Petras, Siteia I

A Minoan Palatial Settlement in Eastern Crete

Excavation of Houses I.1 and I.2

PREHISTORY MONOGRAPHS 53

Petras, Siteia I

A Minoan Palatial Settlement in Eastern Crete

Excavation of Houses I.1 and I.2

by

Metaxia Tsipopoulou

with contributions by

Maria Emanuela Alberti, Maria Relaki, Olga Krzyszkowska,
Anna Simandiraki-Grimshaw, Joanne Cutler, Heidi M.C. Dierckx,
Cesare D'Annibale, Valasia Isaakidou, and Tatiana Theodoropoulou

Published by
INSTAP Academic Press
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2016

Table of Contents

List of Tables..... ix

List of Figures..... xi

List of Plates..... xv

Preface and Acknowledgments..... xix

Cataloging System..... xxiii

Abbreviations..... xxvii

1. Excavation Data, *Metaxia Tsipopoulou* 1

2. Architecture and Function, *Metaxia Tsipopoulou*..... 47

3. Cooking Wares, *Maria Emanuela Alberti*..... 61

4. Early and Middle Minoan Pottery, *Maria Relaki*..... 93

5. Seal Impression on Amphora EMP 152, *Olga Krzyszkowska*..... 125

6. Miniature Vessels, *Anna Simandiraki-Grimshaw*..... 129

7. Potter's Marks, *Metaxia Tsipopoulou*..... 137

8. Figurines, *Anna Simandiraki-Grimshaw*..... 163

9. Producing Textiles: The Evidence from the Textile Tools, *Joanne Cutler*..... 175

10. Stone Vases, *Metaxia Tsipopoulou*..... 185
11. Ground Stone Implements, *Heidi M.C. Dierckx*..... 189
12. Obsidian, *Cesare D'Annibale*..... 213
13. Mammalian Faunal Remains, *Valasia Isaakidou*..... 219
14. Marine Faunal Remains, *Tatiana Theodoropoulou*..... 225
References..... 235
Concordance A. Field and Siteia Museum Numbers and Findspots for Cataloged Objects..... 251
Concordance B. Pottery Catalog Numbers with Field and Siteia Museum Numbers and Their Findspots..... 285
Index..... 319
Tables
Figures
Plates

Preface and Acknowledgments

The excavation of the Minoan urban settlement and palace at Petras Siteia, which includes Sector I, the subject of the present monograph, was conducted from 1985 to 2000. It is part of the ongoing research project, "Minoan Occupation and Settlement Patterns in the Area of the Siteia Bay, Eastern Crete." The project started with the excavation at Hagia Photia in 1984–1985 (Tsipopoulou 1988, 2007). It also included the intensive survey in the same area (Tsipopoulou 1989), as well as the excavations at Achladia (1991–1993; see Tsipopoulou and Vagnetti 1995).

The excavation at Petras started as an exploratory dig in 1985, and in 1988, following the expropriation of 40,000 m² of land by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, it was granted the status of systematic research project, under my direction. The largest part of the research was carried out while I was working at the 24th Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities in Siteia (1983–1989), and later in Hagios Nikolaos (1989–2007; Tsipopoulou 2012a). My deep gratitude goes to Professor Costis Davaras, then Ephor of Antiquities for Eastern Crete, who, in 1985, entrusted me with the Petras excavation and actively supported my research in many ways. Also, I wish to thank most warmly the then Director of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, and later Director General, Yannis Tzedakis, for granting the excavation permit and for the expropriation of the land. For the permit to undertake the systematic research of the cemetery, granted in 2012, my warmest thanks go to Maria Vlazaki, then Director General of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage and current Secretary General of the Ministry. I would also like to thank the subsequent directors of the 24th Ephoreia, the late Nikos Papadakis and Stavroula Apostolakou for their support in general, as well as the Municipality of Siteia and the

mayors, Nikos Petrakis, Nikos Kouroupakis, and Nikos Tsikalakis, who supported both the research for Minoan Siteia since the very beginning and its transformation into an archaeological park (2005–2006, financed by the European project "Leader Plus"; see Tsipopoulou and Zervaki 2008; Tsipopoulou 2012a).

The systematic research project at Petras, Hill I, was conducted until 2000, including several study seasons. Three sectors of the settlement as well as the palace were excavated. An intensive survey was conducted over the four hills in the area of Petras in 1986, supported by the Municipality of Siteia, with the participation of a group of students from France, as part of an exchange program.

Between 2002 and 2007, test excavations were conducted on non-expropriated properties on the lower slopes of Hill I. On one of the properties, a large, massive, double Late Minoan (LM) III fortification wall of Mycenaean type, unique for Crete, came to light, and on two other properties, parts of the Protopalatial and the Neopalatial settlement were excavated (Tsipopoulou 2012a). Also, in 2002 excavations were begun on Hill II (or Kephala), to the east of Hill I, again on non-expropriated properties. The first excavation there revealed the largest known settlement dated to the Final Neolithic IV period in Crete, in stratigraphical sequence with an Early Minoan IA settlement (2002–2004; see Papadatos 2007, 2008, 2012; Tsipopoulou 2012a). A Pre- and Protopalatial cemetery of house tombs and a burial rock shelter were partially excavated in 2004–2006 (Tsipopoulou 2012d).

Since 2009, with the invaluable assistance and financial support of the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) and its Executive Director, Philip P. Betancourt, the excavation of the Pre- and Protopalatial cemetery advanced significantly. In 2012 the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism granted the status of a five year (2012–2016) systematic excavation project to the Petras cemetery.

The excavation of Sector I in 1985 and 1986 was financially supported by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, and since 1987, INSTAP has been the principal funding source. The conservation of the finds, the consolidation of the architectural remains, and the study of the material were exclusively supported by INSTAP.

On the occasion of the publication of the present volume, I wish to express my gratitude to the large group of people who contributed to the excavation, the conservation, the consolidation, the studies, and the creation of the archaeological park of Petras, as well as to the volume itself. First, I wish to thank the workers of the excavation, from Siteia and Chamaizi—without them, nothing would have happened; the foreman of the Siteia excavations, Pandelis Kampanos from Chamaizi, who did not participate in the excavation of Sector I, but consolidated the architectural remains in 1992; the young archaeologists who worked in the excavation of Sector I were Elsa Papatsaroucha (1986, 1988, 1989), Anastasia Papacostopoulou (1986), Elena Prokopiou (1988), Costas Sbonias (1989), and Olga Mantzari (1989, 1990); in 2011 Garifalia Kostopoulou and Maria Psallida conducted additional cleanings in Sector I and completed the drawings (sections). The plans of Sector I are by M. Tsipopoulou (1985–1986), Stephania Chlouveraki (1989), Costas Paschalidis (2000), G. Kostopoulou, and M. Psallida (2011). The conservation of the finds was started in 1987 at the Hagios Nikolaos Museum by Costis Nikakis, conservator of the 24th Ephoreia, and it was continued in 1989–1991 in the Siteia Museum by S. Chlouveraki, Clio Zervaki, and Costas Georgantakis; in 1999–2003 the conservation was completed at the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete in Pacheia Ammos by C. Zervaki, assisted by Michel Roggenbucke. The excavation photos were taken by M. Tsipopoulou and the photos of the finds by M. Tsipopoulou (1985–1990) and the photographers of the INSTAP Study Center, Erietta Attali (1999–2001) and Chronis

Papanikolopoulos (2002–2005). The drawings of the finds are by M. Tsipopoulou, Michael Wedde, Mary-Jane Schumacher, Siphis Pseikarakis, and Aspassia Phygetaki.

I also thank very warmly J. Alexander MacGillivray, director of the Palaikastro excavations, for the flotation of the soil samples of Sector I in 1990. The botanical residue is not published in the present volume as their present whereabouts remain unknown.

The processing and cataloging of the small finds was carried out by E. Papatsaroucha, A. Papacostopoulou, C. Sbonias, Eleni Nodarou, Costas Christakis, G. Kostopoulou, M. Wedde, Yannis Papadatos, Lena Sjögren, Louise Hitchock, Claudia Fugalli, Elena Chadjidopavlaki, O. Mantzari, and Evi Saliaka. Yiannis Papadatos created a database for the finds in Access format, which is currently used also for the excavation of the Petras cemetery.

The present volume is the result of the hard work of an enthusiastic group of people. Metaxia Tsipopoulou coordinated the publication and wrote the chapters on the excavation data (Ch. 1), the architecture (Ch. 2), the potter's marks (Ch. 7), and the stone vases (Ch. 10). For the processing of the excavation notebooks, the stratigraphical data, and the subsequent writing of Chapter 1, I was helped significantly by Y. Papadatos (2003–2004), M. Psallida (2010–2011), G. Kostopoulou (2013), and Nektarios Karadimas (2013); Maria Emanuela Alberti studied and publishes the pottery in cooking fabrics, Protopalatial, Neopalatial, and Postpalatial (Ch. 3); Maria Relaki studied and publishes the Early and Middle Minoan I–II pottery (Ch. 4); Anna Simandiraki-Grimshaw studied and publishes the miniature vases (Ch. 6) and the figurines (Ch. 8); Joanne Cutler studied and publishes the textile tools (Ch. 9); Heidi Dierckx studied and publishes the ground stone tools (Ch. 11); Cesare D'Annibale studied and publishes the obsidian and chert material (Ch.12); Valasia Isaakidou studied and publishes the mammalian faunal remains (Ch. 13); and Tatiana Theodoropoulou studied and publishes the marine faunal remains (Ch. 14).

Several individuals were instrumental to the preparation of this volume. The plates of photographs and the figures of drawings, as well as the concordance tables of the present volume, were compiled by G. Kostopoulou and M. Psallida. The bibliography and index were the work of N. Karadimas. The proofreading and the editorial work was done by M. Tsipopoulou, with assistance from N. Karadimas and Melissa Eaby. The two anonymous INSTAP reviewers are also warmly thanked, as they helped all contributors of the volume to improve their manuscripts. Thanks are also due to the INSTAP Academic Press team, the Publications Director Susan Ferrence, and Managing Editor Jennifer Sacher for their excellent job in producing this volume.

This volume is not the first monograph dealing with Petras, as it was preceded by two books, the first containing the final publication of the hieroglyphic archive of the palace (Tsipopoulou and Hallager 2010), and the second containing the proceedings of the first Petras Symposium (Tsipopoulou, ed., 2012). This present volume is the first volume of the final publication of Sector I of the settlement. It comprises the excavation data and reports by specialists, as well as four minor pottery studies, although quite significant in length. The decision was made to include the chapters on Early and Middle Minoan Pottery (Relaki, Ch. 4) as well as the one on Protopalatial, Neopalatial, and Postpalatial cooking wares (Alberti, Ch. 3) in the present volume, along with chapters on the miniature vessels (Simandiraki-Grimshaw, Ch. 6) and the potter's marks (Tsipopoulou, Ch. 7) for the following two reasons: (1) the economy of publishing the data of an enormous volume of

Neopalatial ceramics and (2) the logic of the organization, since the other ceramic researchers who present their results in the first volume deal with particular and specialized components of the ceramic remains (e.g., potter's marks). These ceramic components either are not in the main phase of House I.1 and I.2 (Relaki) or they deal with special and limited in quantity components of the material (Alberti; Simandiraki-Grimshaw). Further, it is not possible to separate the pottery described above from the discussion of the potter's marks because of the fact that the individual ceramic catalogs are interlinked with it. In addition, a very large number of potter's marks are related to the Protopalatial phase of Sector I.

The second volume of the publication of Petras, Sector I, by Metaxia Tsipopoulou with a chapter on petrography by Eleni Nodarou, will discuss the Neopalatial and Postpalatial pottery from Houses I.1 and I.2, and it will focus exclusively on the main period of the Petras settlement, as excavated to date, namely the Neopalatial one. That volume will contain the publication of the pottery of the two principal and extensively excavated phases of Sector I (Middle Minoan III–LM IA), followed by the limited amount of LM III pottery connected with the Postpalatial reoccupation. Included at the end of that volume will be a final concluding chapter for Sector I as a whole.

This present volume appears after a long hiatus, and this fact accounts for various shortcomings. A test excavation in the 1980s could not have possibly been conducted using what is considered in the 21st century as best practice. For instance, only the soil of few selected floor deposits was sieved, and the samples chosen for flotation were very limited. Very few charcoal fragments were collected and none proved suitable for dendrochronogical analysis or for C^{14} dating. It should be noted, however, that this delay in publication, although regrettable per se, brought us the advantage of being able to take into consideration a much more complete picture of the site and its components, and also allowed us to include the results of the numerous systematic projects that have been conducted and published since the mid-1980s in Eastern Crete.

In any case, the present monograph would not possibly have been finished had I still had a demanding full time job at the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. The severe economic crisis in Greece, which caused the firing of many directors of the Archaeological Service in 2011, including myself, enabled me to dedicate my time and energy to the completion of this volume.

Metaxia Tsipopoulou
Athens, Exarcheia
January 2014