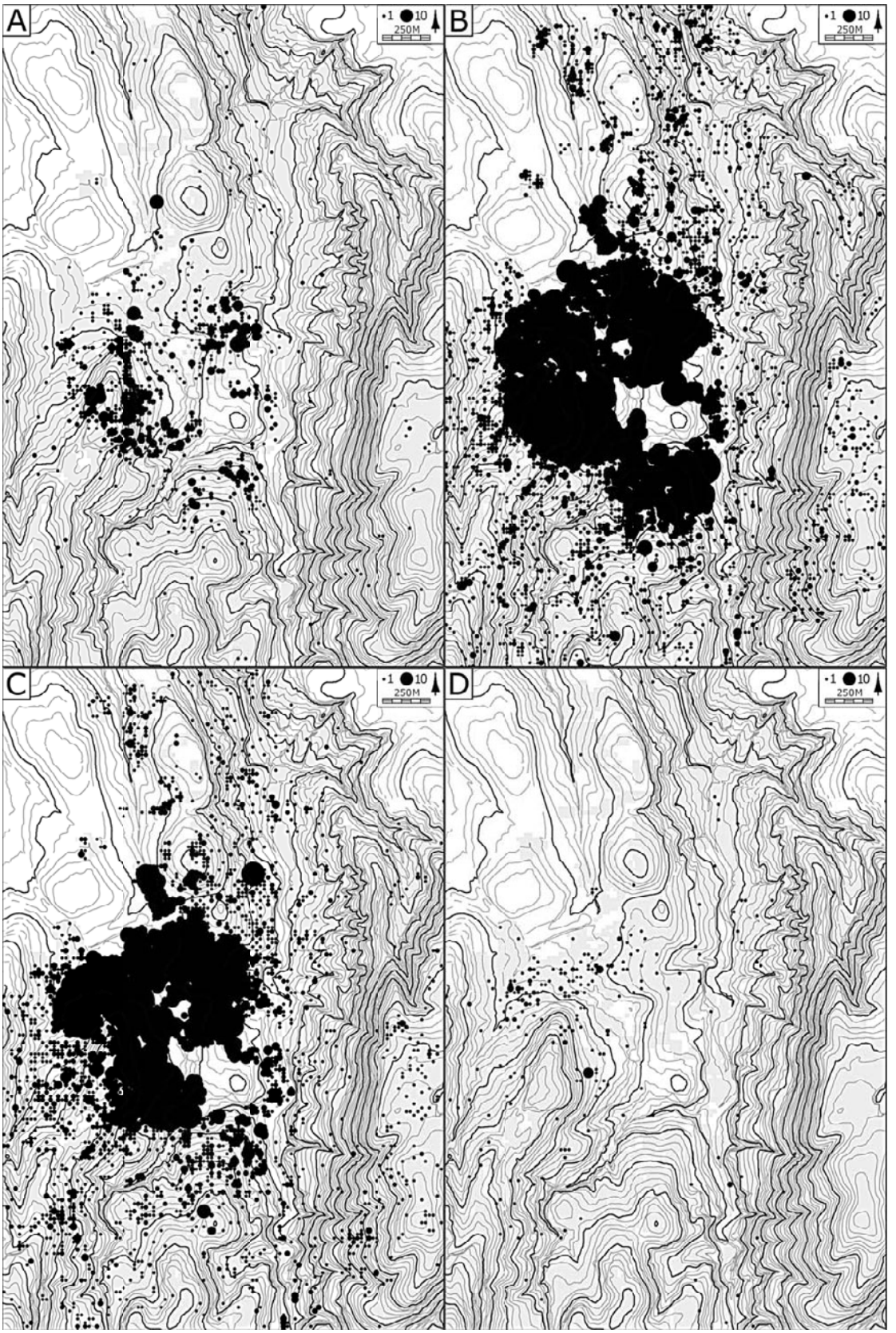
A few kilometres south of Chersonessos, in the Aposelemis river valley, construction of a dam led to investigation by M. Mavraki-Balanou (23rd EPCA) of an important Minoan site at the **Kephali** location near the

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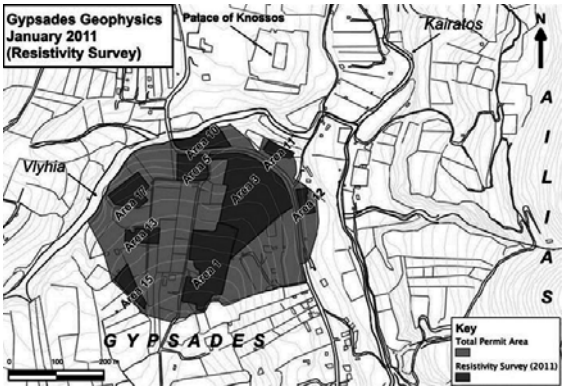
101. *Knossos Urban Landscape Project*: core of survey area, collection units in grey. (A) Prepalatial sherds; (B) Middle Minoan sherds; (C) Neopalatial sherds; (D) LMII–III sherds. © BSA, *Knossos Urban Landscape Project*.

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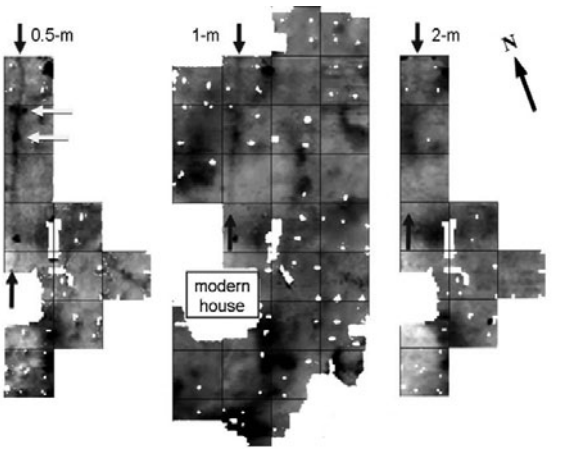


102. *Knossos Urban Landscape Project*: core of survey area, collection units in grey. (A) Early Iron Age sherds; (B) Hellenic sherds; (C) Roman sherds; (D) Late Antique sherds. © BSA, *Knossos Urban Landscape Project*.

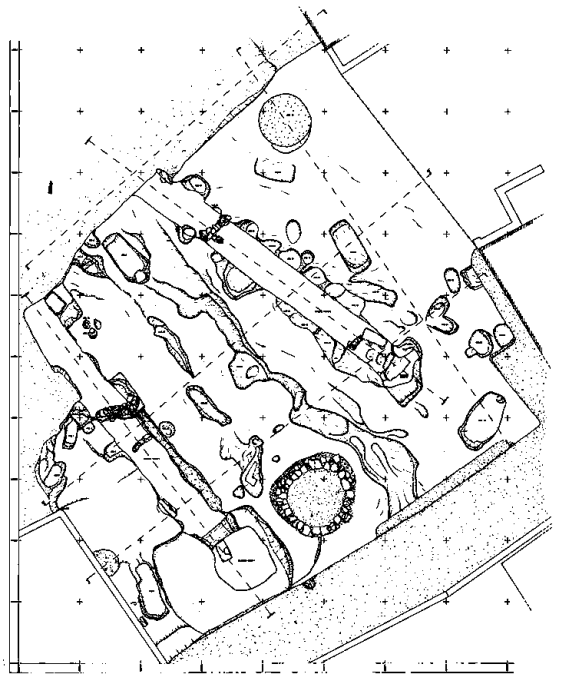
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103. Knossos: map, showing Lower Gypsades and areas covered by resistivity survey in January 2011 (J. Bennet). © BSA.



104. Lower Gypsades: plots of Area 1 showing resistivity results at 0.5m, 1m and 2m probe array spacing, with annotations indicating significant features (C. Merrony, A. Reid, J. Bennet). © BSA.



105. Knossos, Agios Ioannis (Ambelokipi/Teke); tombs of the Early Iron Age in the Knossos North Cemetery. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 23rd EPCA.



106. Knossos, Agios Ioannis (Ambelokipi Teke): Geometric vessels from a chamber tomb in the Knossos North Cemetery. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 23rd EPCA.



108. Chersonessos: black-figure skyphoid-kylix from tomb in the polis cemetery. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 23rd EPCA.



107. Poros; gold amulet-pendent in the form of a basket from chamber tomb. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 23rd EPCA.

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109. Skopela: general view from the north, indicating location of Kephala sanctuary. © N. Panagiotaki.

abandoned hamlet of **Sphendyli** (**Fig. 110**). The site's main phase of occupation is MMIII–LMI and 52 rooms have been revealed, some substantial, including living and ritual spaces as well as three large storerooms. Construction was mostly in local limestone, with evidence for mud-brick upper walls in some rooms. Earlier use is demonstrated by the discovery under the structure of 24 (to date) Final Neolithic to Early Minoan burials, while there is also evidence of reoccupation in LMIII and some Archaic ceramics, mostly pithoi (**ID2786**).

Tourist development in the vicinity of Agios Nikolaos, particularly to the northwest at modern **Elounda**, has obscured much of the ancient remains associated with the city-states of ancient Olous and Lato Pros Kamara. Material still comes to light, however, and V. Zographaki (24th EPCA) notes the excavation of a Minoan settlement at **Alevriko**, very close to modern Agios Nikolaos. The site produced architectural remains, Late Minoan ceramics, stone tools, loomweights, shell, bone and obsidian (**ID2765**). Test excavations, also by V. Zographaki, on the hill of **Sarakinou Kephala**, a known Minoan site, produced architectural remains of the Hellenistic and Roman periods, as well as ceramics of the MMI–II and LMIIIC periods (**ID2800**). Cist and pit burials have been excavated in various plots in Agios Nikolaos itself and nearby Elounda, but for the first time vaulted tombs of Roman date have been discovered by V. Zographaki in the **Schisma** cemetery associated with **ancient Olous**; the largest tomb incorporates funerary inscriptions from earlier tombs (**ID2777**). These tombs resemble similar examples found in rescue excavations in the **Loutres** area west of the modern city of **Ierapetra**, which, like Chania, overlays the remains of its ancient predecessor, Hierapytna (**ID2790**) (**Fig. 111**). According to V. Apostolakou (24th EPCA), 56 tombs have been investigated to date, 12 belonging to the single-chamber, vaulted type. Finds included ceramic and glass vessels dating to the second to third century AD and lamps spanning the mid-first to the late third century; in addition,



110. Sphendyli/Aposelemis Dam: view of the MMIII–LMI site of Kephali. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 23rd EPCA.



111. Ierapetra: view of Roman tombs 24, 25 and 28 in the Loutres location. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 24th EPCA.

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bronze coins dating to the reigns of Hadrian, Antoninus Pius and Severus Alexander were recovered. On the north side of the Ierapetra isthmus, rescue excavations in the region of **Pacheia Ammos** by M. Tsipopoulou (Director, National Archive of Monuments) have revealed a series of at least two EMI houses at the site of **Chalepa** on the coast (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 318); this adds to the picture emerging from a number of excavations in the immediate area (*cf*. AR 55 [2008–2009] 81–82; noting especially **ID767**, **ID768**), well contextualized by archaeological surveys of the Kavousi, Gournia and Vrokastro areas.

Ancient cities and post-prehistoric archaeology

Crete is, of course, famously the island of 90 or 100 cities, according to the Classical tradition. Archaeological activity over the past decade continues to shed light on a considerable number of these. As we have seen, our appreciation of the urban layouts of ancient **Kydonia**, modern **Chania**, **Kissamos** and **Aptera** has been enriched through extensive salvage excavations necessitated by development, while at **Knossos** survey has contributed to similar goals. At **Phalasarna**, on the far west coast, after excavations in the 1990s (*cf*. *AR* 45 [1998–1999] 124), small-scale investigations of the ancient harbour installations continued in the last decade (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 323). At **Elyros**, on the southwest coast, test excavations continue and have revealed a theatre building of the Roman period (**ID2801**). In addition, study of the region's fortifications resulted in the location to the west of Elyros itself of four fourth-century BC towers, constructed in polygonal masonry, at the locations **Vlithias**, **Azogyres**, **Spaniakos** and **Anydroi**, between the inland village of Vlithias and Palaiochora on the coast. These had already been noted by 19th-century travellers (for example, Pashley [1837] 2.120–22).

In the Rethymna *nomos*, various cities have been further investigated, including **Eleutherna**, already noted above. About 15km southwest of modern Rethymnon, habitation levels and tombs of the Roman period were revealed at **Lappa** (modern **Argyroupolis**) (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 325; *cf*. **ID1836**, **ID2772**), while extensive investigations, including geophysics, at **Axos**, 35km to the southeast, significantly improved knowledge of this important city's overall layout (**ID1834**). In the Amari region to the south, a small settlement on a high plateau looking both north and south at the north end of the valley, variously identified with ancient **Bene** or **Phalanna**, was investigated at **Veni** (**ID1845**). Archaeological investigations over three decades at the city of ancient **Sybrita**, about 4km east of Veni as the crow flies, on the Kephala hill above the modern village of **Thronos**, are summarized by N. Karamaliki (25th EPCA) (**ID2855**). The city originated in the LMIIIC period, continuing through the Early Iron Age (periods under investigation by a joint Greek-Italian team: *cf*. **ID1847**), but the report emphasizes the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Part of the isodomic Hellenistic fortification wall has been identified at the east foot of the Kephala hill, while in the same period habitation extended as far as the nearby village of Agia Photeini, *ca*. 800m to the southwest; further east a third- to second-century BC Hellenistic structure appears to have been associated with agricultural and textile production. The city reached its greatest extent in the Roman period, with a sanctuary on the summit of the hill, which produced a dedicatory inscription to Hermes, and was probably destroyed and abandoned in the third or fourth century AD. Ceramics and building debris are widely attested on the south slope of the hill and Roman structures, with building phases from the first to third century AD, were excavated on two plots in the village of Agia Photeini. The city boundaries were defined by tombs, such as those in the village of Genna, *ca*. 1km to the south, while an elaborate monumental tomb, approached by a 4-m long dromos with a domed chamber in *opus testaceum*, in use from the first to the third century AD, was found at Tsingouna on the north of the Kephala hill.

Neither **Gortyn**, nor **Phaistos**, its smaller neighbour only 12km to the west, were built over after antiquity, leaving them open for modern study for over a century now. A five-year collaborative programme of research (**ID1917**) between the SAIA and the 23rd EPCA to inventory, map and restudy monuments of all periods in the vicinity of **Phaistos** completed its final season in 2011. F. Longo (Salerno/SAIA) reports that work focused on the area outside the Hellenistic walls on the highest point of the main ridge of Christos Efendi and on georeferencing nearby monuments, such as the Kalyvia, Liliana and Kamilari tombs (**ID2821**). Geomorphological studies were also undertaken. At **Gortyn**, excavation continued for a seventh season at the **Pythion Theatre**, reported by J. Bonetto (Padua/SAIA) (**ID2818**), confirming its construction in the first half of the second century AD, while it seems to have been destroyed in the AD 365 earthquake, by which time it appears to have been used as a stable. E. Lippolis (Rome/SAIA) offers a summary based on investigations to 2005 of development in the **Pythion** area from the Hellenistic (the emphasis of the paper) to the Byzantine period (**ID2829**). Gortyn emerged as a major power in Crete, with links to Ptolemaic Egypt, in the third to first century BC and this is reflected in extensive urban remodelling, especially in the second century BC. Work near the **Nymphaeum**, also reported by E. Lippolis, was directed at understanding the architectural history of a quarter created in the last decades of the third century BC (**ID2819**). Excavations by the SAIA in the agora at **Gortyn** have been published (di Vita and Rizzo [2011]). The 23rd EPCA excavated at the **Grand Theatre**, elucidating its architectural layout (18 rows of seats in the lower cavea, 11 in the upper with five passageways giving access to the cavea) and recovering a life-sized stone male statue and 50 intact first- to second-century AD lamps (**ID2859**). Some 2–3km west of Gortyn itself, near the village of **Kastelli**, work on the new Herakleion–Moires road uncovered a Roman rural villa with mosaic floors, marble inlays and a pair of marble column bases, as well as evidence for oil or wine production; it was in use for a long time into the Early Christian period (**ID2814**).

The city of **Prinias**, whose ancient name is not certain, although Rhizenia is a possibility, continues to provide more information (**ID2843**). The site is particularly important for its early origins in LMIIIC, rather like **Sybrita** on the other side of the Ida massif. Investigation in 2002 and 2005, reported by A. Pautasso (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Catania/SAIA), has shed considerable light on the relationship of both Temple A and B to their urban surroundings, while soundings within the north part of the pronaos of Temple A revealed a stratigraphy with Late Geometric to Early Orientalizing ceramics in the upper part, over Protogeometric B to Geometric, in turn over LMIIIC at the base. The Protogeometric B to

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Geometric material may have been a ritual deposit, while the LMIIIC contained cooking ware. A similar sequence was documented in a sounding between the hearth and the south wall of the temple, where again the Protogeometric B material had a ritual character and the LMIIIC yielded drinking and cooking vessels as well as bones and seeds. Also in 2002 Early Iron Age cremation and inhumation burials in a funerary enclosure were excavated at **Agioi Dodeka Apostoloi** (**Fig. 112**), *ca*. 250m north of the known cemetery at **Siderospilia**, according to G. Biondi (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Catania/SAIA) (**ID2826**). The enclosure (2.6 × 2.4m) is similar to other examples at Prinias and elsewhere on Crete in this period. At present it is unclear whether these burials go with Prinias, or perhaps with another closer settlement, such as that currently dated only to the Hellenistic to Roman period at **Kali Vrysi**, another 300m north of the cemetery at **Agioi Dodeka Apostoloi**.

A collaborative programme between the EfA and the 24th EPCA for the restudy of old material together with targeted fieldwork at the city-state sites of **Dreros** and **Lato**, plus the early site of **Anavlochos**, commenced in 2008 (**ID771**, **ID772**, **ID908**). This promises to shed new light on all three sites. In addition to this initiative, recent excavation, funded by the community of Vrachasi and carried out by V. Zographaki (24th EPCA), at **Anavlochos**, which lies across three summits and the saddles in between, revealed structures in two areas: Area A, below hills 1 and 2; and B, on hill 2 (**ID2769**). Two groups of tombs investigated at **Mermingas** at the northern foot of the hills produced ceramic and metal finds (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 319).

In the Siteia region, recent work has taken place at the city-state of **Praisos**, on the First Acropolis, both by the BSA (**ID255**, **ID1794**) and by the 24th EPCA (**ID1795**). About 8km to the northeast, the site of **Roussa Ekklesia Kastri** (*cf. AR* 39 [1992–1993] 79) that lay within the territory of Praisos was investigated by C. Sophianou (24th EPCA): the previously discovered fortification wall was shown to have 11 watch-towers and structures within it occupied from the Archaic to Roman period, confirmed by ceramics and two inscriptions recovered in the past (**ID2799**). About 2km further east is the sanctuary site of **Anoixi**, perhaps forming a boundary shrine for the city-state of Praisos (*cf. AR* 37 [1990–1991] 76; Erickson [2009] 378–85).

At ancient **Itanos** a new five-year programme of research was initiated by A. Tsingarida (ULB) and D. Viviers (Belgian School/ULB) to complete work on the North Cemetery, carry out conservation work on the site and document the plan and function of the 'Archaic Building' (**ID2822**) (**Fig. 113**). Excavation in the North Cemetery revealed a very different picture from earlier work: it was arranged around a north–south path, with densely-packed Late Classical to Late Hellenistic tombs on the east and a series of structures, including the 'Archaic Building', to the west. An Early Roman retaining wall covered the north–south path at a point in time when the cemetery area was abandoned and used for cultivation. The wall was also picked up at the southern edge of excavations around the 'Archaic Building', which was shown to have three phases: an earlier Archaic phase (earlier than previously thought), a main seventh- to fifth-century BC phase (in which a main room with hearth and *pastas* were identified) and a Classical phase. S. Kirkpatrick Smith (Kennesaw/ASCSA) and C. Sophianou (24th EPCA) studied remains from three disturbed Hellenistic graves (T. 3, 6 and 7) excavated in the North Cemetery in 2003 within an area also containing four Geometric to Archaic cremations (**ID2779**). T. 3 contained the remains of a woman and was dated no later than the late second century BC on the basis of an inscription; T. 6 held at least four individuals, three adults (including a 50-year-old male and a woman over 35 years of age) and a five to seven-year-old child; T. 7 contained at least three adults and produced a late second- to early first-century BC amphora sherd. The general area of these tombs seems to have been in use from the Geometric to Hellenistic period with no restrictions on the basis of age or sex for those buried.



112. Agioi Dodeka Apostoloi: view of funerary enclosure after excavation. © SAIA.

Finally, it is worth noting two sites that might have become independent city-states had it not been for the presence of more powerful neighbours: **Anavlochos** and **Azoria**. That they are known by their modern names is significant. Both were important in the Geometric to Archaic period. Excavation concluded at **Azoria** in 2006 (**ID184**), but study continues under the direction of D. Haggis (Chapel Hill/ASCSA) and M. Mook (Iowa State/ASCSA), most recently focusing on structures originally investigated by H. Boyd in 1900 on the South



113. Itanos: view of 'Archaic Building', showing trenches 2 and 3, with hearth next to scale. © EfA.

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Acropolis: a rectangular Archaic structure, possibly an early temple, overlain by two superimposed Hellenistic round towers (**ID2856**). The earlier tower may be associated with Praisos' territorial interests in response to the expansion of Hierapytna, while the later tower might have been established by Hierapytna to mark control over the north isthmus. Study of ceramics concentrated on understanding the chronology of the site's Archaic rebuilding and fifth-century BC occupation.

News round-up

Recent significant finds and publications

It is worth collecting other recent significant finds and publications. These are organized from west to east.

Excavations at the Minoan peak sanctuary of **Vrysinas** south of Rethymnon continue under the direction of E. Papadopoulou (25th EPCA) and I. Tzachili (Crete) (**ID2817**). Material spans the Protopalatial to the first part of the Neopalatial period, and was found on a series of terraces in the vicinity of the church of Agio Pnevma. Clay vessels and figurines were plentiful (*ca*. 800 figurines to date), many pushed into crevices or hollows in the rock. The largest terrace, the site of earlier excavations by C. Davaras in 1972–1973, produced male and female figurines, both whole and partial, animal figurines and plaques depicting birds and double axes, as well as clay spheres; bronze objects were also found, including a single bronze figurine. From the same terrace came a four-sided prism seal in red jasper with Cretan Hieroglyphic signs on all four faces (**VRYS 4/4 01**: see Hallager et al. [2011]). Only a few kilometres due west of Vrysinas lies the major LMIII cemetery at **Armenoi**, whose associated settlement site is now being explored at the **Kastello** location to its west (**ID210**). In the middle of the Amari valley, the important Protopalatial site of **Monastiraki** has been excavated in recent years by A. Kanta (23rd EPCA), who has just produced a second volume of the site publication, focusing on the important 'administrative' building (Kanta [2012]). High up on the opposite side of the Ida massif, excavations at the site of **Zominthos** continue under E. Sapouna-Sakellaraki (ASA) (**ID2810**). In 2011, attention focused on the central building, rooms 19, 28–30 and 49. Among the finds from room 49 was a clay sealing. Clearance of a Roman addition over rooms 29 and 30, claimed to be a central court in LMI, revealed Geometric and Archaic interventions, as well as ceramics of the Classical, Hellenistic, Byzantine and Venetian periods. After removal of this later material and of the LMIA destruction level, a Protopalatial building was revealed, probably with two storeys.

In the coastal area between Rethymnon and Herakleion, Hellenistic settlement remains with more than one phase and a small road were revealed at **Perama** (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 325–26). In the vicinity of the coastal village of **Bali**, two new sites were revealed, as E. Papadopoulou and E. Kopranos (25th EPCA) report (**ID2774**). At Sidero, a LMIIIB structure may represent an early 'flight to the hills', typical of the end of the period in Crete, while a Middle Minoan building complex was excavated on the low hill of Katevatis near the sea (**Fig. 114**). The latter shows similarities with the known site of **Pera Galinoi** (**ID1832**) and may be one of a series of such establishments between Bali and Sises about 8km to the east, possibly connected with exploitation of mineral resources in the area.

S. Mantilaki (23rd EPCA) reports the excavation in 2004 of an unrobbed LMIIIA2/B chamber tomb at **Karteros Agia Photeini** (**Fig. 115**), ancient Amnisos, not far from the Palaiochora hill and the cave of Eleithyia, and also near the **Mapheze** tomb of the same date excavated by S. Marinatos in the 1920s (**ID2831**). The tomb, approached by a 3m-long dromos, contained five clay larnakes, each containing a single inhumation, except for one with three, including a child. Finds were typical of the period, including ceramics, bronze vessels and glass beads. Lying some way inland on the Karteros river is the important site of **Galatas**, of whose excavation between 1992 and 2008 G. Rethemiotakis offers a valuable summary (**ID2778**; *cf*. **ID1815**). The palace, 0.6ha in area, was constructed in MMIIIA, undergoing a period of destruction and rebuilding by MMIIIB and gradually falling into disrepair before its final destruction in LMIA. The palace walls were built of orthostates and ashlar, and the overall structure had four wings, a central and a west court, with a Minoan hall in the north wing. A unique rectangular hall in the east wing had four pillars surrounding a rectangular hearth. Surrounding the palace were six structures constructed between MMIB and LMIIIA2–B, all sampled or completely excavated. The overall settlement reached its peak in LMIB, marked by high-quality Floral and Marine Style ceramics.



114. Bali: view of Middle Minoan building complex on the hill of Katevatis. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EPCA.



115. Karteros: view of LMIIIA2–B chamber tomb showing larnakes. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 23rd EPCA.

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More detail of the excavation of an EMI cemetery and MMII structure at **Gournes** is provided by K. Galanaki (23rd EPCA) with a focus on the MMII structure (**ID2830**; *cf. AR* 53 [2006–2007] 107) (**Fig. 116**). The rectangular, single-storey building (10.3 × 6.15 m) is close to the shore and lies over three Early Minoan tombs, while two more are nearby to the north and east. The exterior walls, made of local stone, are preserved to 0.5m in height; the main entrance is at the south end of the west wall. Finds other than ceramics were absent and the ceramics were dated mostly by fabrics: the majority (67%) is Protopalatial and some (6%) Neopalatial. Among the forms, cups are predominant, followed by closed vessels and cooking pots, and the occurrence of some outside the structure itself suggests activity there too. Three fabric groups were identified: a local fabric, used for cooking wares (non-calcareous, with added calcite, grog and vegetable matter); a second with phyllite/quartzite inclusions in two different proportions, also used for cooking pots and other vessels, perhaps originating at Malia or in the Pediada region; and a third, with ophiolite inclusions, may originate in the Mesara.

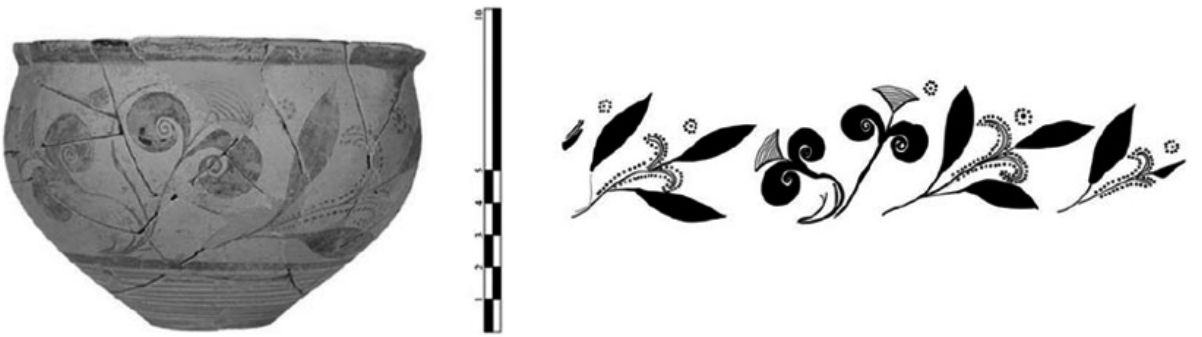
The important sanctuary site dedicated to the goddess Eileithyia at **Inatos-Tsoutsouros** on the south coast has been published (Kanta and Davaras [2011]). About 8km due north, more information has been presented by S. Mandalaki (23rd EPCA) on an important Neopalatial building (*ca*. 250m^2), characterized as a 'typical Minoan rural villa', at the site of **Kolokithi** between the villages of **Lagoutas** and **Skinias**, overlooking the local plain (**ID2850**; *cf. AR* 51 [2004–2005] 110–11). The main entrance at the south had a porch with two columns, while a secondary entrance at the southeast led to a staircase; the ground floor was mostly devoted to storage. Walls were constructed of local stone and mud-brick and were 0.95m thick externally, 0.5–0.6m internally. Fineware ceramics show parallels with LMIB material from Knossos and east Crete, with one possible Mycenaean (LHIIA or B) import (**Fig. 117**). Room 1 was a later addition against the original west wall, entered from the west, with no direct communication to the rest of the complex. Finds here included a globular stirrup jar, a functional bronze double axe, three querns and 20 loomweights. Room 7, north of room 1, may have functioned as a lightwell, while storage areas were ranged along the east side, including an area used for stone vessels (room 8); four pithoi were also found. Destruction was by fire, perhaps in association with an earthquake, in LMIB, although no Marine Style ceramics were found.



116. Gournes: aerial view of Middle Minoan structure and most of EMI cemetery from the southeast. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 23rd EPCA.

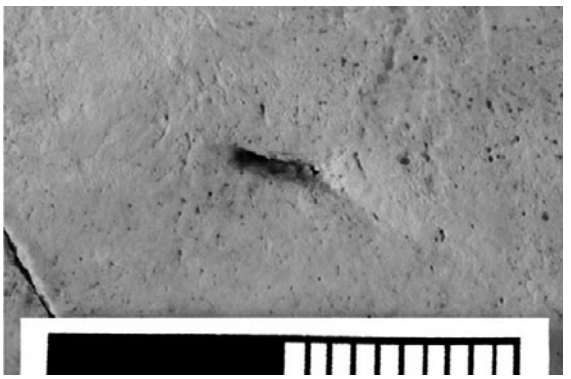
On the Lasithi plateau, the site of **Karphi** continues to provide new data, in addition to the re-excavation in 2008 of the settlement site itself (**ID777**). A restudy of the ceramics from the Early Iron Age site has been published (Preston Day [2011]), while 12 new Minoan tombs have been excavated by V. Apostolakou (24th EPCA) at the known cemetery sites of Astividero and Vitsilovrysi (**ID2782**). Study by P. McGeorge of the human skeletal remains of 400 individuals from the extraordinary cave ossuary at **Agios Charalambos** has revealed information about the pre-MMIIB population transferred there: 16 cases of cranial trauma (11 in males) were identified, some from blades (**Fig. 118**), others from blunt instruments (**ID2827**). Three cases of trephination were also noted, one a child, two of which survived (**Fig. 119**); knife guidelines for trephination were noted on two other skulls, but the operation was not carried out.

Excavations at the Minoan coastal site of **Sisi** reached their final season in 2011, as reported by J. Driessen (Belgian School/UC Louvain) (**ID2824**). Work continued on the Early Minoan to MMII tombs in the northern zone 1, especially the structure 9.1–2 initially explored in 2010. Excavations on the summit (zones 3–5) clarified the history of the Postpalatial complex CDE (**Fig. 120**). Probably constructed in LMIIIA2, its south wing was destroyed and abandoned early in LMIIIB, while the rest of the complex was destroyed later in LMIIIB, leaving substantial destruction deposits. Tests outside Building CD yielded a possible Linear B



117. Skinias/Lagouta: hemispherical cup with 'olive spray' decoration from near staircase. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 23rd EPCA.

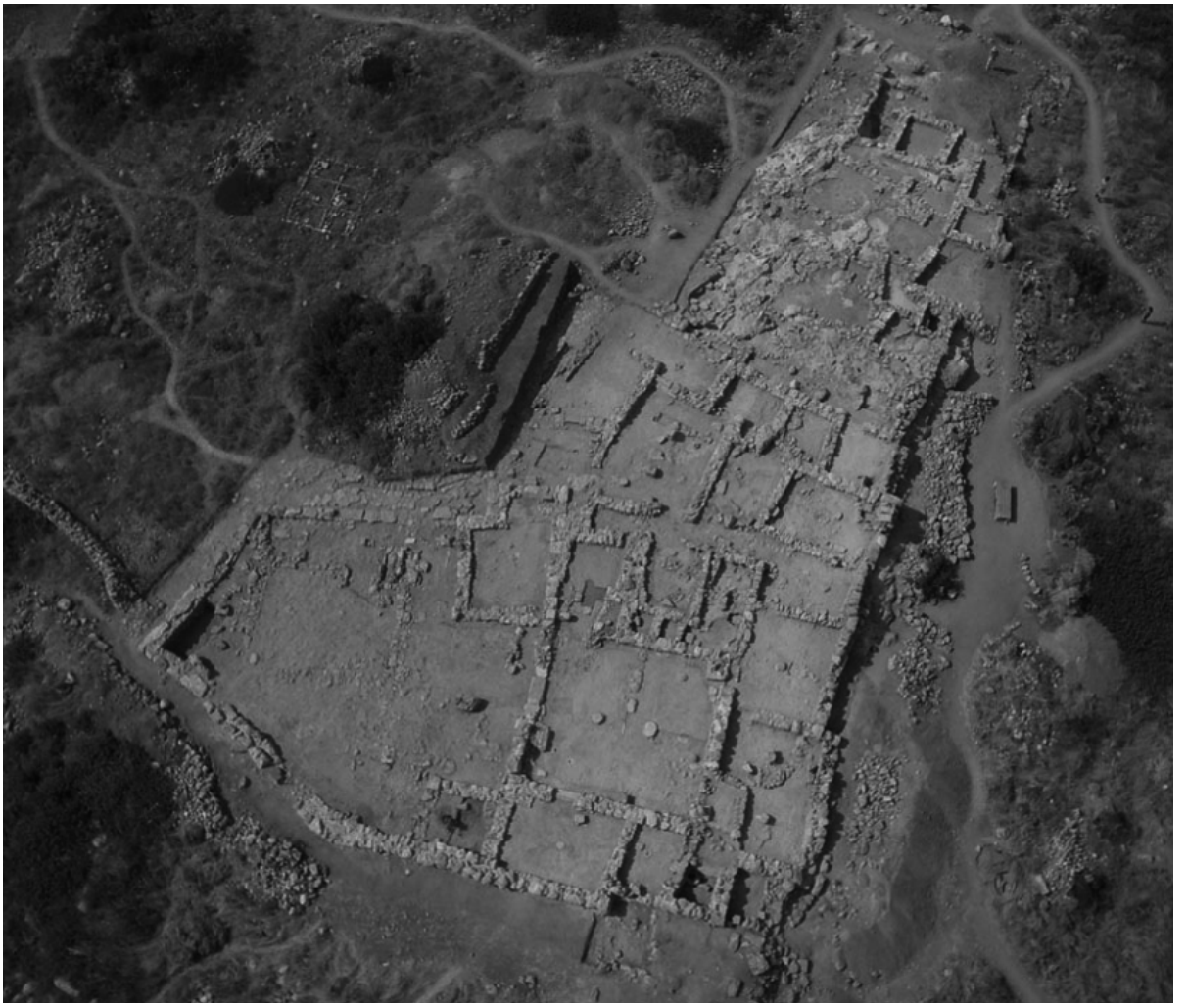
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118. Agios Charalambos: blade wound to forehead (individual 8065). © ASCSA.



119. Agios Charalambos: trephination on right side of frontal skull (individual 8083). © ASCSA.



120. Sisi: aerial view of building complex CDE on the top of the hill. © Belgian School at Athens.

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label. The southern part of zone 5 all predates the Postpalatial structures on the summit, predominantly belonging to the Protopalatial period, while the construction of Building CD cut through EMIII/MMIA architecture. Southeast of the summit (zone 6), Building F was shown to have been in use continuously from Protopalatial to Postpalatial times; its over 20m-long monumental façade was traced and found to combine with other walls to define an open court paved with blue pebbles. Six terracotta figurine fragments found in this area offer the first clear evidence of Post-Minoan use of the site. With exemplary speed, the **Sisi** team has also produced a second preliminary report, covering the 2009–2010 seasons, that is available as both a paper and on-line publication (Driessen [2011]).

Excavation at **Gournia** in 2011, as reported by V. Watrous (SUNY Buffalo/ASCSA), focused on four areas: north of the excavated town; in the region of the 'palace'; north of House Ea in the town; and in Mycenaean House He (**ID2860**). North of the excavated town a Protopalatial street, lined with houses and a possible shrine was uncovered (**Fig. 121**). The history of the 'palace' was further refined by excavation of the palace wall in the north of room 13, which suggests a MMIIIA date for its construction, earlier than the LMIB date suggested by H. Boyd Hawes. Elsewhere in the 'palace', in room 18, Prepalatial and Protopalatial deposits were uncovered associated with a wall on a different orientation to the later 'palace' walls. North of House Ea, the remains of four structures were traced through four major occupation phases: EMIII, MMIA into Protopalatial and two phases of MMII. Phase III comprised a large, single-storeyed house in which weaving was carried out. The construction date of Mycenaean House He was shown to be LMIIIA1/2, while its second phase of use was LMIIIB. Finally, excavation beneath a section of Neopalatial street produced MMIIB material, suggesting that the street layout began in the Neopalatial (MMIIIA) period, after reorganization and rebuilding of the settlement.

Three Minoan tombs were found at the sites of **Porthias** and **Psathi** near **Kalamavka** (**ID2780**).



121. Gournia: view of Protopalatial house and yard. © ASCSA.

J. Soles (North Carolina/ASCSA) and C. Davaras (Athens) report that study was completed for the publication of nine Neopalatial structures at **Mochlos**: *Mochlos* IV.III*: The House of the Metal Merchant and Other Houses in the Neopalatial Settlement*. Of the nine houses to be published, only C.3, the 'House of the Metal Merchant' is mostly intact, the others are partially excavated, damaged by erosion or overlain by later material (**ID2816**). Between them the structures document the full Neopalatial stratigraphical sequence: MMIIIA, IIIB, LMIA (beneath Theran tephra in C.1) and several LMIB layers. In addition, excavation of a 31st tomb in the well-known LMIII cemetery is also noted.

In the Siteia region, the important site of **Petras** has transformed our knowledge of both Prepalatial and Protopalatial archaeology in eastern Crete. A conference volume focused on the site has just appeared: *Petras, Siteia – 25 Years of Excavations and Studies* (Tsipopoulou [2012]), produced in collaboration with the Danish Institute in Athens. Prepalatial tholos tombs of Mesara type have been discovered in the Siteia region at **Skopi Mesorachi** (**ID2802**), west of Siteia, not too far from Chamaizi, poorly preserved, and at **Livari Skiadi** (**ID1785**), near the southeast coast, just east of Goudouras, with a nearby rock shelter used for burials within the same period and in Roman times (*cf*. **ID763**). South of Siteia, a LMIIIC tomb was excavated at **Tourloti** (**ID2805**).

In the far east of the island at **Palaikastro** two new tombs were excavated by C. Sophianou (24th EPCA) at Vigla and Kastri (**ID2794**). One of the first publications to draw on the recent BSA excavations at the Roussolakkos site presents Block M of the Protopalatial and Neopalatial town (Knappett and Cunningham [2012]).

Aegean scripts 2005–2010

The proceedings of the 13th International Colloquium on Mycenaean Studies, held in Sèvres, Nanterre and Paris in September 2010, have just appeared (Carlier *et al*. [2012]) and the customary quinquennial update of new inscriptions in the Aegean scripts by M. del Freo (2012) offers an opportunity to summarize the new material that continues to appear on Crete, even if slowly. In 2008 the excavations in Building Π at Malia produced a pot fragment bearing three incised signs (**MA/V Yb 04**: *023-025-003*) with Protopalatial material in Court 25 (*cf*. *AR* 55 [2008–2009] 84) and, in 2010, a three-sided ivory seal (**MA/V S [1/3] 02**: *044-049*) in a MMIIB destruction deposit in room 17. A green jasper *Petschaft*, MMII by style and bearing four signs, discovered in House Tomb 4 of the Kephala cemetery at **Petras**, noted by M. del Freo, has just been published by O. Krzyszkowska (2012).

A number of new Linear A inscriptions (three tablets [**KH 97–99**], one roundel [**Wc 2123**] and an incised vessel [**KH Zb 1**]) from **Chania** have been published by M. Andreadaki-Vlasaki and E. Hallager (2007) (see also del Freo [2012] 8–9, 16–17), although M. del Freo notes that the numbering has been adjusted to make it consistent with the overall Linear A corpus (for which a sixth, supplementary volume is in preparation): **KH 97**, **99–100**, **KH Zb 98** and **Wc 2123** (del Freo [2012] 8). **KH 97** comes from the excavations in the Papadopoulou plot on Daskalogianni Street, in the Splantzia area (*cf*. *AR* 42 [1995–1996] 47), while the others were discovered in or close to the well-known excavations at Plateia Aikaterinis. Two further tablets and another roundel appeared in 2010

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(**KH 102**, from the same context as **KH 100**) and 2007 (**Wc 2124**) and 2009 (**KH 101**), in excavations at Katre Street 1 (*cf. AR* 54 [2007–2008] 112. The roundel bears the Linear A and B 'cloth' logogram (AB 54; *cf.* del Freo *et al.* [2010] 351–53) on its face and has 15 seal impressions around its edge, all from the same seal with two couchant lions.

E. Hallager has published three new Linear A inscriptions from **Petras**: a unique clay rod (**PE Zg 6**), with a two-line inscription separated by a ruling from a MMIII refuse pit, and two pithos inscriptions (**PE Zg 7**, **8**) from the North Magazines destroyed in LMIB (Hallager [2012]). Linear A inscriptions, including the 'oil' logogram, on two fragmentary pots from LMI houses in Block C at **Mochlos** (*cf. Kentro* 10 [2007–2008] 3), will appear in the publication of Block C noted above. The inscribed objects (11 'libation tables' [**SY Za 1–6, 8–12**], plus one inscribed rhyton [**SY Zb 7**]) from the sanctuary at **Kato Symi** have been published as a corpus by P. Muhly and J.-P. Olivier (2008; *cf. AR* 56 [2009–2010] 188). Re-examination in 2009 of the flat-based nodule from **Phaistos** (**PH Wb 53**) by M. del Freo and J. Zurbach (del Freo [2012] 14) suggests it was *not* inscribed, while restudy by M. Perna of a spool-shaped seal (*Garnrolle*) in the Seager Collection of the Metropolitan Museum (*Corpus der minoischen und mykenischen Siegel* XII 96), probably of MMIII date, confirms that it is an extremely rare instance of a seal with Linear A incised on its two faces (del Freo [2012] 15). Finally, restudy by B. Davis on the basis of photographs suggests that the pithos inscription **PK Zb 21** from **Palaikastro** should be reread as *AB67-59-30-04*, not *AB13+10-59-30-04*, as in the original publication (Davis [2008]).

Linear B discoveries on Crete are less frequent. **Chania** has produced another inscribed stirrup jar (**KH Z 43**), an almost complete example, revealed in the course of work to roof over the Plateia Aikaterinis site in 2005 in the same complex in which three Linear B tablets were discovered in 1990 (Andreadaki-Vlasaki and Hallager [2007] 17–20). Its inscription (*ze-ta-ro* , *wa*), painted on the body of the vessel, may provide a further example of the use of *wa* as an abbreviation for *wa-na-ka-te-ro/-ra* 'royal' (*cf.* Shelmerdine and Bennet [1995] 130–31). Full publication of all the earlier painted pottery inscriptions will appear in the forthcoming fourth volume of the Greek-Swedish Excavations. A fragmentary Linear B tablet with a personal name (**KH X 7**) was discovered in the same LMIIIB context in Katre Street 1 as the Linear A inscriptions already mentioned. The first possible Linear B from the site of **Prinias** will be published shortly in the journal *Pasiphae* by M. Cultraro and A. Sacconi: two signs painted on a pot from the LMIIIB–C1 material from the cemetery (**PRI Z 1**).

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Abbreviation

AWiC = Andrianakis, M. and Tzachili, I. (eds) (2010) *Archaiologiko Ergo Kritis* 1 (Rethymnon)

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