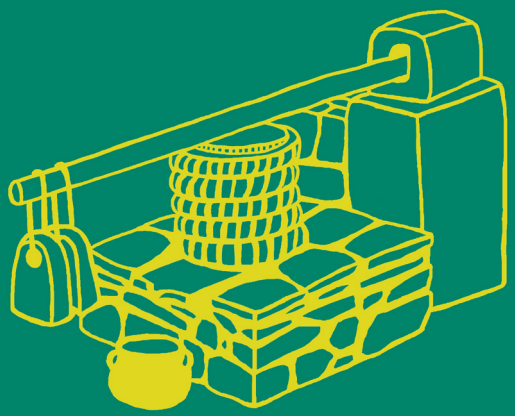
MOCHLOS III

The Late Hellenistic Settlement

The Beam-Press Complex



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Transport amphora **III.67**. Watercolor D. Faulmann.

PREHISTORY MONOGRAPHS 48

Mochlos III

The Late Hellenistic Settlement
The Beam-Press Complex

by

Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan

contributions by

Marie-Claude Boileau, Tristan Carter, Amanda Kelly, Andrew Koh, Evi Margaritis, Dimitra Mylona, Eleni Nodarou, Maria Ntinou, David S. Reese, and Ian Whitbread

edited by

Jeffrey S. Soles and Costis Davaras



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Preface

This volume publishes the first of several Late Hellenistic buildings that were uncovered on the island of Mochlos during the Greek-American excavations of 1989–1994, 2005–2006, 2009–2010, and 2012. It also provides an introduction to the Hellenistic settlement that flourished on the island for nearly a century before it was abandoned. The Hellenistic remains were by no means the only remains uncovered in the course of the excavations that dated after the Bronze Age, but they were certainly the most extensive. The remains were located at or near the surface, on the top of the island, and along its south slope where they overlay much of the Late Minoan III and Neopalatial settlement remains. They also belonged to the longest lasting phase of the later occupation, the entirety of which was relatively short in comparison to nearly 1,800 years of occupation during the Bronze Age.

When the project began in 1989, many Hellenistic walls were visible at ground level, and some are still visible today. Richard Seager excavating in 1908 also encountered these walls and dated them correctly to "Late Greek and Roman times" (Seager 1909, 275). Eager to find the Minoan town that lay beneath, he did not treat these walls kindly and removed many without making a record of what he found. As a result, our picture of Hellenistic Mochlos is not as complete as it might have been, but it is still remarkably well preserved. The current Greek-American project has used the same methodology in the excavation of Hellenistic levels as in the excavation of prehistoric remains on the site, preserving a careful record of the architecture, stratigraphy, and contexts of all finds, although it has not always been possible to preserve all the architecture because of the need to excavate the Bronze Age levels beneath. As a result, Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan, who has been entrusted with the publication of the Hellenistic settlement, has been able to include a great deal of paleoenvironmental material—material that is often

neglected in excavations dealing with historical remains—in her discussion. She has been able to document the way different rooms in the Beam-Press Complex were used and the way the occupants of the building ate and worked. She has also taken advantage of scientific approaches that are commonly used in the examination of prehistoric material, in particular the use of ceramic petrography in pottery analysis. This analysis has allowed her to make one of her most important discoveries, the identification of a new class of pottery that she has called East Cretan Cream Ware (ECCW), a classification that allows her to attribute fine wares and other pottery to a source near ancient Hierapytna (modern Ierapetra). As a result, she has also been able to draw important conclusions about Hierapytna and its territory in the late Hellenistic period, including its commercial specialization and trade in wine. She has been able both to place the Beam-Press Complex and the site itself in its wider geopolitical context and make a number of discoveries about the history of East Crete in an important transitional period when it lost its independence and became part of the wider Mediterranean world.

Unlike earlier volumes in the Mochlos publication series, which have published multiple sites and buildings in each volume and have been divided into different books in order to cover the large amount of material from the different sites, this volume publishes only one building in its entirety. The Beam-Press Complex has been chosen as the first topic in the series dealing with Hellenistic Mochlos because it was the first to have been completely excavated and was also one of the best-preserved contexts from this period. This complex also produced the most numerous and the most informative finds from any Hellenistic building excavated to date at Mochlos. The book is divided into five chapters and accompanied by six appendices. Chapter 1 provides a room-by-room description of the building, including a description of its stratigraphy and finds, and a discussion of the way the room was probably used. As in earlier Mochlos books, the presentation of each room ends with a list of artifacts and ecofacts, which are discussed in detail in subsequent chapters and appendices. Chapter 2 describes the pottery, Chapter 3 the stone implements, and Chapter 4 the ceramic, glass, metal, and shell objects. Chapter 5, the concluding chapter of the book, expands on the subject of the role that Mochlos played in East Crete and its relations with Hierapytna during the Late Hellenistic period.

Jeffrey S. Soles
Costis Davaras

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The Beam-Press Complex at Mochlos was excavated in 1991–1992 by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, in collaboration with the 24th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. I am most grateful to the directors of the excavation, Jeffrey S. Soles and Costis Davaras, for trusting me with the publication of parts of the Late Hellenistic settlement at Mochlos, including the Beam-Press Complex.

I am also grateful to the staff of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete (INSTAP-SCEC), especially its Director, Thomas M. Brogan, and the Assistant to the Director, Eleanor Huffman, for facilitating my work on a variety of levels—everything from providing tables for pottery reading to employing its publication team for the conservation, drawing, and photography of the finds. I cannot thank enough the artist-in-residence, Doug Faulmann, and the Chief Conservator, Stefania Chlouveraki, for their help. Other people who helped with the architectural plans and pottery profiles of the publication were Damon Cassiano, Gianluca Cantoro, Max Kalhammer, and Kostas Chalikias. Conservators Michel Roggenbucke and Cathy Hall were always willing to contribute to the conservation of the pottery. Earlier photography of the finds was undertaken by photographers Cathy May and Erietta Attali, but the final photographs were taken by the Study Center's photographer, Chronis Papanikolopoulos. Michael Traister was responsible for the site photography.

The trench masters, responsible for the excavation of the Beam-Press Complex, were, in alphabetical order: Tom Brogan, Bridget Crowell, Evi Sikla, Tom Strasser, Hara Thliveri, and Blake Woodruff. The easy retrieval of the finds was made possible through the diligent work of catalogers Mary Ellen Soles and Ann Nicgorski.

My early discussions with Jonas Eiring and our subsequent collaboration in the petrographic analysis of the transport amphorae from Knossos, Myrtos Pyrgos, and Mochlos were extremely formative for this publication. I also wish to thank the former Director of the Fitch Laboratory, Ian Whitbread, for his willingness to undertake the petrographic analysis of the transport amphorae and assign the project to petrographer-archaeologist Maria-Claude Boileau. I would also like to thank Eleni Nodarou, the INSTAP-SCEC petrographer-in-residence, who undertook the thin-section analysis of the cooking ware, for sharing with me many of her thoughts about the origin of the Cretan fabrics.

Finally, this publication would not have taken place without the moral support of the then Directors of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, James D. Muhly (1997–2002), Stephen V. Tracy (2002–2007), and Jack L. Davis (2007–2012), who were always willing to grant me summer scholarly leaves.

The publication of the Beam-Press Complex, as with previous publications in the Mochlos series, is a collaborative work. I have organized the publication and written four out of five chapters. Tristan Carter has written Chapter 3 on the stone implements. The contribution of Amanda Kelly on Chapters 1 and 4 deserves special mention; my discussion on the building's roof tiles would not have been possible without her help since she collected and drew a large number of Hellenistic tiles from the surface of the site. Finally, Chapter 1, as well as the entire publication, benefitted largely from the input of Andrew J. Koh (organic residue analysis), Evi Margaritis (olive remains), Dimitra Mylona (animal bones), Maria Ntinou (wood remains), and David S. Reese (shells). Unless otherwise credited, all figures were drawn by Doug Faulmann, and all photos were taken by Chronis Papanikolopoulos.

In writing the text of this volume, I benefitted immensely from the works of Penelope Allison (1999), Lisa Nevett (1999, 2010), and Bradley Ault (2005), who have been influenced in turn by the work of Martin Schiffer (1996). Another useful tool to my research has been the edited volume that Ruth Westgate, Nick Fisher, and James Whitley produced in 2007. I should also add to this list the experience I gained from my role as co-editor for the publication of *ΣΤΕΓΑ: The Archaeology of Houses and Households in Ancient Crete*, which addressed, for the first time, the issue of household archaeology on a regional level with a wide chronological range (Glowacki and Vogeikoff-Brogan 2011).

Last but not least, I would like to thank the two anonymous reviewers whose excellent suggestions and useful comments have improved the quality of this publication.

Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this volume:

a	angular	Fe	iron object
ACF	amorphous concentration features	g	grams
C	clay object (not a vessel)	GS	ground stone object
ca.	circa	h.	height
CA	copper alloy object	int.	interior
cf.	compares favorably with	KCF	crystalline concentration features
c:f:v	coarse:fine:void ratio	kg	kilograms
d.	diameter	L.	length
dim(s).	dimensions	L	left
E	ethanol	LM	Late Minoan
ECCW	East Cretan Cream Ware	m	meters
EM	Early Minoan	M	methanol
ESA	Eastern Sigillata A	max.	maximum
est.	estimated	ml	milliliters
ext.	exterior	mm	millimeters
F	fabric	MM	Middle Minoan

MNI	minimum number of individuals	r	rounded
MOC	Mochlos	RT	roof tile
MS	Museum of Siteia	S	stone object
mw	molecular weight	sa	subangular
NISP	number of identified specimens	Sh	shell
no.	number	sr	subrounded
P	pottery object (vessel)	TCF	textural concentration feature
Pb	lead object	TF	type of fabric
pers. comm.	personal communication	UM	Unexplored Mansion, Knossos
pers. obs.	personal observation	w.	width
pres.	preserved	wr	well-rounded
p.L.	preserved length	ws	water-sieved
PPL	plane-polarized light	XPL or XP	cross-polarized light
p.w.	preserved width	-/-	complete/fragment(s)

Introduction

Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan

History of the Mochlos Excavation

The island of Mochlos lies at the east end of the Mirabello Bay in East Crete (Figs. 1, 2; Pl. 1). Until sometime in late antiquity, a narrow isthmus connected the small island to the mainland, thus offering to passing ships a shelter on both sides of the isthmus (Leatham and Hood 1958–1959, 273; Soles 2008, fig. 1). The land along the coast to the east of Mochlos consists of a narrow plain, which runs for a distance of ca. 4 km (Soles and Davaras 1992, fig. 1; Soles 2003, fig. 1). Although isolated from the interior of Crete by the steepness of the Ornos Mountains, the area was inhabited with few breaks from the Early Bronze Age until modern times.

In 1908, Richard Seager was the first to explore archaeologically the site of Mochlos. After participating in the exploration of the Minoan town of Gournia in the early 1900s, Seager extended his research interests to the east of Gournia, opening trenches at the site of Vasiliki on the isthmus of Ierapetra (1905) and on the island of Pseira (1907). In the midst of his digging season at Pseira, Seager sailed to Mochlos to explore the archaeological potential of the little island. He returned the following season to conduct a large-scale excavation in search of Minoan remains (Becker and Betancourt 1997, 78–79, 85–99). Seager makes only a brief mention of the Greek and Roman remains, an omission that reflects his lack of interest in these periods. In fact, he laments their existence because they "played sad havoc with the earlier remains . . . in places completely destroying them" (Seager 1909, 276). In his 1909 report, Seager refers sporadically to the Roman houses, which he swept away in order to unearth the Minoan remains, admitting that he could not date them with precision because the coins he found ranged in date from Hadrian to Constantine the Great (Seager 1909, 276). It is odd that Seager found several Roman coins in one season of excavation, while the Soles and Davaras team, over the course of 10 seasons of careful digging that employed both dry and water sieving, found fewer than a handful of coins, none of which can be identified as Roman.

Of special interest, however, is Seager's claim that a Greek/Roman town "had sprung up on the mainland about half a mile to the east, near where stands to-day the small church of Hagios Andreas," a conclusion that he based on the large number of coins that came from that area (Seager 1909, 275). The site is preserved today, adjacent to a modern hotel now called the Club Aldiana, and a large scatter of sherds dating to the historical periods may still be seen here. Because of the proximity of the two sites, Mochlos and Hagios Andreas, it is very possible that the two were once parts of an extended settlement.

In the 1950s, John Leatham and Sinclair Hood identified an underwater rock-cut construction on the mainland coast to the east of the modern village as a pair of fish tanks (Leatham and Hood 1958–1959). These fish tanks are now submerged due to the rise of the sea level in the eastern part of Crete, but they originally were located at the coastline. Leatham and Hood dated the fish tanks to the Roman period on the basis of the testimonia of Latin authors such as Columella and Varro, who describe breeding or conserving fish in *piscinae* (Columella *Rust.* 8.16–17; Varro *Rust.* 3.17; Mylona 2008, 77–78).

The new Greek-American excavations at Mochlos aimed at exploring the diachronic history of the settlement on the island and its adjacent coastal plain (Soles and Davaras 1992, 413–416). In addition to the rich Minoan and Mycenaean finds, the excavation revealed several structures of the late second to first century B.C. on the south slope of the island, including an eight-room complex with industrial features, the Beam-Press Complex (the focus of this book), as well as the remains of a long wall that most likely joins the curtain wall of the summit and formed a circuit wall that ran along the north, east, and south sides of the island.

Study of the Beam-Press Complex and Research Goals

The present study examines the Beam-Press Complex, an eight-room building with industrial features, which is located on the south slope of the island outside the circuit wall in an area of the excavation known as E3 (Figs. 3–44; Pls. 1–18B). The building was first published as Hellenistic Building 1 in the Mochlos preliminary report of 1996 (Soles and Davaras 1996, 224–226). The complex is the first of the Hellenistic buildings to be published because it is one of the largest and best-preserved buildings in the settlement, with several floor deposits. Moreover, it is an unusual, non-residential building with a beam press and a second processing installation of uncertain character, perhaps used for crushing olives. The fact that very few beam presses from the Classical and Hellenistic period are preserved in situ is another reason for initiating the publication of the Hellenistic site with this building (Hadzi-Vallianou 2004, 78–86).

Until recently, the Beam-Press Complex was thought to be the only building outside the circuit wall. In 2005 and 2010, however, excavation in the northeast of Area E2 revealed two rooms of a large building (the House of the Crocodile, named after a coin found there) that lay a short distance to the west of the Beam-Press Complex (Fig. 3). The southern part of the building was excavated and removed by Seager, and the two rooms later exposed in 2005 and 2010 were located at its northeast corner, one used as a kitchen, and the other as a dining room. In 2009–2010, two rooms of another oblong building were excavated in Area D4 (Trenches 1100–1200), located inside the circuit wall and to the northeast of the Beam-Press Complex. Our current state plan shows an extensive Late Hellenistic settlement immediately behind the circuit wall, with the remains of several buildings all built on a linear plan and oriented along an east–west axis (Fig. 3). However, none is as well preserved as the Beam-Press Complex.

When this study began nearly 15 years ago, there was no published archaeological material from East Crete for comparison, with the exception of finds from surveys in progress at Vrokastro, Kavousi, and Gournia (Hayden 2004; Haggis 2005; Watrous et al. 2012). All knowledge stemmed from historical studies and the analysis of ancient literary sources and inscriptions (van Effenterre 1948, 1991; Willets 1955; Spyridakis 1970, 1992; Chaniotis 1996, 1999). Unlike other studies that are initiated with