

Petras, Siteia I

A Minoan Palatial Settlement in Eastern Crete

Excavation of Houses I.1 and I.2



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by

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Stone Vases

by

Metaxia Tsipopoulou

In Sector I at Petras, 52 fragments of stone vases came to light, but no example was complete (Figs. 42–45; Pls. 35, 36). Of these fragments, 15 were not found in the Siteia Museum in 2012, when the drawings and photographs for this publication were done. However, the excavation catalogs/notebooks provide information about the shapes of six of them (SV 6 is an open vase fragment, SV 14 is a lid, SV 22 a pyxis lid, SV 42 and SV 46 are handles, and SV 51 is a lid). Only one stone vase fragment (SV 5) preserves a full profile, though the profile is restorable on a second example (SV 18). The material is serpentine in most cases, with three exceptions: two fragments (SV 30, SV 52) are made of alabaster and one (SV 31) is made of breccia.

As for the distribution (Fig. 42), one fragment came from Room A, one from Room E, 10 from Room Λ, one from Room 1, three from Corridor B-Δ, one from Area Z, seven from Area Φ, two from Staircase Y, six from the West Courtyard, two from the Paved Road, seven from the South-Southeast Courtyard, one from Pit I, one from Area P, two from Area O, five from Area Σ, and

one from Area T. In Area Φ, a grinder (SV 20) was found among the stone vases; made of serpentine, it was used as a wedge to keep the drill straight inside the vase. This grinder, together with another, similar object (GS 181; see Dierckx, this vol., Ch. 11), suggest the possible production of stone vases in House I.2. One additional fragment came from the partially excavated House I.2, and another was found in the Narrow Passage between Houses I.1 and I.2.

Ten examples were surface finds: two in Room Λ, two in Area Φ, one in the surface levels of Areas Z, P, O, Σ, and T, and one in Staircase Y. From the upper floor deposit (Lr II) of the rooms with a second story, stone vase fragments came from Rooms A and E (one example each) and Λ (six examples). The three fragments from Corridor B-Δ probably fell from the upper floor above Rooms E and Λ. It is interesting that Lr IV of Area Φ, a MM IIA deposit, produced four fragments of stone vases.

As for the chronological attribution, 18 of the stone vase fragments recovered in House I.1 were dated to the LM I period—that is, they belong to

the same phase as the principal occupation of the House (SV 1–SV 5, SV 7, SV 10–SV 12, SV 27–SV 29, SV 32, SV 33–SV 35, SV 37, SV 39). To the MM II period belong six examples (SV 15, SV 18, SV 40, SV 41, SV 43, SV 44), and three further fragments are probably also MM II in date (SV 13, SV 17, SV 53).

The fragments from Sector I include a rather limited variety of shapes: five examples belong to large basins with a rim diameter exceeding 30 cm (SV 4, SV 15, SV 27, SV 33, SV 34).

Seven fragments belong to cylindrical jars (SV 1, SV 5, SV 7, SV 10, SV 12, SV 21, SV 35), the first of which is a large bucket jar. Most of these jars have a base diameter between 6 and 9 cm, and their rim diameter varies between 9 and 11 cm; jar SV 35 belongs to a larger vessel, with a base diameter of 12 cm. The four discoid lids (SV 11, SV 13, SV 51, SV 53) probably belong to similar vases; of them SV 13 preserves its pawn-shaped handle.

Eight fragments belong to bowls, either with a curved or angular profile (SV 2, SV 18, SV 30, SV 40, SV 41, SV 43–SV 45). Bowl SV 18, the most complete of all of the examples, preserves a full profile and two crescent-shaped lugs on the rim. Base fragment SV 43 was probably of the same shape. One of the carinated bowls, SV 2, preserves part of a horizontal lug. Finally, there is an upper body fragment from an alabastron, SV 3, decorated with horizontal grooves.

It should be noted that Sector I produced more stone vase fragments than other areas of the settlement, including the palace. Unfortunately, the very fragmentary preservation does not allow further discussion about their use. The Pre- and Proto-Palatial cemetery of Petras, currently under excavation, has already produced a significant number and variety of complete examples, made of different stones, suggesting that there probably was local production at Petras, at least in the earlier periods.

Catalog

Room A

SV 1 (P86/138, SM 7112; Lr II; Fig. 44). Cylindrical jar. Rim and upper body fragment. H. 5.6; w. 3.5; th.

2.6. Serpentine. Chipped exterior surface. LM I. Probably a bucket jar. Cf. Warren 1969, type 14, 34–35, 250, D 115, P 191–P 194.

Room E

SV 2 (P85/86; Lr II; Fig. 43; Pl. 35). Bowl with carinated profile. Body and lug fragment. H. 5; w. 7; th. 1. Serpentine. Horizontal lug with elliptical section. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 7, 20–21, 243, D 39, P 86.

Room A

SV 3 (P86/54, SM 6364; Lr I; Fig. 44; Pl. 36). Alabastron. Upper body fragment. H. 3.5; w. 4; th. 1. Serpentine. Preserves vertical traces of the drill on the interior surface. Two horizontal plastic rings and two incisions. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 1, 4–6, 241, D 3, P 6.

SV 4 (P86/68; Lr I; Fig. 45; Pl. 36). Basin. Rim and body fragment, mended from many sherds with additional non-joining sherds. H. 14.2; rim d. ca. 23.4; w. 33.2; th. 1.73. Serpentine. Cracked surface. Flat, incurving rim of trapezoidal section. Two horizontal incisions on the middle of the body exterior. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 2, 6–7.

SV 5 (P86/359; Lr II; Fig. 44; Pl. 36). Cylindrical jar. Two non-joining fragments: (a) base and body; (b) rim and body. (a) H. 4.9; base d. 9; w. 6.8; th. 1. (b). H. 4.5; rim d. 11; w. 6.7; th. 0.8. Serpentine. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 18, 41–42, 254, P 238.

SV 6 (P86/379; Lr II). Open vase. Rim fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 7 (P86/381; Lr II; Fig. 44; Pl. 36). Cylindrical jar. Base and lower body fragment. H. 5.4; base d. 9.1; w. 9.2; th. 0.96. Serpentine. Drill marks on the interior surface. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 18, 41–42, 254, D 149, P 238.

SV 8 (P86/496; Lr II). Stone vase. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 9 (P86/630; Lr II). Stone vase. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 10 (P86/650; Lr II; Fig. 44). Cylindrical jar. Rim and upper body fragment. H. 2.5; w. 11.2; th. 0.6. Serpentine. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 18, 41–42, D 149, P 245.

SV 11 (P86/401a, SM 6432; Lr III). Lid. Fragment. 13 x 7.5 x 1.9. Serpentine. It preserves the edge of the rim with a beveled surface, 1.6 cm thick, with traces of the drill. It probably belongs with SV 17. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 27, 68–71, D 191, P 350.

SV 12 (P86/434, SM 6445; Lr III; Fig. 44; Pl. 36). Cylindrical jar. Base and lower body fragment. H. 5.3; base d. ca. 6; w. 7.6; th. 0.69. Serpentine. Vertically broken. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 18, 41–42, 254, D 149, P 245.

Room 1

SV 13 (P89/68; Lr II; Fig. 44; Pl. 36). Pyxis lid. Fragment, preserving the edge. H. 0.93; d. ca. 5; th. 0.95. Serpentine. Discoid with an incut. MM II? Cf. Warren 1969, type 27, 68–71, 259, probably D 186.

Corridor B-A

SV 14 (P85/90a; Lr II). Lid. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 15 (P85/147, SM 6037; Lr II; Fig. 45). Basin. Two body fragments. H. 2.5; w. 2.7; th. 1.5. Serpentine. MM II? Cf. Warren 1969, type 32, 78–80, 264, D 245.

SV 16 (P85/227; Lr II). Bowl. Two body fragments. 3 x 2.4 x 1. Serpentine.

Area Z

SV 17 (P85/32, SM 5638; Lr I). Lid. Fragment preserving a horizontal basket handle of circular section. 5.5 x 4.7 x 1. Serpentine. Possibly belongs with **SV 11**. MM II? Cf. Warren 1969, type 27, 68–71, 259, D 191, P 350.

Area Φ

SV 18 (P86/250b, SM 6446; Lr I; Fig. 43; Pl. 35). Bowl. Rim, body, and base fragment. H. 5.6; rim d. ca. 12; base d. 5.8; w. 11.2; th. 0.62. Serpentine. Mended from two fragments. Preserves one lug and part of a second. Horizontal, crescent-shaped lugs on the rim (originally four). MM II. Cf. Warren 1969, type 10, 27–31, 248, D 102, P 151.

SV 19 (P86/256; Lr I). Stone vase. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 20 (P89/460; Lr IV). Grinder used as a wedge to keep the drill straight inside the vase. Fragment. 4 x 8.1 x 5.7. Serpentine. Conoid shape with various smooth surfaces. Almost triangular in section. Cf. Warren 1969, 159, fig. 5.

SV 21 (P90/662; Lr IV; Fig. 44). Cylindrical jar. Two body fragments. H. 6.2; w. 5; th. 0.6. Serpentine.

SV 22 (P90/791; Lr IV). Pyxis lid. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 23 (P90/1139; Lr IV). Stone vase. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 24 (P90/1356; Lr IV). Stone vase. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

Staircase Y

SV 25 (P86/3, SM 6330; Lr I). Bird's-nest bowl. Body fragment. 2 x 2 x 1. Serpentine. Curved profile.

SV 26 (P89/434; Lr IV; Fig. 44; Pl. 36). Pyxis lid. Fragment from the center, including the handle. H. 2.6; w. 5.7; th. 0.7. Serpentine. MM II. Cf. Warren 1969, 259, D 185, P 262.

West Courtyard

SV 27 (P88/599; Lr I; Fig. 45; Pl. 36). Basin. Small rim and upper body fragment. Pres. h. 4.4; rim d. ca. 22.5; w. 8.23; th. 0.7. Serpentine. Two shallow horizontal incisions under the rim on the exterior surface. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 32, 78–80, 263, D 242, P 443.

SV 28 (P88/635; Lr I). Stone vase. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 29 (P89/13; Lr I; Fig. 43). Bird's-nest bowl. Body fragment. H. 4.9; w. 3.5; th. 1.2. Serpentine. Slightly curved profile. LM I. Possibly cf. Warren 1969, type 3, 7–11, 241, D 11, P 28.

SV 30 (P89/34; Lr I; Fig. 43; Pl. 35). Bowl. Lower body fragment. H. 3.3; w. 4.3; th. 1.7. Alabaster. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 32, 78–80, 263, D 243, P 443.

SV 31 (P89/280; Lr II; Fig. 43; Pl. 35). Bowl. Body fragment. H. 3.3; w. 2.4; th. 0.98. Breccia. Cf. Warren 1969, type 31, 76–78, P 428.

SV 32 (P89/1097; ramp; Fig. 43). Cup/bowl. Body fragment. H. 3; w. 2.4; th. 0.5. Serpentine. Slightly curved profile. LM I? Cf. Warren 1969, type 31, 76–78, D 236.

Paved Road

SV 33 (P89/402; Lr II; Fig. 45). Basin. Rim and upper body fragment. H. 9.7; rim d. ca. 28; w. 8.3; th. 1.9. Serpentine. Body with curved profile. Rim with

elliptical section. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 32, 78–80, 264, D 245, P 443.

SV 34 (P90/772; Lr II). Basin. Base and lower body fragment. Pres. h. 3.6; base d. 16.5; th. 1.3. Serpentine. Flat base. Vertical body. LM I. Cf. **SV 33**.

South-Southeast Courtyard

SV 35 (P89/638; Lr I; Fig. 44). Cylindrical jar. Base and lower body fragment. H. 4.6; base d. 12; w. 5.2; th. 0.93. Serpentine. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 20, 44–45, 255, D 154.

SV 36 (P90/5; Lr I). Bird's-nest bowl. Body fragment of curved profile. 2.3 x 1 x 0.2. Chlorite.

SV 37 (P90/35; Lr I; Fig. 44). Pyxis. Upper body fragment. H. 3.9; w. 3.3; th. 1.2. Serpentine. Horizontal drill marks. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 8, 21–25, 245, D 74.

SV 38 (P90/36; Lr I). Small open vase. Rim fragment. 1.8 x 3.1 x 0.9. Serpentine. Incurving rim of round section. It preserves the start of a spout or a lug/handle. LM I?

SV 39 (P90/292; Lr I; Fig. 45). Basin. Rim and upper body fragment. H. 3.6; w. 4.2; th. 1.3. Serpentine. Body with curved profile. Flat rim of trapezoidal section. LM I. Cf. Warren 1969, type 32, 78–80, 264, D 245, P 449.

SV 40 (P90/303; Lr I; Fig. 43; Pl. 35). Bowl with everted rim. Rim and upper body fragment. H. 2.5; w. 4.2; th. 0.98. MM II. Cf. Warren 1969, type 8, 21–25, D 70.

SV 41 (P90/418; Lr I; Fig. 43). Bird's-nest bowl. Base and body fragment. H. 3.2; w. 3.2; th. 1.73. Serpentine. Curved body profile. MM II. Cf. Warren 1969, type 3, 241, D 5.

Pit I

SV 42 (P85/201; Lr II). Handle. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

Area P

SV 43 (P88/427; Surface cleaning; Fig. 43; Pl. 35). Bowl. Most of the base and small part of the body. H. 2.3; base d. 7.3; w. 8; th. 0.9. Serpentine. Raised base. The preserved part of the body is conical. MM II. Cf. **SV 18**; also Warren 1969, type 10, 27–31, 248, D 102, P 151.

Area O

SV 44 (P86/523; Lr I). Bowl. Base and body fragment. H. 3.1; base d. 5.8; max. d. 7.8. Serpentine. Torus base. Semiglobular body. MM II. Cf. **SV 43**.

SV 45 (P86/242, SM 7126; Lr II; Fig. 43). Bowl with carinated profile. Two joining body fragments and a third non-joining fragment. Max. pres. h. 5.9; w. 8.1; th. 1.2. Serpentine. Almost cylindrical body forming a carination at the upper part. MM II. Cf. Warren 1969, type 8, 19, P 73, P 77.

North-Northwest of House I.1 (Area Σ)

SV 46 (P90/7; Lr I). Handle. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 47 (P90/413; Lr III). Stone vase. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 48 (P90/588; Lr III). Stone vase. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

SV 49 (P90/1227; Lr III). Cylindrical jar. Body fragment. 1.5 x 1.5 x 1. Serpentine. Cylindrical body. Drill marks on one surface. Cf. **SV 5**.

SV 50 (P90/1319; Lr III). Stone vase. Fragment. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

North-Northwest of House I.1 (Area T)

SV 51 (P86/963; Lr I). Lid. Not found in the Siteia Museum.

House I.2

SV 52 (P86/321, SM 6782; Lr II). Bowl. Rim and body fragment. 3.8 x 2.9 x 1.1. Alabaster. Thin vertical rim. Globular body. Possibly belongs with **SV 30**. Cf. **SV 18**.

Narrow Passage between House I.1 and I.2

SV 53 (P86/825; Lr II; Fig. 44). Pyxis lid. One-third preserved, including the edge. H. 1.2; rim d. ca. 11; w. 10.5; th. 1.1. Serpentine. Flat, discoid body. Rim with an incut to fit the mouth of the vase. Drill marks on the interior surface. MM II? Cf. Warren 1969, type 27, 68–71, 259, probably D 186.