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**New Excavations of a Middle Minoan Cemetery in East Crete**

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ioignomy, age, hairstyle—and suggesting how these characteristics, drawn from the subject's real appearance, also express the person's public role, are the main concerns, rather than precise identification and date. The degree of realism, pathos, or surface plasticity in a portrait probably has more to do with cultural choice than chronology; that is, the "style" of a portrait was determined as much by the cultural conception of a philosopher or a poet as by the date of manufacture. This method of analysis, which concentrates on the interpretation of the visual signs of a portrait and attempts to relate them to their cultural and historical context, allows us to gain information from the mass of material for which precise name and date cannot be reliably determined, greatly expanding our knowledge of the formal and expressive range of Greek portraits.

SESSION I B: BRONZE AGE EXCAVATIONS IN CRETE

Excavations in the Southern Area at Kommos, Crete, during 1992: Joseph W. Shaw, University of Toronto

During the past season we concentrated excavation in three areas, in Late Minoan house X and in ashlar buildings T and P. LM I–III house X consists of some six main rooms, including a small shrine, a lightwell, a main room for living, a large room for washing, and two stairways. Much stratified pottery was recovered as well as a few bronzes and steatite seals; pictorial frescoes depicting white lilies on an ochre background were cleaned and copied.

By opening a new area on the south we discovered the southern limit of building T. The building was of palatial form, some 4,500 m², with massive orthostate facades. There was a central court ca. 28.75 m wide and 44.30 m long (north–south). On the west, largely destroyed by the sea, were rooms with slab floors and pier and door partitions. On the north there was a stoa. On the northeast were magazines for storage. The boundary of the southern area is a monumental wall with an entranceway from the south.

LM III building P overlay much of the eastern wing of T. It appears to have been square and was divided into six enormous east–west galleries opening westward onto an earlier court. One of these galleries was cleared completely and was without cross-walls, which strengthens their interpretation as possible storage places, especially for large ships during the non-sailing winter months.

A Minoan Shrine in House X at Kommos: Maria C. Shaw, University of Toronto

House X, with its prime location next to the Civic Center in the southern area of Kommos and its elegant architecture, stands out as the finest LM house so far discovered at Kommos. The excavation is not complete, but the house is already known to have possessed at least 10 rooms on the ground floor and a second story. There is evidence of long use and many phases, and of specialized functions within some of the rooms, which were spacious and occasionally decorated with frescoes. The clearly religious character of one of the rooms, containing a built bench with offerings in situ, and ritual vessels found on successive floors, forms the theme of this paper. Typologically, the room compares best with what have variously been described as "bench," "domestic," or "household" shrines, found in Minoan Crete. One of the precious finds among the sacred paraphernalia in the shrine in house X is a seal carved with the design of a flying bird. In addition to the chronology of the shrine, the paper presents comparanda for the room, its objects, and the symbolism of the bird.

NEW EXCAVATIONS OF A MIDDLE MINOAN CEMETERY IN EAST CRETE: Donald C. Haggis, Macalester College, Margaret S. Mook, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Jennifer L. Tobin, Bilkent University, and B. J. Hayden, University of Pennsylvania

The Kalo Khorio Archaeological Rescue Project (KARP) is the excavation of a Middle Minoan (I–II) cemetery in the region of Kalo Khorio-Istron, at the southern edge of the Bay of Mirabello in eastern Crete. Excavation was conducted in September 1991 by members of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and under the auspices and general directorship of Metaxia Tsipopoulou and Costis Davaras of the Greek Archaeological Service of eastern Crete.

The purpose of excavation was 1) to record and remove in-situ burials that had been partially exposed in conjunction with the construction of a new house; 2) to clarify the extent of the cemetery and describe its topographical context; and 3) to make recommendations to the Archaeological Service for future excavation and preservation.

Excavation has recovered seven inhumations. Extant walls show evidence of two separate built enclosures, one containing five larnakes and the other, a pithos burial. While evidence for built "house tombs" exists in the poorly documented excavations of the early 20th century, this cemetery at Kalo Khorio provides the most recent evidence of Middle Minoan burial practices in east Crete. Finally, the topography of the cemetery is crucial to the ongoing study of Minoan settlement patterns by the Vrokastro and Gournia survey projects.


The excavations of 1991–1992 completed the fieldwork at Pseira, Crete. The main focus was the excavation of two Minoan houses, AF South and AF North. Early walls and floors under AF South show that this part of the site had structures from as early as MM I. Building AF South was built in MM II, and after it went out of use AF North was built in LM I. Like the rest of the town, AF North was destroyed in LM IB. Building AF South had the largest concentration of burned grain found at Pseira, and extensive evidence for fishing. The architecture was substantial, with a room containing a pillar, and staircases leading to an upper story.

Building AF North (the House of the Rhyta) replaced it in LM I. It had a well-preserved kitchen with a cooking pot in situ in the hearth and many stone tools in place on the