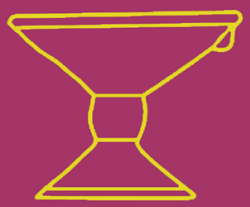
Gournes, Pediada

A Minoan Cemetery in Crete



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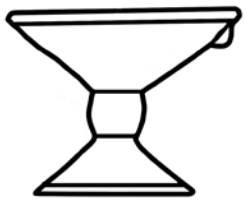

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Gournes, Pediada

A Minoan Cemetery in Crete

by
Calliope E. Galanaki

with contributions by
Chrysa Apostolaki, Yannis Balis, Yannis Bassiakos, Anastasios Eleftheriou, Doniert Evely, Georgios Fanourakis, Charalambos Fassoulas, Eleni Filippaki, Ioannis Iliopoulos, Lilian Karali, Alexandros Kastanakis, Danae Z. Kontopodi, Evangelos Kyriakidis, Argyro Nafplioti, Eleni Nodarou, Georgia Pachaki, Georgios Pantermarakis, Christina Papadaki, Yiannis Papadatos, Vassilis Perdikatsis, Kostas Sbonias, Sophia Sotiropoulou, Charalambos Stratigis, and Joanna Triantafyllidi



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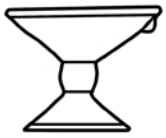
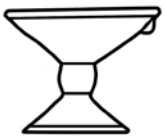
Dedicated to
Emmanuel A. Galanakis





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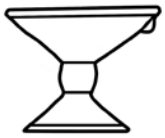

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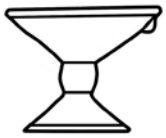

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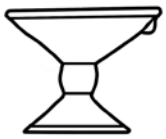

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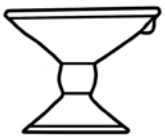

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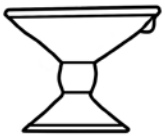


Preface

Calliope E. Galanaki

Early Minoan IB Cemetery

From March to June 1999, a rescue excavation was carried out by the 23rd Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities (EPCA) at the site of the former United States (US) Herakleion Air Station at Gournes, Pediada, Crete, presently occupied by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR; the former Institute of Marine Biology of Crete), which was responsible for commissioning and funding the excavation. The precise position of the excavation lies 415 m from the north coastline, 1,900 m from the location of Pyrgos in the modern village of Kokkini Chani, and 13.5 km from the city of Herakleion.

The excavation revealed an Early Minoan (EM) IB cemetery that included a total of 37 rock-cut tombs and pits arranged in two clusters (Sectors 1 and 2), a three-room rectangular Minoan Building on the northwest side of the cemetery, and a Roman cistern to the northeast. Although the relationship of the EM IB cemetery with a contemporary settlement could not be established, the presence of several domestic or burial remains in the broader area testify to the extent and the character of the communities along the north-central coast of Crete during the Early Bronze Age (EBA).

The grounds of the existing HCMR installations, comprising an area of 14.085 acres (57,000 m^2), were systematically investigated, initially by the removal of the loose surface soil, first using light mechanical means and then manually until the locations of the two sectors of the cemetery were established. Modern interventions and adaptations, undertaken as part of former uses of the area (e.g., metal fencing and the installation of irrigation pipes in Sector 2), were responsible for a partial destruction resulting in the fragmentary condition of both the EM IB tombs and the Minoan Building. In many cases, it was clear that relocation of the stones supporting the fence, alteration of the original shape of the tombs and the complete collapse of their vaults, shifting of the grave offerings, and disturbance of deposits inside and outside some tombs had occurred.

Once the excavation was completed, the Regional Archaeological Council decided that the EM IB cemetery, with the exception of Tombs 26–28 inside the Minoan Building (which at present lies in the parking area west of the HCMR), should be covered.

The aim of the current study is to present the EM IB cemetery at Gournes and compare it with other Early Minoan sites in and outside Crete in order to investigate links between the Prepalatial funerary practices and also to look into settlement sites that display similar characteristics in order to detect possible intercultural relations in the Aegean.

Minoan Building

On the northwest side of the EM IB cemetery, the three-room rectangular Minoan Building was found on the western boundary of the plot. In the surrounding area, between the later building and the EM IB cemetery, many trial trenches were dug in which a large number of sherds from the Early Minoan, Middle Minoan (MM), and Late Minoan (LM) periods and also from historical times were found. No further structures were discovered, except for a Roman cistern located some distance away at the northeast side of the plot.

Once the excavation had been completed, the Minoan Building (including the three EM IB tombs numbering 26–28 in its interior) was made accessible to the general public.

The aim of the current study is to describe the Minoan Building and its role in the area where the EM IB cemetery, with which it is spatially connected, had been established earlier, by reconstructing the topography and history of the broader area from the Protopalatial to the Postpalatial period.

Organization of Volume

Part I of the volume is centered on the EM IB cemetery. Chapter 1 presents an analysis of the spatial distribution of EM I–III domestic and burial sites in North-Central Crete. Their interconnections confirm the existence, since the EM I period, of a dense social network favored by the landscape of the island as well as its social exploitation. The architecture, pottery, and small finds reflect strong affinities with the Cyclades, thereby confirming the existence of a vast social network and the emergence of contacts with distant areas of Crete. Chapter 2 deals specifically with the Early Minoan cemetery of Gournes, Pediada, which was excavated in 1999 and represents a site of key importance. The analysis of archeological remains supports the hypothesis that this site forms a link with other Prepalatial burial and domestic sites in North-Central and East Crete. Through its excavation and study, we gain a better understanding of the social networks behind both settlements and cemeteries in the EM I–III periods. In Chapter 3, a complete catalog of epigrammatic but methodical descriptions of every tomb in Sectors 1 and 2 of the cemetery is presented, along with a complete list of finds per tomb in alphanumeric order. The lists include all artifacts, whole or mended, associated with each tomb as well as the pottery sherds and seashells found in or outside the tombs. The EM IB pottery sherds from the cemetery are presented in Chapter 4, in a series of tables, according to findspot (i.e., in the tombs, in the area of the Minoan Building, and in the wider area of the cemetery). The tables include basic features of each sherd or group of sherds.

The organization of the cemetery, the architectural features of the tombs (both built tombs and simple pits cut into bedrock) and their main characteristics (e.g., chambers, antechambers, entrances and ways of blocking them, modes of construction, shapes and dimensions, and burial practices and beliefs) are addressed in Chapter 5. Considering the layout of the Gournes cemetery, some main features that are discussed include the arrangement of tombs in two discrete clusters, the spacing and orientation of the individual tombs, and the possible marking of tombs on the surface. Comparable practices, features, similarities, and differences of other cemeteries in Crete, the Cyclades, and mainland Greece are discussed, and the adoption of specific tomb types and modes of cemetery organization at Gournes are set within a wider Aegean context. The discussion of burial practices at Gournes involves both the significance of several features of the funerary architecture and the consideration of the character and deposition of offerings in the tombs. The distribution of finds in the tombs of Sectors 1 and 2 is presented, and issues related to burial customs are discussed. Disposal of the body is briefly commented upon in relation to the question of the missing skeletal material and the presence of primary burials at Gournes. Finally,

social dimensions arising from the study of Gournes cemetery are commented upon, and insights into many different aspects, such as community size, demography, and social differences reflected in the burial sphere, are briefly mentioned.

In Chapter 6, the paucity of skeletal remains from the site using available osteological evidence is discussed. The result of the X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) analysis of soil samples from select tombs is also dealt with in relation to hypothetical bone mineral dissolution. The question of the missing bones is put into context by means of a systematic review of the relevant literature on Early Bronze Age mortuary contexts on Crete and the author's own observations. Different modes of the disposal of the dead are discussed, in addition to post-depositional practices and manipulation of remains, with a view toward assessing the complexity and diversity of mortuary behavior and practices in Early Bronze Age Crete and shedding light on the absence of bones from such contexts in particular.

The ceramic assemblage of the Prepalatial cemetery is presented in Chapter 7. The vast majority of vessels in the assemblage belong to a single ware, Dark Burnished ware (DBW), which is made of calcite-tempered clay and comprises vases of a rather limited repertoire, mostly chalices and various types of pyxides and bowls. The function and distribution of these vases suggest mortuary practices that involved the deposition of offerings inside closed vases, namely pyxides, which were placed inside the tomb next to the dead, and a small-scale private ceremony of drinking or libations with open vases, namely chalices or bowls, which were deposited inside the tomb or thrown in the antechamber. The entire ceramic assemblage belongs to a single phase, EM IB, and it has strong parallels with several sites in North Crete and the Cyclades. Despite strong Cycladic influence on the vast majority of the pottery in terms of shape, surface treatment, and clay preparation, the analytical and typological evidence suggests that the entire assemblage was most probably made on Crete rather than imported. This Prepalatial assemblage is further analyzed in Chapter 8, wherein thin-section petrography is used for the comparative study of the Cycladic-style Kampos Group pottery against the Minoan repertoire of shapes and wares. An array of fabrics is established, and their possible origins are discussed. In Chapter 9, a more in-depth technological study examines the chemical composition and firing temperature of the different wares through scanning electron microscopy (SEM).

In Chapter 10, the analysis of a series of objects made of precious metals dated between the Final Neolithic (FN) period and the end of the Early Minoan period and scattered across burial contexts in North-Central and East Crete is presented. Valuable information regarding the social dynamics of the period is presented, in particular a change in local traditions beginning in EM IB. Metal and steatite finds from the EM IB necropolis at Gournes are discussed in Chapter 11.

The small finds of stone from the EM IB cemetery are presented in Chapter 12. This is a relatively restricted body of material, not quite reaching 50 component items and made even slightly less promising by the fact that the vast majority of the obsidian finds are from soils outside the tombs and even potentially connected with a nearby Middle Minoan–Late Minoan structure. The score or so pieces from within the tombs are nothing like the volume found at sites like Hagia Photia. Overall, the material tentatively suggests, at best, a mixed community, and at the least one exposed to Cycladic influences. A total of 125 almost whole seashells and a large number of fragments found in the area of the cemetery are presented in Chapter 13. The material in general was in a very poor state of preservation due to environmental and taphonomic reasons, but the presence of marine species in the tombs seems to derive from their consumption during funerary meals, a kind of symbolic rite of passage common to sacred and funerary areas in Bronze Age Crete. It is interesting to note that the predominant species of mollusks found in the Gournes cemetery are different from most similar, excavated Minoan sites.

A final discussion of the evidence of the cemetery is presented in Chapter 14. The first section deals with the contextualization of the cemetery, with particular reference to the contemporary cemetery of Hagia Photia and the neighboring settlement of Poros-Katsambas. Then, the connection of the cemetery with the Cyclades addressed. After a discussion of theoretical issues such as the function of material culture as symbols of ethnic identity and origin, and the validity of mortuary practices as reflections of everyday life, special emphasis is given to the place and technology of production of the funerary offerings, tomb architecture, and burial rituals. The

available evidence suggests that the Gournes cemetery served as a social arena to express and communicate the strong links of the people of Gournes with off-Cretan networks of interaction and exchange during EM IB. These networks were related to the acquisition and circulation of imported Cycladic raw materials and their transformation into desirable artifacts, which were then distributed to other neighboring sites and areas.

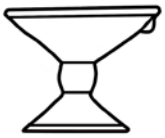
Part II of the volume involves the Minoan Building. First, the distribution of Protopalatial/Neopalatial domestic and burial sites is presented in Chapter 15. The growth of these sites in North-Central Crete is attested by considerable evidence of various remains close to the coast and also at hilly sites. Destructions that occurred at the end of the Bronze Age caused in some cases the total abandonment of settlements, whereas in other cases, inhabitants continued to populate nearby areas using related domestic or burial sites. The analysis of these sites allows the integration of Middle Bronze Age (MBA) Gournes into this general context.

Data derived from the Minoan Building, which was simultaneously excavated alongside the EM IB cemetery, is presented in Chapter 16. The data suggests that tombs were visible during the construction of the building, thus raising questions about chronology and the relationship of the building with the cemetery. The architecture of the Minoan Building is presented in Chapter 17, where it is argued that the building most likely had one architectural phase. Although many areas of the building are unclear due to later destruction, the structure presents a simple plan comparable to many Minoan domestic or burial edifices at various sites scattered throughout North-Central and East Crete.

The pottery of the Minoan Building is dealt with in Chapters 18 and 19. The corpus includes a total of 872 badly preserved, mixed Prepalatial, Protopalatial, and Neopalatial sherds, mainly from undecorated bodies of indeterminate vessels. The catalog (Ch. 19) contains the most diagnostic sherds, which are comprised primarily of small- and medium-sized vessels. Their dating and classification is primarily based on macroscopic morphological and technological characteristics, and secondly confirmed by the petrographic analysis presented in Chapter 20. Characteristic shapes and decorative motifs also allow the dating of the pottery. The array of fabrics and their potential origins are discussed in Chapter 20 in association with the possible character and function of the building.

A synthetic discussion of the stratigraphy, date, and use of the Minoan Building is presented in Chapter 21. Considering the specific location of the building, the duration of its use from EM III–LM IA, and its ritual character in association with funerary contexts, it is proposed that the Minoan Building was originally constructed as a house tomb and was subsequently cleared and reused as a support building for rituals after the abandonment of the EM IB cemetery.

The region of Gournes is discussed in Part III of the volume. Chapter 22 presents the study of sherds from historical times found in the cemetery and provides another way of interpreting this seemingly insignificant aspect of the archaeological record. These so-called common pottery sherds were transported along with manuring material for fertilization. These sherds, in reality thrown away as garbage by ancient inhabitants, enrich data relevant to the chronology and extent of the cultivation of the land. The geological bedrock and construction material used at Gournes is discussed in Chapter 23, and final discussions are presented in Chapter 24 and the Epilogue. In the latter, the coastal landscape of North-Central Crete and its decisive role in the organization of the domestic, burial, and ritual use of the area through time are discussed.



Acknowledgments

The rescue excavation of the EM IB cemetery and Minoan Building at Gournes, at the site of the former US Herakleion Air Station, was conducted from March to June 1999 by the 23rd EPCA under the direction of its archaeologist Calliope Galanaki. The excavation was funded by the HCMR (formerly the Institute of Marine Biology of Crete). The research team consisted of archaeologist Joanna Triantafyllidi, Nikolaos Koutoulakis and Emmanuel Roumbakis, permanent workers of the 23rd EPCA, and Konstantinos Androulakis, Eleutherios Kavousanakis, Agapios Rethemiotakis, and Philippos Tzouliadakis.

The installations of the HCMR, comprising an area of 14.085 acres (57,000 m^2), were systematically investigated by first removing the loose surface soil with light mechanical means, under the strict supervision of the skillful permanent Guard of Antiquities of the 23rd EPCA, Amanakis Stavros.

The poor skeletal remains and the small finds (i.e., pottery, metal jewelry and implements, stone objects, and seashells) from the excavation of the EM IB cemetery and the Minoan Building were placed in the pottery and metal objects laboratories of the 23rd EPCA. The pottery conservation was undertaken by its specialized conservators, Eirini Karousou, Anastasios Karousos, and Panagiotis Synadinakis, with the collaboration of younger staff members Yannis Rogdakis and Eirini Synadinaki, now of the Herakleion Museum, as well as Yannis Balis, Aggeliki Psaroudaki, and Alexandros Sapountzakis. The conservation of the metal objects was carried out by the very experienced conservators Demetrios Vasilakakis, Charalambos Kalogerakis, Georgia Pachaki, Georgios Fanourakis, and Antonios Fountoulakis.

After the four-year field project, the preparation of the final publication began in 2000, and it was undertaken more systematically from 2003 onward, funded mainly by the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP). Three main reports have been published: the first for the EM IB cemetery in *Archaiologikon Deltion* (Galanaki 1999, 853–856), the second in the proceedings of the Θ′ International Cretological Congress (Galanaki 2006), and the third in the proceedings of the I′ International Cretological Congress (Galanaki et al. 2011b).

The pottery and the small finds were cataloged and classified by the expert archaeologists Christina Papadaki and Joanna Triantafyllidi, initially as research

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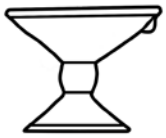
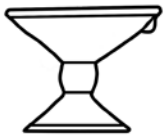


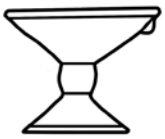
List of Abbreviations

a	angular
AC	antechamber
BA	Bronze Age
bop	bulb of percussion or pressure
BS	Balk Section(s)
C	chamber
cat.	catalog
DBW	Dark Burnished ware
DGBW	Dark Gray Burnished ware
diam.	diameter
DoLPW	Dark-on-Light Painted ware
EB	Early Bronze
EBA	Early Bronze Age
EC	Early Cycladic
EDS	energy-dispersive X-ray spectrometry
EH	Early Helladic
EM	Early Minoan
EN	Early Neolithic
EPCA	Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities
est.	estimated
exc.	excavation
ext.	exterior
FN	Final Neolithic
FTIR	Fourier transform infrared
g	gram(s)
gr.	greatest
GS	Grid Square(s)
h.	height
ha.	hectare(s)
HCMR	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
HM	Herakleion Archaeological Museum
HMΛ	Herakleion Museum Λίθηνα
ICP	inductively coupled plasma
IGME	Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration
INSTAP	Institute for Aegean Prehistory
INSTAP SCEC	Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Center for East Crete
int.	interior
km	kilometer(s)
kV	kilovolt(s)
L.	length

LH	Late Helladic
LM	Late Minoan
LN	Late Neolithic
lt.	liter(s)
m	meter(s)
M	metal object
mA	milliampere(s)
m asl	meters above sea level
max.	maximum
MB	Minoan Building
MBA	Middle Bronze Age
MC	Middle Cycladic
mg	milligram(s)
min.	minimum
MH	Middle Helladic
mm	millimeter(s)
MM	Middle Minoan
mW	milliwatt(s)
mya	million years ago
NCSR	National Center for Scientific Research
Nd	not determined
nm	nanometer(s)
NM	National Archaeological Museum of Athens
no(s).	number(s)
OTEK	Οργανισμός Τουριστικής Εκπαίδευσης και Κατάρτισης/ Organization for Tourism Education and Training
P	pottery
PDF	Powder Diffraction File
PIKPA	Πατριωτικό Ίδρυμα Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας/ Patriotic Foundation for Social Welfare
PPL	plane-polarized light
pres.	preserved
pXRF	portable X-ray fluorescence
r	rounded
RSPW	Red Slipped and Polished ware
S	sherd
sa	subangular
SA	surrounding area
SA.S	surrounding area seashell
SA.St	surrounding area stone objects
SEM	scanning electron microscopy
SEM-EDS	scanning electron microscopy-energy dispersive spectrometry
SEM-EDX	scanning electron microscopy-energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy
sr	subrounded
St	stone object
T	Tomb
TCFs	textural concentration features
th.	thickness
TOC	total organic carbon
T.S	tomb seashell
US	United States
w.	width
wt.	weight
XP	cross-polarized light
XRD	X-ray powder diffraction
XRF	X-ray fluorescence
Z	atomic number
μ	micron(s)
μm	micrometer(s)

Part I
Early Minoan IB Cemetery





1

Early Minoan I–III Domestic and Burial Sites in North-Central and East Crete

Calliope E. Galanaki and Joanna Triantafyllidi

This chapter briefly presents the spatial distribution of the Early Minoan (EM) I–III domestic and burial sites of North-Central and East Crete (Fig. 1), as well as their widely known interconnections.

The regional character of the population probably gradually formed during the Final Neolithic (FN)–EM I period through the mixing of indigenous settlers with newcomers (Betancourt 2003). In the successive EM II period, the settlement expansion continued but at a demonstrably slower pace. The end of the EM II period was marked by the abandonment and destruction of many sites, while during the EM III period the available evidence for occupation of large sites is extremely limited and many smaller sites were abandoned (Watrous 1994, 701, 707–721; 2001, 166–167, 179). Practical reasons (e.g., destruction due to successive building phases), however, can explain to a certain degree the reduction in the number of settlements that can be documented during the Prepalatial period (Panagiotakis 2006, 169). In North-Central Crete, a pattern of habitation involving settlements in the valleys along the north coast or inland in the hilly areas is more common compared to southern Crete. This model probably follows the landscape of North Crete—that is, the existence of open valleys (Sbonias 2006, 189–191). In general, the Early Minoan period in North-Central Crete is not equally represented by burial and domestic sites, and consequently our knowledge remains mainly dependent on cemeteries (during EM I–II, the total number of settlements is relatively low).

As far as burial assemblages are concerned, during the Prepalatial period, and specifically in EM I–IIA, Crete can be divided into several regions based on mortuary customs. These variations in mortuary behavior obviously echo differences in social structure that were reflected in the adaptation of off-island products in political and ideological customs, which resulted in certain grave goods and beliefs. Gradually this distinction became less clear, and many of the EM I–IIA cemeteries in North-Central Crete fell out of use at the beginning of EM IIB when a few new cemeteries are first documented in East Crete (Legarra Herrero 2009, 34, 45–46). The following discusses the spatial distribution of EM I–III domestic and burial sites, beginning in North-Central Crete and moving toward East Crete.

The pottery unearthed from the Prophetes Elias Cave in Arkalochori in North-Central Crete (Fig. 1), including Pyrgos Ware, may indicate its early burial function, while the metal objects deposited in a hoard there probably reflect its consequent ritual character (Hazzidakis 1912–1913; Marinatos 1935, 218; Platon 1970, 100; 1973, 253; Rethemiotakis 1999a, 105–107, 111; Tyree 2006, 333, 342). Its associated settlement has not been excavated. Northwest of Arkalochori, a rock shelter with burial use during the Prepalatial period was excavated at the so-called Kapella hill, situated between the villages of Kanli Kastelli (Prophetes Elias) and Kyparissi (Fig. 1; Serpetsidaki 1994; 2006, 243–255; Tyree 2006, 342). It yielded human skeletal remains, characteristic EM IIB–III/Middle Minoan (MM) IA pottery, figurines of Cycladic and Cretan types, and seals. Also in the area of Kanli Kastelli, between Kyparissi and Galeni (located south of Kyparissi) at the site of Korphi tou Vathia or Teichidia, a rich EM IB–IIA cave tomb had finds with Cycladic parallels, including vessels and obsidian blades (Fig. 1; Alexiou 1951). Finally, at the site called Vitsala near Kanli Kastelli, a great amount of EM II–III sherds was discovered, suggesting the existence of a settlement (Evans 1921–1935, II, 71–74).

Northeast of Kanli Kastelli, the earliest objects from Archanes and its periphery derive mainly from the cave of Stravomyti, the cemetery at Phourni, Vathypetro, and the Prepalatial domestic installation in the center of the modern village of Archanes (Fig. 1; Evans 1921–1935, I, 68–71; Marinatos 1949, 109; Faure 1996, 67–69; Sakellarakis and Sapouna-Sakellaraki 1997, 376–393). These finds range in date from Final Neolithic–EM III. Pottery from the cave at Stravomyti includes vessels in the styles of Hagios Nikolaos (Palaikastro), Hagios Onouphrios, and Pyrgos, and similar material comes from Partira, the Eileithyia Cave, Knossos, and Platyvola. From the cemetery at Phourni (Chamber Tomb E and Burial Buildings 18 and 19) comes EM IIA pottery, and similar material comes from the area of the church of Hagios Nikolaos in the modern village of Archanes, where an EM II–III settlement was excavated. The EM IIB pottery, some of it of the Koumasa and Vasiliki Ware classes, has been revealed in the Tourkogeitonia area under the Palatial Building and the above-mentioned domestic site at Hagios Nikolaos. Both EM III pottery and EM IIB Vasiliki Ware come from the same site at Hagios Nikolaos and from the cemetery at Phourni (Chamber Tomb G, Burial Buildings 6, 8, 12, 18, and 19, and the so-called Area of the Rocks). Also, the peak sanctuary on the south slope of nearby Mt. Juktas began by the EM II period and lasted until Late Minoan (LM) III and later (Karetsou 1974; 1975; 1984; 1985). All the above reflect indirect affinities between Archanes and the Mesara Plain and more direct relations with sites in North-Central Crete, mainly Knossos.

At Knossos, EM I pottery is present in a variety of deposits mainly found beneath the northern part of the palace (Fig. 1). Many of the deposits are mixed, but a fine closed deposit from EM I comes from a well, and a number of different wares and shapes are included; the EM I fill deposits from Knossos are smaller and more fragmentary. For the EM IIA period, pottery comes mainly from the West Court house group and from the fills found in various tests beneath the palace, including in the northern quarter. The EM IIB period is best represented in large fill deposits outside the south facade of the palace. Close affinities between the EM I pottery from Knossos and Poros-Katsambas (see below) have been observed, as well as between the EM IIA pottery from Knossos and the Early Cycladic (EC) II pottery from the central and western Cyclades (Evans 1972, 120; Wilson 1984; 1985, 286; 1994; 2007, 49–56; Wilson and Day 2000; Wilson, Day, and Dimopoulou-Rethemiotaki 2004; Hood 2006). Also, the extensive field survey conducted in the wider district of Knossos yielded valuable new information for the evolution of the site over a considerable period of time (Bredaki, Vasilakis, and Whitelaw 2010).

At Gazi, situated near the coast northwest of Knossos, Early Minoan and Middle Minoan sherds were recovered from a pit, but only a few Early Minoan pottery sherds have been collected southwest of the village (Fig. 1; Syriopoulos 1994, 552–553). Recent excavations carried out northwest of the village brought to light part of a poorly preserved Final Neolithic/EM I–IIA hamlet with rich finds such as pottery, obsidian blades, a stone axe, many other implements, and a fragment of a clay statuette (Pylarinou and Vasilakis 2010).

Numerous Cycladic artifacts from rescue excavations at Poros-Katsambas on the coast to the east of Gazi and north of Knossos form a substantial part of its Early Bronze Age (EBA) deposits, where pottery dating to the Early Minoan I–IIA

period is part of an assemblage of domestic-related cooking, serving, and storing vessels (Fig. 1; Dimopoulou 1997; Dimopoulou-Rethemiotaki 2004; 2014; Wilson, Day, and Dimopoulou-Rethemiotaki 2004; 2008; Dimopoulou-Rethemiotaki, Wilson, and Day 2007; Doonan, Day, and Dimopoulou-Rethemiotaki 2007). This pottery can be linked to the relevant pottery of Agrilia at Ano Kouphonisi in the Cyclades and other burial sites in North-Central Crete. In the case of Poros, numerous Cycladic-style pottery sherds and a large number of obsidian blades form an impressive group, while evidence of metallurgical activity is documented from as early as Early Minoan I (Dimopoulou 1997; Dimopoulou-Rethemiotaki 2004; Serpetsidaki 2012, 164).

At the top and east slope of a hill by the west side of Kairatos in the Katsambas district, a Neolithic settlement was uncovered (Fig. 1). Important components were the remains of a Neolithic house of the but-and-ben type with late Early Neolithic (EN) I and perhaps some EN II pottery (Alexiou 1953, 305–308; 1954; Platon 1956, 415; Galanidou and Manteli 2008). In the same area, two rock shelters that may be part of an extensive Neolithic cemetery have been uncovered (Alexiou 1953, 306–307; Serpetsidaki 2018).

From Amnissos, situated on the hill of Palaeochora northeast of Knossos, more tangible evidence of Early Minoan habitation has been uncovered (Fig. 1; Hatzi-Vallianou 2006, 32). Specifically on the north side of the hill, an Early Minoan burial with two vessels of the Pyrgos type was discovered among domestic relics (Marinatos 1930, 93).

At a small distance to the south of Amnissos lies the Eileithyia Cave (Fig. 1; Marinatos 1929a, 96–97, 99–100; 1930, 91–97; 1932, 78; Betancourt et al. 2000; Branigan 2000, 162; Tyree 2006, 332). The cave was used from the Final Neolithic to the Roman and Byzantine periods. Its earliest finds, from Neolithic–EM II in date, probably indicate its early use as a burial cave. During the Final Neolithic period, the pottery has parallels from Partira, Lebena, Phaistos, and Hagios Nikolaos (Palaikastro). The EM I–II pottery from the cave has parallels from Hagios Onouphrios and Pyrgos (Betancourt et al. 2000, 187–204). Opposite and south of the entrance of the Eileithyia Cave, an important small burial cave was discovered with a quite deep chasm in its inner part (Marinatos 1930, 98–99). Successive excavations suggested that this cave was used as a burial place from the Early Minoan to LM IIIC periods (Kanta 1980, 39). Among the early finds are some Early Minoan vessels and silver jewelry similar to pieces from northern Crete, but there are also pieces resembling jewelry from the Pyrgos Cave and the Krasi tholos tomb, dated Final Neolithic–Early Minoan (Betancourt et al. 2000, 203–204). At the hill of Kastellos, situated ca. 1 km southwest of the Eileithyia Cave, Neolithic and Early Minoan surface sherds have been reported (Karetsou 1974, 240).

In reconstructing the possible sea routes of the Early Bronze Age, the island of Dia (Fig. 1) to the north of Knossos has a key position because islands could play roles as so-called gateway communities to mainland Crete if they were involved in trade networks (Kossyva 2006, 126). An *enceinte* wall that possibly dates to the Early Minoan period isolates the west end of the island from the small cove where the church of Hagios Georgios is located (Evans 1921–1935, I, 298). It can be dated according to surface sherds, while Prepalatial building remains have also been reported (Alexiou 1979, 54). Surface sherds and stone tools dated Late Neolithic (LN)–Final Neolithic found on Dia Island constitute additional sparse evidence for its early occupation.

The well-known cape of Hagioi Theodoroi (Figs. 1, 2), located northwest of Nirou Chani, was possibly used from antiquity as an anchorage because of its appropriate natural formation (Theodolou 2011, 44). The possibility of the use of this site from the EM I period can only be implied through the discovery of half of a large pebble-shaped figurine of the Pyrgos type made from schist (Xanthoudides 1918a, 20). In the same area, substantial Late Minoan architectural remains, probably associated with extensive foreshore installations, were discovered.

The well-known cave tomb of Pyrgos (Figs. 1, 2), located about 13.5 km from Herakleion, lay on the north coast of Kokkini Chani in the area of the Themis Beach Hotel. It was discovered during the construction of the road from Herakleion to Chersonissos (Xanthoudides 1918b). The EM I–II tomb had been partly disturbed, and it contained a large amount of human skeletal remains, more than 20 larnakes (mostly fragmented and devoid of grave offerings), and 130 clay vessels together with stone figurines, obsidian blades, bronze daggers, awls, weapons, and a few pieces of gold jewelry. All these categories of find are of Minoan and Cycladic types.

At the rocky area of the hill of Chalepa, traces of an extended domestic installation were uncovered immediately north and east of the Pyrgos Cave (Figs. 1, 2; Xanthoudides 1918b, 168; Hatzi-Vallianou 2006, 32). Still visible but not yet excavated are some traces of the same installation to the west of the Themis Beach Hotel. Early Minoan sherds were widely dispersed in the entire area of the Pyrgos hill. Approximately 50 rock-cut cavities, mainly of elliptical shape and with depths of 0.2–0.4 m and widths of 0.2–0.3 m, have been found on the north slope of the hill. Their use during the Early Minoan period is still uncertain, although they are probably related to the domestic economy and involve water collection (Xanthoudides 1918b, 168–169). The discovery of a partially preserved gold band with striking similarities to relevant finds from Mochlos, the Mesara, and the cave of Pyrgos itself led to further excavation in the cave and its surrounding area. Fifty meters east of the Pyrgos Cave, more burials were uncovered in fissures in the rocks together with some contemporary sherds (Figs. 1, 2; Xanthoudides 1922–1924, 125–126). The bodies were placed in fetal positions with their heads toward the east and were covered with stones. In trial trenches excavated by 23rd Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities (EPCA) in the area of the buildings of the Organization for Tourism Education and Training (Οργανισμός Τουριστικής Εκπαίδευσης και Κατάρτισης [OTEK]), an elliptical pit cut into the yellowish soft bedrock (*kouskouras*) and covered by a mass of stones was uncovered in 1979 (Fig. 2; A. Vasilakis, pers. comm., 18 April 2005). Near the pit, a kind of dromos and another elliptical rock-cut pit situated at its end was revealed. From the first pit, only two small (EM I?) sherds and one fragment of an obsidian blade were collected, while a triangular gathering of stones was also discovered to its left. At a small distance from this pit, some medium-sized rough stones in alignment, likely part of a wall, were found with a few Early Minoan(?) sherds included. Also, in the area of the nearby camp of the Patriotic Foundation for Social Welfare (Πατριωτικό Ίδρυμα Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας [PIKPA]), EM I surface sherds as well as a large number of obsidian blades were found (Fig. 2).

The catalog of the Early Minoan burial sites has recently been enriched with the discovery of the EM IB cemetery at Gournes (Figs. 1, 2), presented in detail in this volume. It lies 13.5 km east of Herakleion in the district of the former United States (US) Herakleion Air Station where the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) is situated presently. At the same plot, a Minoan building that was partly visible before excavation and a badly preserved cistern of the Roman period were revealed (Galanaki 1999; 2006; Blackman 2001, 129; Galanaki et al. 2011b). Many sherds of various chronological phases were initially found discarded within the 57 acre plot.

Although it is not yet possible to identify the settlement related to the Gournes cemetery, a recent survey led to the hypothesis that one of the settlements located south of Gournes might have been relevant (Panagiotakis 2006, 169, figs. 3, 4). Near Anopolis, situated southwest of Gournes, a field survey has uncovered a number of Early Minoan sites (Panagiotakis 2003, 378, 393). Additionally, nearby Chirospilios is a Neolithic site on the southeast side of the hill of Prophetes Elias, while on the northeast side of the same hill lay the Neolithic–Early Minoan settlement of Kopsas (Figs. 1, 2). Another contemporary settlement is the site of Petrades, situated southeast of Gournes within the modern village of Koksari, where, apart from surface sherds, a Neolithic stone axe was found (Fig. 1; Platon and Davaras 1961–1962, 289). Furthermore, north of the Gournes cemetery, the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities has investigated some possibly relevant domestic relics (T. Theodoulou, pers. comm., 10 May 2014). Finally, at a distance of 1.5 km to the south of the Gournes cemetery lies the Kephala hill (Figs. 1, 2: Gournes 2). On its north side (at Androulakis field), an EM IIA so-called sacred pit of roughly rectangular shape and an EM III–MM IA tripartite burial enclosure were discovered (Hazzidakis 1915, 1918).

During the EM I period traces of burial use of the Skoteino Cave, situated south of Gournes (Fig. 1), have been identified (A. Kanta, pers. comm., 10 June 2010). Relics of Early Minoan habitation have also been found at the cape of Kastri at Chersonissos, situated on the north coast east of Gournes (Fig. 1; Hatzi-Vallianou 2006, 32). Similar remains of an extended Early Minoan installation were detected by the 23rd EPCA at the nearby site of Hagios Nikolaos (Palaikastro). Also, a few Early Minoan sherds and parts of two clay human figurines, possibly Neolithic, have been found at a Minoan site east of Chersonissos where the Nana Hotel was built (A. and M. Karatzis plot; Rethemiotakis 1997, 992; 1999b, 265).

Farther east, the site of Malia also has evidence of early habitation. Unstratified Neolithic sherds and obsidian blades as well as Early Minoan burial and domestic relics are reported (Fig. 1; Chapoutier and Demargne 1942, 30; van Effenterre and van Effenterre 1969, 7–21; Tyree 2006, 342). A very important, probably defensive site of the Early Bronze Age has been revealed at a small distance from Malia in the area of the Sissi seashore on the Kephali hill (Bouphos); it was probably used as a natural anchorage. Domestic and burial remains have been found there dating from EM IIA to MM IA and later (Driessen 2012).

An important tholos tomb used from EM I until the MM IA period was discovered at the site of Koprani, located at the west end of the village of Krasi, south of Malia (Fig. 1; Marinatos 1929b). Finds included a large quantity of Pyrgos-type vessels along with metal objects and obsidian blades. Other excavations at a site called Katalimata north of the village brought to light a round pit initially identified as an Early Minoan tholos tomb, while a destroyed Early Minoan tholos tomb that contained two bronze daggers was discovered during the construction of the road that runs northeast from Krasi to Kera (Platon 1959, 387; Alexiou and Davaras 1964, 440).

The area of the Mirabello Bay farther east was densely settled during Final Neolithic–EM I (Betancourt 1999; 2003; Papadatos 2007a, 163). Along the periphery of the bay, traces of habitation dating from the Early Minoan to Middle Minoan periods have been found at Elounda (Fig. 1; Syriopoulos 1994, 577). From the same site come Early Minoan vessels, probably from a tomb, while plundered burials were found in rock cavities as well as at an Early Minoan cemetery on the nearby islet of Kolokythia. To the south, an important EM I habitation site is located at Kalo Chorio (Haggis 1996; Hayden 2003b; Day 2014). Substantial evidence for prehistoric craft activities and settlements of Late Neolithic and EM I–IIA date were also found at Priniatikos Pyrgos, situated north of Kalo Chorio. Also north of Kalo Chorio, at the site of Kato Arnikon, an Early Minoan burial cave was discovered (Syriopoulos 1994, 591).

From Pacheia Ammos to the east of Kalo Chorio come burials dating from the Early Minoan to LM I periods (Fig. 1; Watrous and Davaras 1993; Tyree 2006, 342). At the beginning of the EM IIA period, a settlement was established on the Gournia ridge, and two cemeteries (rock shelters and house tombs) of this large and prosperous community were added at its north end (North Cemetery) and on the nearby hillside of Sphoungaras situated a short distance from the coast (Fig. 1; Boyd Hawes et al. 1908; Hall 1912; Soles 1992, 1–39, fig. 1).

North of the modern village of Kavousi in the area of the Hagios Antonios church, an EM II–III burial cave was found (Fig. 1; Syriopoulos 1994, 588; Haggis 2005). At Chrysokamino (Fig. 1), also situated near the modern village of Kavousi, an important site for Early Cretan metallurgy was discovered (Betancourt 2007; Betancourt et al. 1999).

At Mochlos (Fig. 1), an important EM IIA/IIB–III domestic installation and a well-known rich, extensive Prepalalatial cemetery with EM II–III house tombs as well as a number of pithos burials, rock shelters, and simple pit graves to the northwest have been revealed (Soles 1992, 41–112; Soles and Davaras 1995; Davaras and Soles 1996, 178–180, figs. 1–3; Whitley 2004–2005, 102; Whitley et al. 2005–2006, 103).

Off of the east coast in the Mirabello Bay on Pseira island, a settlement dating from Final Neolithic/EM I–IIB to the LM I period has been revealed (Fig. 1; Soles and Davaras 1993; Betancourt and Davaras, eds., 2002; 2003; Kossyva 2006, 133). On the same island, a cemetery of the Final Neolithic–MM IIB period with various types of tombs and a cavity of EM IIB was found (Soles and Davaras 1993; Syriopoulos 1994, 582; Betancourt and Davaras, eds., 2003; Kossyva 2006, 133).

Aphrodite's Kephali is an important EM I defensive site that took advantage of the valley topography in the northern part of the Isthmus of Ierapetra in eastern Crete, engaging in the natural trade route between the Aegean and Libyan Sea (Fig. 1; Betancourt 2013). At nearby Maronia, an Early Minoan burial cave and another two containing Early Minoan vessels and other finds have been discovered (Fig. 1; Syriopoulos 1994, 586–587). On the top of the hill southwest of the village of Chamaizi, EM I–III remains were revealed where a Protopalatial elliptical house is located, while Early Minoan sherds from a cave by the coast north of the village have also been discovered (Fig. 1; Xanthoudides 1906; Davaras 1972b). Finally, at Linares on the nearby northern coast, an Early Minoan built, two-roomed ossuary was found (Fig. 1; Davaras 1972a, 650–651; Soles 1992, 159).

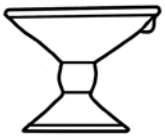
At Messorachi Skopi near Siteia on the north coast, and at Livari Skiadi, situated close to Goudouras, Ierapetra on the south coast, two early circular tholos tombs were located (Fig. 1; Papadatos and Sofianou 2012, 2013, 2015b). The first is dated to the EM IA period, with affinities to the nearby settlement of Kephala Petras reflecting its participation in local networks of interaction and its awareness of the cultural traditions and mortuary practices of distant Cretan areas. The second is dated from EM IB to EM III, with affinities not only to the Mesara–Asterousia zone but also to the North Cretan coast.

On the northeast and southeast slope of the Kephala Petras hill, a Final Neolithic–EM I settlement of particular interest was excavated, revealing traces of early metallurgy (Fig. 1; Bosanquet 1901–1902b; Papadatos 2008; 2011; Tsipopoulou 2011; 2012b, 60–65; Tsipopoulou, ed., 2012; 2017). On the Kephala hill, a cemetery of the EM I–MM IIA periods is under excavation. The cemetery consists of large and complex house tombs with primary and secondary burials and a rock shelter used as an ossuary. The cemetery contains large quantities of pottery and skeletal material and also clearly elite grave goods (e.g., stone vessels, metal tools, silver and gold jewelry, and seals made of bone and hard stones). On the other hill of Petras, parts of an extensive urban Minoan settlement of EM II–LM IIIB date have been revealed (Bosanquet 1901–1902b; Papadatos 2008, 2011; Tsipopoulou 2011; Tsipopoulou, ed., 2012).

The Hagia Photia cemetery in Siteia, with close affinities to the Gournes cemetery burial architecture and practices, is totally different from the rest of Crete and related to the Cycladic assemblages at Ano Kouphonisi and to those at Manika, Euboea (Fig. 1; Davaras 1971; 1972a; Zapheiropoulou 1984; Sapouna-Sakellaraki 1987; Sampson 1988; Day et al. 2000; Davaras and Betancourt 2004; 2012). The Hagia Photia cemetery, with almost 262 burials, is dated to the EM I–IIA period (Davaras 1971). Its artifacts have great stylistic similarities with contemporary assemblages from the Cyclades. The location of an Early Minoan settlement on the nearby Kouphota hill of Hagia Photia (Fig. 1), possibly indicated by the presence of some Early Minoan sherds, reflects relatively extensive earlier occupation on the top of the hill, prior to the foundation of the rectangular building, which took place probably in EM III(?)–MM IA. According to the excavator, this early settlement was possibly associated with the cemetery of Hagia Photia (Papadatos 2007a; Tsipopoulou 2007, 135–137). Toward the sea, on the slope of the same hill, two caves were recovered, one containing a few Neolithic, Early Minoan, and Middle Minoan sherds, and the other Middle Minoan burials, pottery, and obsidian blades (Platon 1959, 390–391).

Finally, at Palaikastro (Fig. 1) remains of an EM II–LM IIIC domestic installation were found. The earliest burials at Palaikastro are located in two different cemeteries dated to EM II and later (house tombs or ossuaries) on either side of the main settlement at Roussolakkos (Sackett et al. 1965, 269–280; MacGillivray and Driessen 1990; Soles 1992, 179–188). The EM I burial site at Hagios Nikolaos (Palaikastro) is exceptional, with jars with cylindrical necks and a silver or lead bead (Bosanquet et al. 1902–1903, 336–343).

From this combined evidence, an extensive network can be observed consisting of domestic and burial sites that took advantage of natural or modified anchorages, capes, and gulfs along the north-central and eastern parts of Crete. Similar cultural characteristics and significant Cycladic affinities are reflected in the architecture, pottery, and small finds. These domestic and burial centers, distributed throughout Central and East Crete, prove the hypothesis that already by the EM I period, vast networks of intensive interaction and contact were achieved between even the most distant areas of Crete.



2

Early Minoan IB Cemetery

Calliope E. Galanaki

A rescue excavation carried out from March to June 1999 by the 23rd EPCA in the HCMR plot (formerly the US Herakleion Air Station) at Gournes, Pediada, revealed an EM IB cemetery (Galanaki 1999; 2006; Blackman 2001, 129). This site forms a link with other early Prepalatial burial and domestic sites in North-Central and East Crete, including Arkalochori, Kyparissi, Kanli Kastelli (Prophetes Elias), Gazi, Archanes, Knossos, Poros, Amnissos, Hagioi Theodoroi, the Eileithyia Cave, Pyrgos, Krasi, Gournia, Mochlos, and Kephala Petras and Hagia Photia in Siteia, Palaikastro (Figs. 1, 2, see this vol., Ch. 1). The correlation between the Gournes cemetery and its habitation site cannot be currently understood. Nevertheless, northeast of the necropolis some possible domestic remains were investigated by the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities. Additionally, the recent survey of the Pediada region may indicate a possible connection with the Early Minoan settlements of Kopsas, Chirospilios, and Petrades to the south (Figs. 1, 2; Panagiotakis 2006, 169, figs. 3, 4).

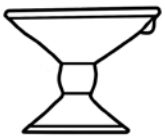
The Gournes cemetery includes 37 rock-cut built tombs and pits (Tombs 1–37), which exist in two sectors situated about 65 m apart (Sectors 1 and 2; Figs. 3–8; Pls. 1A, 1B). The burial architecture and practices reflect close affinities with the cemeteries of Hagia Photia in Siteia (Davaras and Betancourt 2004, 2012), Ano Kouphonisi (Zapheiropoulou 1984, 2008), and Manika in Euboea (Sapouna-Sakellaraki 1987; Sampson 1988). The grave offerings from the tombs and their surrounding areas can be associated primarily with the Kampos Group, an assemblage of artifacts known mainly from the Cyclades (Davaras and Betancourt 2004, 4; Zapheiropoulou 2008).

The Gournes cemetery yielded 108 intact or almost intact vases and a number of sherds. The shapes include pyxides of various types as well as open vessels (chalices, bowls, and cups) and closed vessels (collared jars, jars, alabastra, and bottles). The overwhelming majority belongs to the Dark Burnished class, with good parallels from several sites along the northern Cretan coastline and the Cyclades, while the Dark Gray Burnished class is the second most frequent pottery group (see this vol., Ch. 7). Finally, the Dark-on-Light class as well as the Red Slipped and Polished class are represented.

Additionally, a group of 12 silver and bronze objects was present (Galanaki, Bassiakos, and Perdikatsis 2011): a necklace of 458 silver beads (456 discoid and two squat spherical) and almost 10 cylindrical beads of blue steatite; three silver, primarily squat spherical beads; three bronze implements (including an awl), one complete and two with the tip missing; a bronze crescent earring; a bronze curved shank; an irregular piece of corroded bronze; and two pieces of ferrous mass. An assemblage of 47 stone objects also was recovered: 37 of obsidian, mainly in the form of blades, flakes, and chunks; two or three of chert; three natural chunks that might be tools; and five jewelry components, including a single bead (steatite), two segmented beads or pendants (also steatite), and two more natural pieces of marble capable of being threaded.

Finally, the total of 125 individual mollusks found at the site is dominated by two species of pectinids, *Chlamys varia* and *C. flexuosa*, and one oyster of the genus *Ostrea*. This material was found to be in a very poor state of preservation, mostly broken up into small fragments with a small number of worn-out valves of the same species. Consequently, identification of this material beyond the genus level, as can be seen from the list of the finds (see this vol., Ch. 3), was in most cases either difficult or impossible.

The Gournes cemetery contributes information for the comprehension of burial architecture and customs as well as early metallurgy within Crete and beyond. The distinctive location of Crete allowed a measure of geographical independence alongside its strong intercultural connections, which ensured dynamic participation in EBA Aegean culture. Consequently, the network of social groups that created the relevant EM I–III settlements and cemeteries now can be re-examined in terms of the constant movement of raw materials, commodities, artifacts, and ideas (Leroi-Gourhan 1993; Papadatos 2007b).



3

Catalog of the Early Minoan IB Tombs and Their Finds

Calliope E. Galanaki, Danae Z. Kontopodi, and Joanna Triantafyllidi

The Gournes cemetery consists of 37 tombs in total, dispersed in an area of 57 acres. The tombs form two clusters lying 65 m apart, which are called Sectors 1 and 2.

The catalog that follows consists of brief but methodical descriptions of each tomb along with a complete list of finds per tomb. The lists include all artifacts, whole or mended, associated with each tomb. In addition, there are references to the pottery sherds found in or outside the tomb, which are described more thoroughly in Chapter 4. The seashells mentioned in the catalog are listed in detail and analyzed in Chapter 12.

Sector 1

Sector 1 of the cemetery extends along the southeastern side of the plot and contains 10 built (rock-cut) tombs of varying sizes (Tombs 1–10), each composed of a main burial chamber and a smaller antechamber in front, as well as six shallow pits oriented south or southeast (Tombs 11–16; Fig. 3).

Tomb 1

Tomb 1 was a rock-cut, built tomb measuring 1.62 m^2 (Ills. 3.1–3.3). It is located in Sector 1 of the cemetery, oriented to the northeast. The tomb has an irregular figure-of-eight shape. The sloping roof of the burial chamber has collapsed; only the lower part of the tomb is preserved, along with the slab that blocked the entrance. Most of the supporting stonework of the entrance and its wedges are missing.

The antechamber is circular with concave walls and a flat floor with rounded edges. The burial chamber is elliptical with a preserved depth of 0.15 m. Its floor is flat with rounded edges.

The entrance is a simple irregular opening and takes up the entire northeast side of the burial chamber. It is blocked by a single flat, rectangular sandstone slab. Of the stonework that supported the entrance, only a couple of small rough, irregular stones remains.

The offerings included four vessels. Three chalices (**P1**, **P93**, **P95**) were located in the antechamber, while a bowl was found southwest of the burial chamber (**P12**).

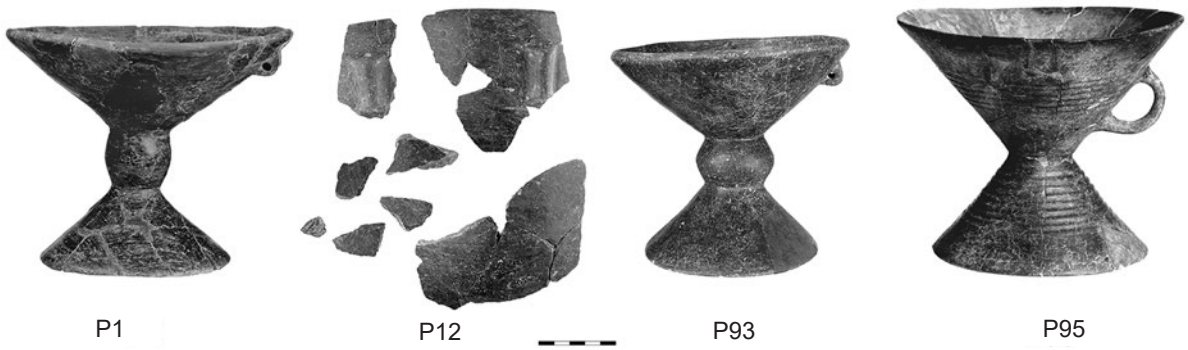


Illustration 3.1. Vases from Tomb 1 (**P1**, **P12**, **P93**, **P95**). Photos Y. Papadakis-Ploumidis.

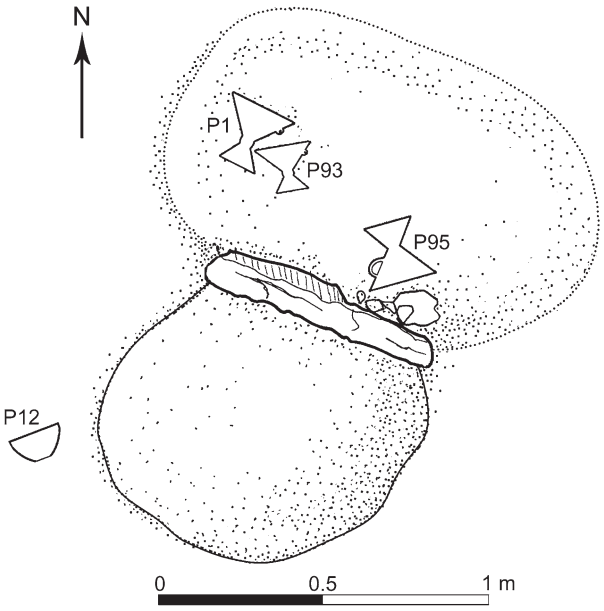


Illustration 3.2. Plan of Tomb 1. Plan D. Kontopodi.

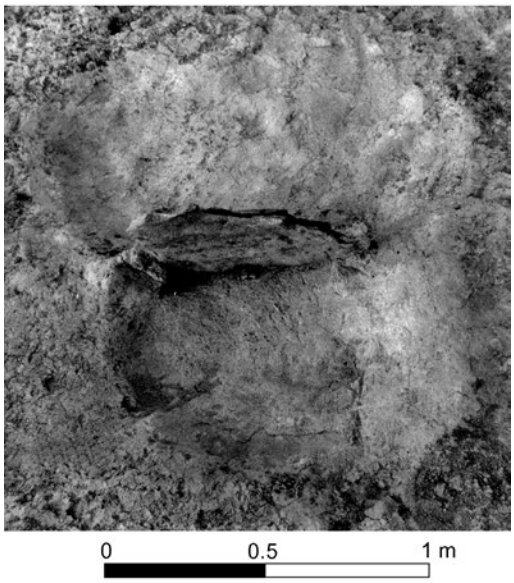


Illustration 3.3. View of Tomb 1 from the south. Photo Y. Papadakis-Ploumidis.

P1 (T1.1; HM 32253). Chalice.
P12 (T1.4; HM 32289). Bowl.
P93 (T1.2; HM 32254). Chalice.
P95 (T1.3; HM 32255). Chalice.
Pottery sherds: **S1.1**–**S1.5**.

Tomb 2

Tomb 2 is a rock-cut, built tomb measuring 0.86 m^2 (Ills. 3.4–3.6). It is located in the southwest section of Sector 1, oriented north–northwest. The tomb has a rough figure-of-eight shape. Its preservation is poor: the sloping roof of the burial chamber has collapsed and only the lower part of the tomb is preserved. The slabs that blocked the entrance and most of the supporting stonework of the entrance are missing.

The antechamber is roughly rectangular in shape with slightly inclining walls and a flat floor with rounded edges. Small irregular, aligned stones were discovered along two sides of the antechamber.

The burial chamber is roughly rectangular with a preserved depth of 0.07 m. It has concave walls and a flat floor with rounded edges.

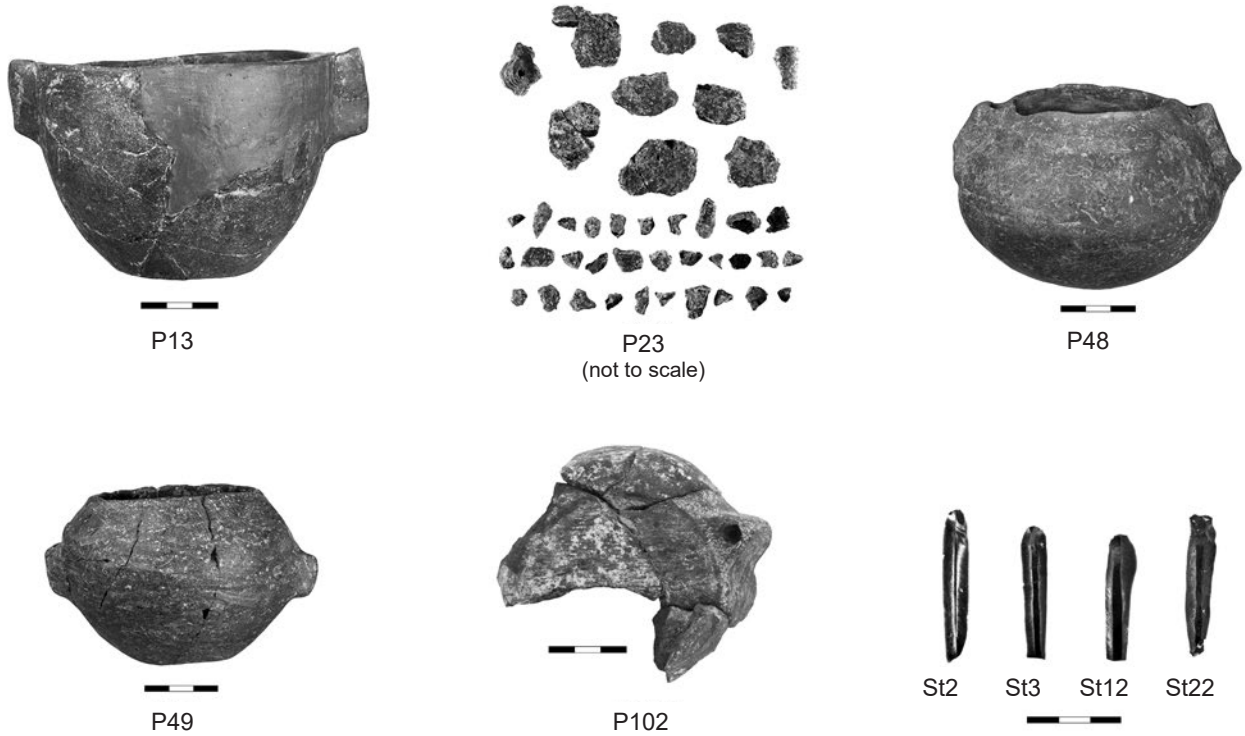


Illustration 3.4. Objects from Tomb 2 (**P13**, **P23**, **P48**, **P49**, **P102**, **St2**, **St3**, **St12**, **St22**). Photos Y. Papadakis-Ploumidis.

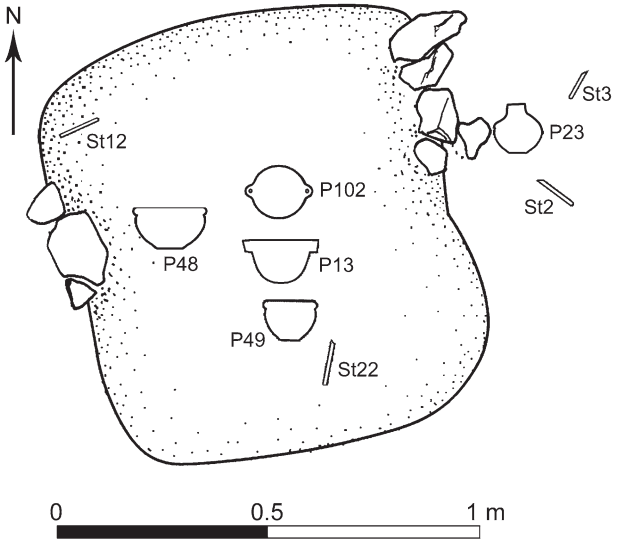


Illustration 3.5. Plan of Tomb 2. Plan D. Kontopodi.



Illustration 3.6. View of Tomb 2 from the south. Photo Y. Papadakis-Ploumidis.

The entrance is not preserved but possibly took up the north side of the burial chamber.

The offerings consisted of five vessels and four obsidian blades that were dispersed throughout the chamber and antechamber. A bottle (**P23**) and two obsidian blades (**St2**, **St3**) were found outside, east of the tomb.

P13 (T2.5; HM 32257). Bowl.
P23 (T2.1; HM 32259). Bottle.
P48 (T2.2; HM 32260). Spherical pyxis.
P49 (T2.3; HM 32256). Spherical pyxis.
P102 (T2.4; HM 32258). Suspension pyxis lid.
St2 (T2.6; HM 5623). Complete obsidian blade.
St3 (T2.8; HM 5624). Complete obsidian blade.
St12 (T2.9; HM 5625). Obsidian blade (distal end lost).
St22 (T2.7; HM 5621). Complete obsidian blade.

Tomb 3

Tomb 3 is a rock-cut, built tomb measuring 0.26 m² (Ills. 3.7–3.9). It is located in Sector 1 of the cemetery, oriented north-northwest. The tomb has an irregular figure-of-eight shape. The sloping roof of the burial chamber has collapsed; only the lower part of the tomb is preserved, as well as the slab that blocked the entrance. The supporting stonework of the entrance is missing.

The antechamber is elliptical with vertical walls and a flat floor with rounded edges. The burial chamber is elliptical with a preserved depth of 0.28 m. It has concave walls and a flat, circular floor with rounded edges.

The entrance is a simple elliptical opening and takes up the entire north side of the burial chamber. It was blocked by a single rectangular slab of soft limestone. A small stone wedge is preserved at the west side of the entrance.

The offerings included four vessels, all located inside the burial chamber (**P9**, **P20**, **P50**, **P105**).

P9 (T3.3; HM 32197). Bowl.
P20 (T3.4; HM 32198). Spouted bowl.
P50 (T3.1; HM 32195). Spherical pyxis with lid.
P105 (T3.2; HM 32196). Tankard.
Pottery sherds: **S1.6**.

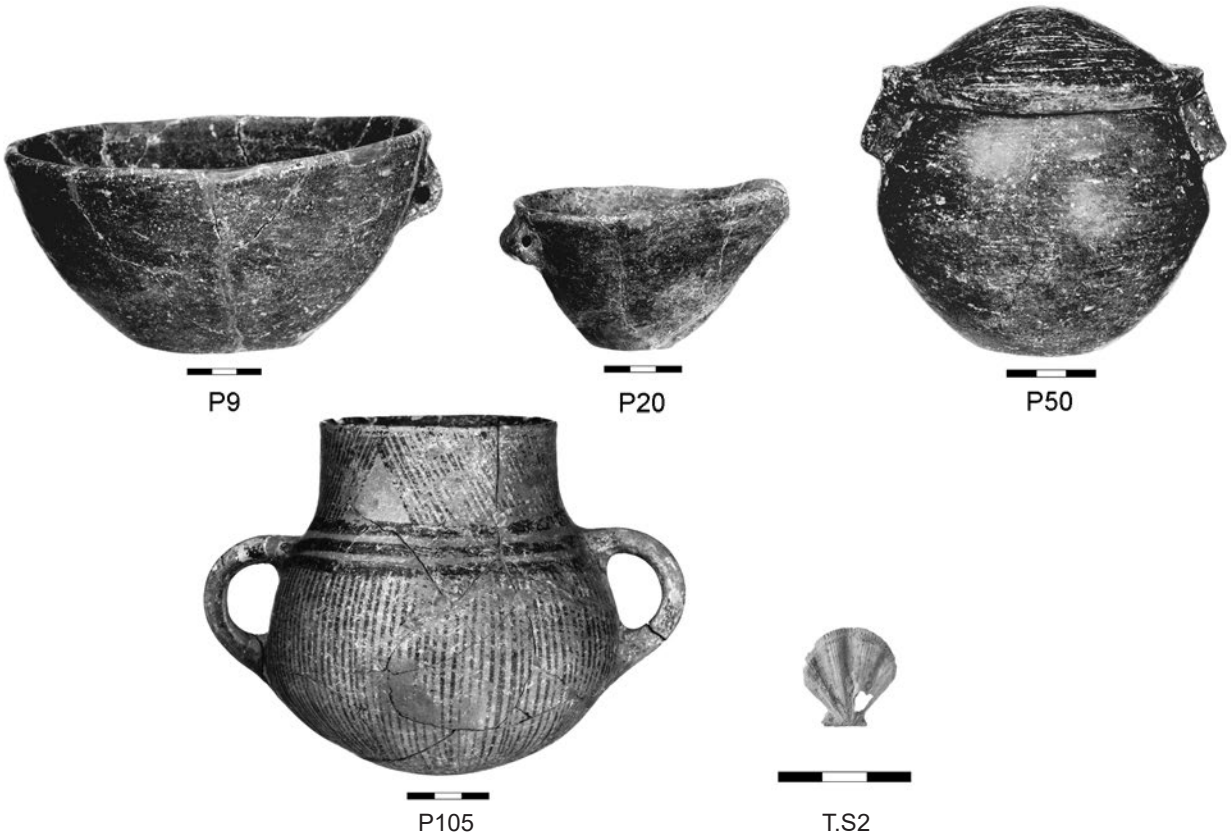


Illustration 3.7. Selection of objects from Tomb 3 (**P9**, **P20**, **P50**, **P105**, **T.S2**). Photos Y. Papadakis-Ploumidis.