Petras, Siteia

The Pre- and Proto-palatial cemetery in context

Acts of a two-day conference held at the Danish Institute at Athens, 14-15 February 2015

Edited by

Metaxia Tsipopoulou

Monographs of the Danish Institute at Athens
Volume 21
This volume is dedicated to all those individuals who participated over the years in the excavation, conservation, study, site development and publication of the results.

This lofty vision for Petras and its region was made possible by their hard work, dedication and support.
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### Abbreviations

#### Archaeological periods

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<td>EBA</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
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<td>EM</td>
<td>Early Minoan</td>
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<td>Final Neolithic</td>
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<td>LH</td>
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<td>PTSOU</td>
<td>Petras Rock Shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Σ-palace</td>
<td>Stratigraphical trenches of the palace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Wall</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.S.L.</td>
<td>Above Sea Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diam.</td>
<td>diameter</td>
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<td>gram</td>
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<td>height</td>
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<td>kg</td>
<td>kilogram</td>
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<td>thickness</td>
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<td>liter</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMD</td>
<td>Mean Measure of Divergence</td>
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<tr>
<td>MNI</td>
<td>Minimum Number of Individuals</td>
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<tr>
<td>NISP</td>
<td>Number of Identifiable Specimens</td>
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<td>SM</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum, Siteia</td>
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<td>vol.</td>
<td>volume</td>
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#### Petras Area

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<tr>
<td>HT</td>
<td>House Tomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lakkos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Petras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSK</td>
<td>Petras Cemetery</td>
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The form of the English language for the native speakers (British or American) was the author's choice. For the non-native speakers the American form was used.
Bibliographic Abbreviations

AAA – Archaiologika Analekta Athinon

ActaPalaeobot – Acta Palaiobotanica

AJA – American Journal of Archaeology

AJPA – American Journal of Physical Anthropology

AJS – American Journal of Sociology

AmHum – American Journal of Human Biology


AR – Archaeological Reports

Arachne – (on-line access to the CMS, with corrected information and enhanced illustrations) http://arachne.uni-koeln.de/drupal/?q=de/node/access date March 2016.

ArchDelt – Archaiologikon Deltion

ArchEph – Archaeologike Ephemeris


ASAtene – Annuario della Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene

BAR-IS – British Archaeological Reports, International Series

BCH – Bulletin de correspondance hellénique

BICS – Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies of the University of London

BSA – Annual of the British School at Athens


CMS – Corpus der minoischen und mykenischen Siegel, Berlin 1964-2000, Mainz 2002-

CretChron – Kretika Chronika

EtCret – Études Crétaines

JAS – Journal of Archaeological Science

JMA – Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology

Kentro – Kentro: The Newsletter of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete

MA – Monumenti Antichi

OJA – Oxford Journal of Archaeology

Prakt – Praktika tes en Athenai Archaeologikes Etaireias

SIMA – Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology

SMEA – Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici
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Pezoules Kephala, Zakros. II. The chronological and evaluative position of the finds in the framework of the life of the neighboring settlement

Lefteris Platon & Maria Tsiboukaki

Abstract

The tombs at Pezoules Kephala-Zakros, and their many finds, offer significant evidence for a better understanding of the character and the chronological evolution of the Protopalatial period, not only in relation to this particular site, but within the wider frame of eastern Crete. Yet the fact that these tombs were used for a long period of time renders difficult the attribution of the ceramic finds to particular phases of the regional evolution.

Consequently, in order to obtain a better understanding of the ceramic assemblages from Pezoules, and their accession into the historical sequence of Minoan Zakros, it is necessary to examine them in comparison with other, better stratified, Middle Minoan assemblages excavated in the neighboring settlement. Decorative motifs as well as shapes of vases from Pezoules (e.g., many types of one-handled cups and jugs) find close parallels in various domestic assemblages, a fact that helps us to attribute the ceramic grave goods to the same chronological framework and stage. Nevertheless, the absence from the burial assemblages of some typical shapes such as the tumblers, and also the rarity of the polychrome decoration, causes various problems: is it possible that these phenomena are exclusively due to the lower quality – or even the type – of the ceramic grave goods, or do they indicate even a slight difference of chronological order between the domestic and the burial assemblages?

The parallel study of the Pezoules pottery and of similar finds from the settlement, which is here presented for the first time, will hopefully answer these questions.

The excavation of the tombs at Pezoules Kephala-Zakros brought to light many finds that offer valuable insight into the character and chronological evolution of the Protopalatial period in eastern Crete. However, the long-term use of the tombs renders the attribution of the ceramic finds into specific chronological phases difficult. Therefore, studying the Pezoules pottery together with better stratified finds from the settlement would be a major help in this direction.

Excavations at Kato Zakros have uncovered evidence of a broad Protopalatial horizon, corresponding to the Zakros III phase. It seems that during this period an extensive settlement existed, the exact nature and size of which is still under investigation. Pottery dated without doubt to the MM period has

1 Platon 1967, 190-194; Platon forthcoming.

2 Platon 1999; Platon forthcoming.
been uncovered at various places, both under the palace and in the surrounding houses. Indicatively, Protopalatial pottery has been found in House A Hogarth, the area of Buildings H and G, the Building of the Pottery Deposits, the complex under the East Wing of the Palace, the West Courtyard, the Oblique, the East and Strong Buildings, the House of the Ramp and, of course, the almost entirely Protopalatial “Building North of the Harbor Road”. Moreover, it seems that both the deposit from Kalyvomouri and the pottery that came to light in the cave at Mavro Avlaki date to the Protopalatial period. However, despite their large quantity, the study of MM ceramic finds is hampered by the difficulty in connecting them to architectural remains and by the chronological disparity of some Protopalatial groups.

Given the above remarks, pottery from Pezoules was examined with three select groups from the settlement of Zakros that offer, for the time being, a more clear picture of the MM period. However, it should be noted from the outset that these groups were created under different depositional processes, and this fact should be taken into consideration during the analysis.

Starting with Pezoules, the vessels that came to light demonstrate the diversity of pottery produc-

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<td>Cooking pots</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miniature cooking pots</td>
<td>1</td>
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Table 1. Occurrence of vessel forms in the Tombs at Pezoules.

15 The most common shapes represented are cups in various
types (Fig. 1a–b). These include angular (Fig. 1a–h, Fig. 4c, d, h) and ordinary carinated cups, which are the most frequent variant (Fig. 1g, i Fig. 2a, Fig. 4e, f, o), hemispherical cups, as well as smaller, beveled cups (Fig. 1f, h, j, k, Fig. 4g, h). The presence of one-handed conical cups (Fig. 2b), handleless conical cups and squat tumblers is also important. On the other hand, the extremely low occurrence of tall tumblers is notable as well.

Regarding small vessels, the group comprises one saucer, a lid with an incised potter’s mark X and a miniature pithoid jar. Jugs of various types are very common among vessels from both tombs, including beaked jugs (Fig. 3, Fig. 4a, b, k, l, p), baggy jugs (Fig. 3a, b, c, Fig. 4 a, p), jugs with circular mouth (Fig. 4m) and wide mouth (Fig. 4i) and “milk jugs”, as well as a teapot.

The group of medium-sized vessels is complemented by amphoriskoi, two of which are miniature, a small truncate conical basin and a cooking pot.

Regarding the surface treatment of the vessels, about a third of them in Pezoules remain undecorated, with their walls being simply smoothed with a thin layer of clay (colored wash). At least half of the remaining vessels are monochrome coated (Fig. 4a). Among the decorated vases those in light-on-dark technique (Fig. 4b–h) dominate, while dark-on-light style is rarer (Fig. 4i–m). Less common, but still present, are polychrome and ribbed ware (Fig. 4o, p).

It seems that pottery from Pezoules includes material as early as EM III and as late as MM III.

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16 It is worth noting that tall tumblers seem to be absent from the house tombs at Petras, although a significant number of these vessels came to light in the Ceremonial Areas in the same site (Tsipopoulou 2012b).

17 Platon forthcoming.
Pottery similar to that of the tombs at Pezoules has been revealed in several places in the Minoan settlement of Zakros. A group of particular interest has come to light in the so-called "House of the Ramp", a Neopalatial building stretching north of the Harbor Road. The Protopalatial vases were revealed in rooms Aα and Aβ, in the southern part of the building. The absence of other finds in the above areas is remarkable, despite the fact that the rooms were integrated in the house and, according to the excavator, were under LMI floors that were not preserved.

The vessels from room Aα were mostly small-sized. Some were unearthed intact while several others were restored. At the same time the situation in Room Aβ was rather different. Here, the excavation uncovered mostly fragments of domestic vessels. The most frequently occurring forms are conical cups in different variations, with the most common one being the squat conical tumbler (Fig. 5a–b). Furthermore, the presence of tall tumblers is remarkable (Fig. 5c–d). The group is further complemented by one-handed conical cups (Fig. 5e), beveled (Fig. 4f), angular (Fig. 5g) and straight-sided cups. Notable domestics vessels include a jug (Fig. 5h), fragments of a small basin, a bridge-spouted pithoid jar and a ceramic beehive. In terms of decoration, white motifs on a dark background dominate once again. Pendent arcs, individual or in clusters, usually decorate squat tumblers (Fig. 5a), while lanceolate leaves are found on tall tumblers (Fig. 5d). It is worth noting that white motifs on dark backgrounds are also present on domestic vessels, while polychromy appears in a single vessel (Fig. 5c). Finally, ribbed ware is present as well (Fig. 5b). In terms of manufacturing technology, the potter’s wheel was used for the majority of small vessels found in the "House of the Ramp". Many vases bore parallel striations on the base, while in a few others string-cut traces were curved.

The presence of angular cups in combination with beveled cups, tumblers and a baggy jug supports the dating of the entire group of the "House of

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18 Platon 1979, 300-308.
19 Platon 1979, 305.
20 Thirty eight vessels were listed from room Aa of the House of the Ramp.
21 Seven vessels were listed from room Aβ of the House of the Ramp.
the Ramp” to an early stage of the Zakros III phase, which probably corresponds to the MM IB–IIA of central Crete. This conclusion is further strengthened by the presence of motifs such as lanceolate leaves and pendant arcs, and at least one sample of the so-called “East Cretan Alternating Style”.

The existence of common shapes and decorative motifs in both groups (those of Pezoules and of the House of the Ramp) indicates their partial chronological overlap. Angular cups, handless conical cups and squat tumblers, beveled cups, tumblers with ribbing (though rare), one-handled conical cups and small-sized truncate conical basins are common in both assemblages. Meanwhile, vessels from both deposits are predominantly decorated with white motifs on dark backgrounds, while the use of red color is rare. However, the limited number of tall tumblers in Pezoules is notable, as is the lack of the ordinary type of carinated cup from the material of House of the Ramp.

A deposit of Protopalatial pottery was uncovered in a Neopalatial house, located in the NE slope, called by Nikolaos Platon “Building of the Pottery Deposits”. This deposit was found in the southern part of the house and, according to the excavator, it belonged to a group of similar structures which were embanked during remodeling of the street in front of the building in the Neopalatial period. The pit of the structure was carved into the rock and the walls were dressed with small schist stones.

In the best preserved deposit, in terms of content, more than 20 tall tumblers were found (Fig. 6a–d). The assemblage is complemented by handleless conical cups, squat tumblers (Fig. 6e–i), and beveled cups (Fig. 6j, k). Other forms such as

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22 Platon 1999.
23 Floyd 1997.

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angular, carinated and straight-sided cups, rounded bowls (Fig. 6m), bridge-spouted juglets (Fig. 6m), beaked jugs (Fig. 6o, p) and small, tall, bucket-like jars (Fig. 6n) are also present, albeit in lower numbers.

The majority of decorated vessels found in the deposit bear white motifs on dark backgrounds, however polychrome vases are also present. In any case, the decorative motifs show greater variety when compared to pottery from Pezoules and the House of the Ramp. These include pendent arcs (Fig. 6b, f, g), parallel horizontal lines, lanceolate leaves (Fig. 6c), zones with semi-circles (Fig. 6i), and others with alternating red and white discs (Fig. 6a), vertical crooked lines (Fig. 6h) and floral motifs (Fig. 6b, c, d). Finally, ribbed decoration also appears, although less frequently.

All the ceramic finds from the deposit can be roughly positioned in the same chronological stage as those of the "House of the Ramp". Small vessels were mainly wheel-made. The traces of the potter's string at the base, when retained, are mostly linear, although samples with curvilinear traces are also present. However, the occurrence of squat tumblers with pendant arc decoration, tall tumblers (some of which follow the "East Cretan Alternating Style"), beveled cups and decorations exclusively composed of horizontal white and red bands, supports the dating of the group in a relatively early stage of the Zakros III phase. On the other hand, it should be noted that Andreou classified pottery from the deposit (like all groups from Zakros included in his study) the "Vasiliki House A-Zakros Group" period which, according to him, represents the mature stage of the MM period in eastern Crete. He also places the semicircles motif found in a bridge-spouted vessel from Palaikastro in the same phase.

Gisela Walberg, however, considers that this motif is predominantly found in the early Kamares phase, which corresponds to MM IB/MM IIA.

The material from the House of the Pottery Deposits matches that from Pezoules in terms of both shape and decoration, even though the nature of the two deposits is different. Regarding typology, the presence of squat tumblers, beveled cups and small baggy jugs in both groups is indicative. Corresponding types also include ordinary carinated cups and tumblers with ribbing. In terms of decoration there are similarities in style, with light-on-dark being more frequently used than polychromy. However, the few polychrome items found in the deposit exhibit a greater variety and complexity of decorative motifs when compared to respective vessels from Pezoules. Finally, a notable find is the existence of the incised potter's mark X which appears on a jug and a lid from Pezoules and on a pithoid jar in the deposit. Respective incised potter’s marks also appear in vessels from the neighboring Kalyvomouri, which are dated to MM IB-MM IIA, but also in MM IIA levels from Block M in Palaikastro and in Quartier Mu at Malia.

Concerning the topic in question, the third group is probably the most important. It was uncovered in an undoubtedly rich Protopalatial building, three adjacent rooms of which were discovered beneath the floors of neighboring Buildings G and H. Two of these rooms had plastered floors upon which pottery was found in situ, allowing its attribution to the same chronological level. Particularly important is the pottery that came to light under the Neopalatial Room Ξ of Building H, where a wide threshold was revealed followed by a floor with irregular slabs and

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26 Platon 1999.
28 Bosanquet & Dawkins 1923; pl. IXb; Andreou 1978, 104, fig. 15: 12.
plastered joints, and in a small, long room, northeast of Room Φ.

Most vessels that came to light in the aforementioned areas were in fragmentary condition, and once again drinking vessels of various types dominate. Conical cups (Fig. 7a–b) are very common, as well as squat tumblers, while tall tumblers are remarkably absent. On the other hand, carinated cups, one of which has a crinkled rim (Fig. 7d–g), and one-handed cups (Fig. 7:c) are present. A particularly interesting find is an elegant kantharos with spherical body, crinkled rim and polychrome decoration (Fig. 7h). Additionally, the group contains pouring vessels, such as jugs (Fig. 7i, l) and bridge-spouted vessels (Fig. 7j k), as well as several fragments of domestic vases.

Regarding decoration, the light-on-dark style dominates (Fig. 7a–f, i, j, k) while red color in combination with white is also sporadically used. Several of the carinated and conical cups (Fig. 7b) included in the group are decorated with white spots, sometimes extending even to the base of the vessel. Bridge-spouted vessels and jug fragments bear white horizontal bands on a dark background and, less frequently, white and red diagonal lines. Moreover, patterns of higher complexity are also present, both in white and in red color. For example, white discs with black lozenges appear on an oval-shaped jug (Fig. 7i), as well as on a bridge-spouted jug (Fig. 7j). Other patterns include spirals (Fig. 7d), curvilinear motifs framed with white strips (Fig. 7f), cross motifs ending in discs, floral motifs, horizontal zones with lozenges (Fig. 7g), etc.

At this point, special mention should be made of two specific vessels. The first one is a bridge-spouted jar, decorated in the light-on-dark technique with reserved crosses in white discs (Fig. 7k). Phaistos provides an interesting parallel, originating from a layer that corresponds to the local phase Ia.35 The second one is the aforementioned kantharos with the crinkled rim and decoration of white and dark vertical broad bands framed by red stripes (Fig. 7h). Traces of white paint are found in the dark broad bands. Vases of corresponding shape were found at Gournia36 and Petras,37 and they have been chron-

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36 Boyd-Hawes et al. 1908, pl. C.  
37 Tsipopoulou 2012b, fig. 5e.
ologically attributed to the MM II period. This kind of decoration, however, starts from MM Ib, and survives until the end of MM II, a fact which is asserted by its presence at level I of House E at Malia. Kantharoi, but not of the exact same shape, also came to light in Quartier Mu at Malia, as well as in Myrtos-Pyrgos, where they have been dated to local phase III.

Consequently, the material from the area of Buildings G and H seems different compared to that of the two groups presented above, since there are shapes that are absent or rare in the latter and vice versa. The extended presence of ordinary carinated cups, in combination with the absence of angular cups and tall tumblers and the limited display of squat tumblers, supports the chronological variation of these sets. Typological characteristics of maturity are shapes such as the jug with ovoid body, the kantharos with crinkled rim and the carinated cup with ring base. Finally, the decoration of carinated cups with horizontal bands just above the carination, the presence of white spots on a dark background and of more complex, often polychrome, motifs support the dating of the pottery from the area of Buildings G and H to a more advanced stage of the Zakros III phase. The bridge-spouted jar with the dark crosses on white discs, which in Phaistos was dated in phase Ia, does not alter this picture, as the vessel from Zakros has a ring base, which has been considered as a late typological characteristic. Originally, it was believed that this pottery group belonged to an earlier stage of the Protopalatial period; however, this view seems to have been reviewed by recent pottery studies.

On the other hand, several characteristics of the deposits of Buildings G and H also appear in pottery from Pezoules. Common types are carinated cups, squat tumblers, one-handled conical cups and jugs with ovoid-elliptical bodies. Compared to the material from the tombs, there is a lack of angular cups and tall tumblers. Regarding decoration, both groups exhibit usage of both white and red color. However, the theme of white spots on dark backgrounds appears in the assemblage from the settlement, in contrast to the group from Pezoules. At the same time, patterns are more complex, in many cases representing a rather advanced polychrome style.

In conclusion, although there is a partial chronological overlap between the three groups from the settlement presented above and the group of Pezoules, they do not seem to represent the same chronological level. Many similarities both in typology and in decoration were identified among the vessels from the House of the Ramp and those from the deposit of the Building of Pottery Deposits. Tumblers, tall and squat, beveled cups, angular cups and baggy jugs are found in both groups, while ordinary carinated cups are absent. Furthermore, the light-on-dark technique dominates, with pendant arcs and lanceolate leaves being common motifs. Polychromy appears less frequently, in some cases representing the “East Cretan Alternating Style”.

At the same time, the pottery from the area of the Buildings G and H differs significantly. Ordinary carinated cups appear very frequently in this group, while one-handled conical cups are also present. Some forms, like the kantharos with crinkled rim and the jug with oval-elliptical body, suggest a rather advanced dating. Moreover, squat tumblers do not occur frequently in contrast to the material from the “House of the Ramp” and the deposit in the Building of Pottery Deposits. The decoration of squat

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38 Betancourt 1985, fig. 75.
40 Poursat & Knappett 2005, 73, fig. 19:9, pl. 35, 50:808-809; Van Effenterre & Van Effenterre 1963, pl. 44, no 7882.
41 Cadogan 1978, fig. 12.
42 Levi 1976, pl.281; Caloi 2009.
44 Platon 1999; Platon forthcoming.
45 Floyd 1997.
tumblers with horizontal parallel bands (instead of pendant arcs), white spots, white discs with black lozenges and crosses, spirals, large dark curvilinear motifs framed with white stripes and the most complex motifs in polychrome style all advocate a chronological differentiation of this group in comparison to the "House of the Ramp" and the deposit in the "Building of Pottery Deposits". So, if these groups date, based on parallels from other sites, to an early stage of phase Zakros III, which corresponds to MM IB–IIA of central Crete, pottery from the area of the Buildings G and H, presenting more sophisticated typological and stylistic elements, should be placed in a more advanced stage of the same local phase, possibly corresponding to the MM IIB period. It should be taken into consideration, however, that the different nature of the three depositions could be responsible for the absence or predominance of certain types or characteristics.

Leaving Zakros aside for a while, two other important sites, Petras and Palaikastro offer valuable insight into the period of the First Palaces in Eastern Crete.

Proto-palatial pottery from Petras became known by the preliminary publication of material from the so-called "Pit-Lakkos", which was dated to the MM IB/IIA period. Squat and tall tumblers, bevelled, carinated and angular cups and bridge-spouted juglets are shapes which appear in both sites during the Proto-palatial period. Apart from similarities in shape, vessels also exhibit similar decoration, with light-on-dark and polychrome style being more characteristic. Furthermore, pendant arcs and parallel horizontal bands are common decorative motifs. The presence of vases decorated with white spots on dark backgrounds in both sites, which is considered to be a preference of Petras' workshops, is particularly interesting. However, it should be noted that this kind of decoration in Zakros is mostly found in ordinary carinated cups and less often in conical cups. Finally, when compared to Zakros, the pottery of Petras appears to lack ribbed ware.

Generally speaking, many similarities between the material of the Lakkos at Petras and the three Proto-palatial groups from the Zakros settlement have been established. This would allow the dating of the entirety of the Zakros material presented above within the context of a single period, that is, MM IB/IIA – as is the case with material from Petras. However, this would indicate the complete absence of MM II from Zakros and the existence of a significant “habitation gap” in the site during the mature Proto-palatial period.

At the same time, in Palaikastro, many Proto-palatial deposits have been uncovered in various places in the settlement. These include square H3, Block M and the eastern façade of Building 7. Pottery from the above groups exhibits similarities to that of Zakros. Squat and tall tumblers, and carinated, angular and beveled cups appear...
pear in both sites during the Protopalatial period. Aside from vases decorated with white color on dark backgrounds, polychrome vessels are also found, some of which follow the "East Cretan Alternating Style". Common decorative motifs include pendant arcs, horizontal bands, lanceolate leaves, spirals etc., while the appearance of ribbed vessels in both sites is particularly interesting. The material from the House of the Ramp and the deposit in the House of the Pottery Deposits from Zakros corresponds to that from the lower layers in square H3 in Palaikastro, while some common elements are also found in MM IIA layers in Block M. At the same time, ceramic finds from the area of Buildings G and H seem to share more features with pottery from Block M and Building 7 that is dated to MM IIA than with MM IB material.

Based on the above, it can be argued that the Protopalatial Period material from the tombs in Pezoules Kephala represents at least two distinct phases of Zakros III, the first of which corresponds probably to the MM IB–IIA period in central Crete, and the second one to MM IIB. However, this conclusion is formulated on the condition that the emerging diversification of the pottery groups of the settlement has not taken place due to depositional processes. It should also be noted that the study of the Protopalatial pottery from the settlement of Zakros is still ongoing. New data might come to light after the completion of conservation and study of groups from other buildings, with the material from the Protopalatial Building North of the Harbour Road probably being the most important. This could hopefully shed more light on the Protopalatial period and ultimately strengthen or modify our current views.

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64 I.e., Floyd 1997; Knappett & Collar 2007, fig. 18, figs. 21-25.
65 I.e., Knappett & Cunningham 2012, fig. 4.2: 19, 25.
66 I.e., Knappett & Cunningham 2012, fig. 4.7: 8508.
67 I.e., Knappett & Collar 2007, fig. 21 (top row second from right).
68 I.e., Knappett & Cunningham 2012 fig. 4.2: 16).
69 I.e., Knappett & Cunningham 2012 fig. 4.6, 4.9: 94, 4.14: 127, 128, 143.
Discussion

Relaki: Your paper was very interesting. Metaxia Tsipopoulou can correct me if I am wrong, but I believe that the comparison with the Petras Lakkos is not appropriate. The Lakkos deposit is earlier; it is Prepalatial (in Petras terms). There are MM IIA and MM IIB parallels at Petras, which as far as I know are very different from the Zakros material. This makes the issue even more interesting.

Tsipopoulou: I agree. Relaki: There are parallels to the Petras material from Palaikastro and other sites (i.e., Myrtos-Pyrgos), and one would expect the Zakros pottery to be similar. On the contrary I see dissimilarities here. I would suggest caution in comparing it with the Petras Lakkos, as this might compromise your chronological system.

Tsiboukaki: We mentioned the Lakkos material to point out how different it is from our pottery. Relaki: The Lakkos is earlier.

Tsipopoulou: It is almost a joke that at every conference someone says “if you only could see my incredibly important unpublished material you would not say that”. For Petras I need to tell you that we have a monograph in press about Sector I of the settlement and Maria Relaki has written a chapter on the pre-Neopalatial deposits. I believe the key word for the Pre- and Proto-palatial periods is “regionalism”. It is very intriguing though to see similarities of Petras with Palaikastro and not with Zakros.

Platon: As I believe was clear from our presentation, and Maria Tsiboukaki knows the pottery better as she is studying it for her dissertation on Protopalatial Zakros, the problem is the lack of stratified deposits of the different phases from Zakros. We are not able to distinguish between earlier and later deposits on stratigraphical evidence, so we just work with closed deposits, and check for features that are present in one deposit and not in another. This is what Maria Tsiboukaki attempted to do, to compare the Pezoules pottery with other deposits from Zakros. The two tombs were used over a period of time and it is important to distinguish the various phases to which the depositions belong. Furthermore we needed to be cautious, as one of the contexts from the settlement we have presented today was a probable ritual deposit containing tumblers, while this particular shape is lacking from the other. The function of the deposits is certainly also relevant. A second point about Petras – things there are undoubtedly different – we could only use the Lakkos material as it is the only material from roughly the same period that has
been published. We can see that it is not a good parallel for the Zakros material. From Palaikastro, too, we do not have very clear publications. So we preferred to proceed to a stylistical analysis and we are trying to see whether we can identify chronological evolutions in similar deposits.

Tsipopoulou: Is there a destruction by fire in MM IIB at Zakros?

Platon: If the material from the last phase of Buildings G and H can be attributed to that period, it represents such a destruction. The deposits contained complete vases on floors, but these are very rare cases, so we are trying to work on the material as a whole.

Macdonald: Just a question, because I do not know very much about East Cretan MM IB, MM IIA and MM IIB. Is it certain that buildings G and H are MM IIB, and not MM IIA?

Tsiboukaki: We are not certain: what we are trying to do is to define their position in the framework of Zakros III. The aim of this paper was to check the different stylistic features between the various contexts presented. The groups we presented have features that correspond to those of other MM IB–IIB deposits, but the precise dating of the context coming from buildings G and H presently remains uncertain.

Macdonald: I did not see in your presentation any vase that I could attribute with certainty to MM IIB.

Cadogan: At the beginning I agreed with Colin; now I think there are MM IIB items, and especially the kantharos.

Platon: We have studied many crates of pottery from Zakros and we have not identified with certainty a single MM IIB sherd, by Knossian and Phaistian standards, i.e. there is no Kamares pottery. Consequently we have to work with the local pottery production, and within this framework, as I understand it, the pottery from Buildings G and H we presented is the most developed stylistically. At the beginning I thought that there must have been a gap in the MM II occupation, but now I consider this unlikely for Zakros.

Tsipopoulou: Another difference I see between your pottery and the pottery of Petras is that yours is wheel-made, as testified to by the string marks on the bases. At Petras, both in the Lakkos and at the cemetery, most MM IB–IIA pottery is coil-made.

Tsiboukaki: We will check that.

MacGillivray: I am very impressed by the lack of Kamares pottery at Zakros. We have Kamares at Palaikastro and because of this we can identify MM IB, MM IIA and MM IIB. You do not even have a single sherd?

Tsiboukaki: They are very limited in number.

Platon: I just want to point out that we have a flourishing ceramic workshop at Zakros, producing many shapes and using many different decorative motifs, yet it is not related to the workshops of other areas. We have no relations with Malia either – perhaps the vases with grooves, but they are known from many sites, not exclusively Malia. We do not have imports, and we have very unusual shapes; as Gerald Cadogan rightly pointed out there is a separate state in the far east of Crete (Cadogan, G., Pepagramena of the 7th Cretological Congress, v. A1). Now, this state does not seem in the end to include Palaikastro, as Kamares pottery reached there. Still, one needs to keep in mind that given the enormous quantities of the Zakros ceramic material there are many bags that have not been opened.
and there is always the possibility that we might eventually discover some real Kamares sherds.

Greek abstract

Πεζούλες Κεφάλας Ζάκρου ΙΙ. Η χρονολογική και αξιολογική θέση των ευρημάτων στο πλαίσιο της ζωής της γειτονικής οικιστικής εγκατάστασης

Οι τάφοι στις Πεζούλες Ζάκρου, με την πληθώρα των ευρημάτων τους, προσφέρουν σημαντικά στοιχεία στην προσπάθεια κατανόησης του χαρακτήρα και της χρονολογικής εξέλιξης της Παλαιοανακτορικής περιόδου, όχι μόνο στο πλαίσιο της συγκεκριμένης θέσης, αλλά και σε εκείνο της ανατολικής Κρήτης γενικότερα. Δυστυχώς, το γεγονός ότι οι τάφοι αυτοί χρησιμοποιήθηκαν για μακρά περίοδο καθιστά δύσκολη την ένταξη των επιμέρους κεραμικών ευρημάτων τους σε συγκεκριμένες χρονολογικές βαθμίδες της τοπικής εξέλιξης.

Συνεπώς, και προκειμένου να κατανοηθούν πληρέστερα τα σύνολα από τις Πεζούλες και, στη συνέχεια, να ενταχθούν στην ιστορία της μινωικής Ζάκρου, είναι απαραίτητη η συνεξέταση τους με άλλα, καλύτερα στρωματογραφημένα, Μεσομινωικά σύνολα, που ανασκάφηκαν στον γειτονικό οικισμό. Διακοσμητικά θέματα και σχήματα αγγείων από τις Πεζούλες (όπως για παράδειγμα πολλοί τύποι κυάθων, κυπέλλων και πρόχων), βρίσκουν πράγματι κοινούς παράλληλους σε ευρήματα διαφόρων οικιστικών συνόλων, γεγονός που θα μπορούσε να συνηγορήσει υπέρ της ένταξης των κεραμικών ταφικών κτερισμάτων στα ίδια με εκείνα στάδια εξέλιξης. Παρόλα αυτά, η ουσιαστική απουσία από τα ταφικά σύνολα χαρακτηριστικών τοπικών τύπων, όπως το κόπαλλο τύπου tumbler, αλλά και η σπανιότητα της χρήσης πολυχρωμίας, εγείρουν σημαντικά ερωτήματα: θα μπορούσε, αυτά τα φαινόμενα να σχετίζονται αποκλειστικά με τη χαμηλότερη θέση των κεραμικών ταφικών κτερισμάτων, ή με την χρονολογική διαφοροποίηση της τοπικής τάξης, διαφοροποιίσεις μεταξύ ταφικών και οικιστικών συνόλων;

Η συνεξέταση της κεραμικής από τις Πεζούλες με ανάλογα ευρήματα από τον οικισμό, που γίνεται εδώ για πρώτη φορά, καλείται να απαντήσει πρωτίστως στα παραπάνω ερωτήματα.

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Lefteris Platon & Maria Tsiboukaki  •  Pezoules Kephala, Zakros. II. The chronological and evaluative position of the finds