MOCHLOS IA

Period III. Neopalatial Settlement on the Coast:
The Artisans' Quarter and the Farmhouse
at Chalinomouri.

The Sites



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The Sites

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by
Jeffrey S. Soles

contributions by

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Preface

This book presents the results of excavations carried out from 1990 to 1994 at two sites along the Mochlos coastal plain in eastern Crete, the Artisans' Quarter, which is located near the western end of the plain by the modern town of Mochlos, and the farmhouse at Chalinomouri, which is located at the eastern end of the plain (Fig. 1). These excavations were part of a larger series of excavations at Mochlos conducted by a Greek-American team from 1989 to 1994 under the direction of Jeffrey S. Soles and Costis Davaras. The focus of the excavation was the island of Mochlos where Richard Seager excavated in 1908[1] and where the more recent excavations have uncovered remains of four different civilizations spanning the whole of the Bronze Age and several centuries afterward.[2] They include six main periods of occupation: the Prepalatial, Protopalatial, and Neopalatial periods of Minoan civilization; the LM III, or Mycenaean period; the Hellenistic period of the 1st century B.C.; and the later Byzantine periods. The most numerous remains belong to the Neopalatial period when Mochlos was a prosperous town in the Mirabello region with many large houses and a ceremonial center located in the main settlement area on what is now the island of Mochlos. Toward the end of the Neopalatial period, at the time of the eruption of the volcano on Santorini, there was a major expansion in the population, in the main town on the island and along the coast opposite the island where the two sites published in this volume were founded.

This is the first volume in the Mochlos Publication Series, which will publish the results of the Greek-American excavations; it is not, however, the first in chronological order, because the two sites on the coast date to the close of the Neopalatial period. Subsequent volumes will publish additional remains from this period as well as earlier and later remains and a more detailed account of the topography of the area. The editors of the series decided to begin with these sites because they offer a good introduction to the main period of occupation in the area and also display a much simpler stratigraphy than corresponding buildings in the main settlement area on what is now the island of Mochlos. They are both new foundations at the time of the Santorini eruption—at the end of the LM IA period or the beginning of the LM IB period, depending on your point of view—and remain in constant use until the final destruction of Minoan civilization. There is no break in their stratigraphy until Mochlos is reoccupied in the LM III period. They are excellent illustrations, therefore, of the final stage of Minoan civilization in the Mirabello region, and they document an expansion of population and a range of new activity that occurs in the area at this time.

The current volume, *Mochlos* I, is divided into three parts. Part A publishes the stratigraphy and architecture of the two sites on the coast, Buildings A and B in the Artisans' Quarter and the farmhouse at Chalinomouri. Parts B and C publish the pottery and other finds, respectively. By splitting the volume into three parts, the editors hope the material will be more manageable and accessible for research purposes. Rather than publish each building separately, it seemed more appropriate to publish the two sites as a unit because of the homogeneous character of their pottery deposits and other finds. This approach avoids needless repetition in the discussion of individual finds and permits a more synthetic treatment of the three buildings and their contents.

Part A of the volume is divided into six chapters. Chapters 1, 2, and 4 provide a room by room description of each building, as well as a description of finds from each room and a discussion of the ways in which each room was probably used. The presentation of each room ends with a complete listing of artifacts and ecofacts, which are discussed in more detail in Parts B and C of the volume. Chapters 3 and 5 provide general discussions of the Artisans' Quarter and the farmhouse and their significance in Minoan Crete. Chapter 6 describes the human skeletal remains found in the course of excavation at both sites, the most important of which belong to a modest LM III cemetery, a veritable potter's field, that was established in the ruins of the Artisans' Quarter.

Jeffrey S. Soles
Costis Davaras

July 2002

Preface Notes

1. Seager 1909, 1912.

2. Preliminary reports are published in Davaras and Soles 1992, Soles and Davaras 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1996.

Acknowledgments

The Greek-American excavations at Mochlos, including the excavation of the Artisans' Quarter and the farmhouse at Chalinomouri, were sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the Archaeological Institute of Crete under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Culture and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Most of the fieldwork was carried out while Costis Davaras was serving as director of the 24th Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities in Eastern Crete, and the excavation is particularly indebted to the Greek Archaeological Service for its support.

The fieldwork was supported by several agencies and individuals: the Institute for Aegean Prehistory; the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency; the General Greene Chapter of the American-Hellenic Progressive Association; the Samuel H. Kress Foundation; Marion and Philippe Lambert; Karen Morely Westcott; and many small donors. The author of the volume is also indebted to these agencies and individuals and to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the Shelby White-Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications for supporting the study sessions that have followed the excavation.

The directors of the excavation would also like to thank a large number of individuals who made the project possible. The excavation permit was issued by the Greek Archaeological Service, and we thank the different individuals who served as directors of the division for Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities for the Greek Ministry of Culture during the years of excavation: Iannis Tzedakis (1990, 1994), Ios Zervoudaki (1990–1992) and Katerina Romiopoulou (1992–1993). We are also grateful to the late William D.E. Coulson, the Director of the American School of Classical Studies during the years of excavation and for many years afterward, to James D. Muhly, Director of the School from 1997 to 2000, and to the late Nikos P. Papadakis, Director of the East Cretan Ephorate during the years subsequent to the actual excavation.

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The topographical maps of the Artisans' Quarter and Chalinomouri are the work of Jeffrey Patton and Duane Therriault (1990–1991), who were also responsible for laying out the trenches. The architectural plans and most of the drawings in the book are the work of Doug Faulmann, who has worked on the project since 1990. Margaret Reid (1990), Peter Alexander (1991), Bridget O'Rourke (1994), and Damon Cassiano (1999– 2000) also contributed to the drawing. Most of the reconstructions were computer generated by Chris Dietrich and redrawn for this volume by Doug Faulmann.

The site photographs are the work of Robert Gerhart (1990), Chris Drozdowksi (1990), Michael Traister (1991), Anne Marie Pelczynski (1993), and Alex Maness (1994). The pottery and other small find photographs are largely the work of Kathy May (1997, 1998).

The water flotation system was set up originally by Julie Hansen and was supervised in 1990 by Maureen Smyth. Anaya Sarpaki continued to oversee the operation in 1991 with the aid of Maria Droungaki (1991, 1992), Helène Crump (1993), and Chryssa Bourbou (1994). Joanna Bending joined the team in 2000.

Susan Springer (1990, 1991) and Eleanor Huffman (1992–1994) served as registrars. Mary Ellen Soles (1990–2000), Anne Blasingham (1991), and Ann Nicgorski (1992–2000) served as catalogers. Kellee Barnard served as chief pottery analyst from 1992 to 1998, and Maryanne Schultz joined the pottery team in 1996. A number of conservators participated during the field seasons, including Helen Kingsley (1990), Christine Del Re (1991, 1992), Carola Bohm (1991), Giota Guioni (1991–1994), Irena Calinescu (1993, 1994), Karin Lindahl (1993), and Franca Cole (1993). Stephania Chlouveraki and Michel Roggenbucke continued to conserve material after 1996.

The publication of the Artisans' Quarter and the farmhouse at Chalinomouri is a collaborative venture. Soles has organized the publication, written the first five chapters in this part of the volume, and co-authored Chapter 6 with Cameron Walker, who carried out the human skeletal analyses. Many other scholars have made important contributions. Charles Frederick is largely responsible for the topographic descriptions in Chapters 1 and 4, descriptions which he will enlarge upon in a future volume. The lists of finds that follow the discussion of individual buildings and rooms as well as the burials in Chapter 6, are the work of several individuals. Kellee Barnard and Thomas Brogan are largely responsible for the identification of the Neopalatial pottery (*Mochlos* vol. IB), while Maryanne Schultz provided invaluable assistance in sorting the pottery from Chalinomouri. The discussion of pottery statistics from each room is based on the work of Kellee Barnard. The identification of the LM III pottery in Chapters 4 and 6 is the work of R. Angus K. Smith, who is preparing the publication of the LM III pottery from the main settlement area on the island. The lists of small finds are mostly the work of Ann Nicgorski and Mary Ellen Soles, while the lithics identifications are the work of Tristan Carter. He and Christopher Witmore are responsible for the lists of minerals and rocks. David S. Reese has provided the identification and description of mammal bones and shells; Dimitra Mylona identified and described the fish bones; Anaya Sarpaki and Joanna Bending did the archaeobotany; and Werner Schoch and Maria Ntinou identified the wood charcoals (see *Mochlos* vol. IC). Richard Evershed, Sarah Vaughan, and Stephanie Dudd carried out gas chromatography and

mass spectrometry analyses of conical cup lamps from the Artisans' Quarter. The Beta Analytic and Oxford University Radiocarbon Dating Laboratories conducted the radiocarbon analyses for the project and produced the calibrated dates cited in the text.

Finally, we would like to thank Phil Betancourt and the anonymous reviewers of this book, who took the trouble to read the manuscript before its publication and offered many valuable suggestions. We have tried to respond to all their suggestions, as best we can, and the book is much improved as a result.

Jeffrey S. Soles
Costis Davaras

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this part of the volume:

A	Building A, Artisans' Quarter
B	Building B, Artisans' Quarter
B	bone object
C	clay object (not a vessel)
CA	copper alloy object
ca.	circa
cf.	compares favorably with
CF Type 1	Coarse Ware fabric
Ch.	Chalinomouri farmstead
Chap.	Chapter
cl	centiliter
CS	chipped stone object
d.	diameter
dims.	dimensions
dp^4	deciduous maxillary premolar
est.	estimated
F	fused
FF	Fine Buff fabric
FM	Furumark Motif number
FS	Furumark Shape number
g	gram
GS	ground stone object
h.	height
ha	hectares
HNM	Hagios Nikolaos Museum
HM	Herakleion Museum
IM	Ierapetra Museum
indet.	indeterminate
kg	kilogram
km	kilometer(s)
Le	left
LM	Late Minoan
m	meter
M	minerals and rocks retained for study
M^1	permanent maxillary molar
M_3	permanent mandibular molar
m^1	deciduous maxillary molar
m_3	deciduous mandibular molar
max.	maximum
MM	Middle Minoan
MNI	minimum number of individuals
MPD	maximum preserved dimension
nn.	notes
P	pottery object (vessel)
P^3	premolar
Pb	lead object
pres.	preserved
R	right
RY	Rear Yard
S	stone object

Sh	shell	UF	unfused
s.l.	sensu lato	vol.	volume
SM	Siteia Museum	w.	width
sp.	species	-/-	complete/fragments
th.	thickness		

Introduction

Jeffrey S. Soles

The island of Mochlos and the adjacent plain that lies on the coast of Crete opposite it are located in a graben (tectonic valley) flanked by horsts (mountain blocks) on the east and west. As a result of normal faulting, the island and plain have experienced considerable subsidence with respect to the areas on either side. In the Bronze Age, the two were still connected by a narrow isthmus of land, now submerged below sea level, that provided excellent shelter for passing ships as well as a bridge for land traffic from the island to the adjacent coast. The plain runs along the coast, mostly to the east of Mochlos, for a distance of ca. 4.5 km (Fig. 1). Nowhere more than 1 km wide, it is isolated from the interior of Crete by the Ornos Mountains, which ring the plain on the east, west, and south, and rise abruptly to a maximum height of 1237 m above sea level.

The plain's geology consists of a coalescing apron (20–30 m deep along the coast) of fluvial deposits formed in the Pleistocene by torrential deposits of muds, sands, pebbles, gravels, boulders, and other materials eroded from the surrounding mountains.[1] In the Pleistocene, when sea level was much lower, these deposits extended considerably beyond the present coastline. Erosion of these deposits, caused primarily by the rise in sea level that accompanied deglaciation, has resulted in the present coastal configuration of steep vertical bluffs interrupted by narrow ravines in which modern streams flow toward the sea. Eight of these ravines cut through the plain to the coast, two on either side of the headland where the modern village of Mochlos lies, directly opposite the island, and six farther to the east. Only one ravine continues to be fed by a freshwater stream that runs year round, the easternmost ravine that lies at the eastern end of the coastal plain below the site of Chalinomouri; the other stream beds are dry throughout most of the year. Today, the area is intensively farmed. Terraces of olive trees are planted on the mountain slopes; vineyards and wheat are grown on the terraces along the coast; and rich gardens with bananas, pomegranates, and other fruit trees are located in the ravines. Until recently, most of the inhabitants in the area lived in the villages of Lastro, Sphaka, Tourloti, and Myrsini along the main highway in the mountains above the coast and commuted to

their farms in the plain below. The construction of four narrow roads that now lead down from these towns to a road that runs along the coast has opened the plain to development, and many inhabitants in the area have moved down from their traditional villages to farmhouses that lie throughout the plain.

The investigation of this coastal plain was always one of the major objectives of the Mochlos project. The goal was to discover the relationship of sites on the plain to the settlement on the island and construct a comprehensive picture of life at Mochlos in its overall geographical setting. Because the island of Mochlos, where the main settlement was always located, is itself solid rock with little or no arable land and no water source, the inhabitants must have relied heavily on the natural resources of the plain. Earlier expeditions to the area, first by Richard Seager in 1908 and then by Nicholas Platon in the 1950s,[2] indicated that people had been active in the plain at many different times in antiquity. The Greek-American project was interested in learning what the extent and nature of this activity was. It carried out archaeological and geological surveys to identify sites and artifacts on the plain, as well as natural resources, which the inhabitants of Mochlos exploited. The project also excavated two of the Bronze Age sites, the results of which are presented in this volume.

The Artisans' Quarter was actually located by Seager. During his excavation of the main site on the island, he camped on the shore opposite it and observed a number of remains in the vicinity, some of which might, he believed, be related in one way or another to the settlement on the island. Chief among these were the walls that lay near his campsite on the promontory where the modern village was to be built.[3] In his report of the excavation, published in the *American Journal of Archaeology* in 1909, he wrote, "On the opposite shore, where lie the warehouses of the modern port, are the remains of many house walls, which would show that, whether connected or not, the town lay on both the island and the opposite shore."[4] Although Seager pitched his tents near these house walls, for some reason he did not excavate on the promontory. It is unclear why he assumed that the remains here were contemporary with the town on the island, although potsherds lying on the surface may have enabled him to draw this conclusion. The Greek-American excavation was the first to investigate this area scientifically. It uncovered the remains of several workshops, forming an Artisans' Quarter from the same period as the Neopalatial town on the island, and proved Seager correct.

Seager also drew attention to a small quarry located along the eastern side of this promontory, which he believed to belong to "late Greek and Roman times." He wrote, "In a river bed close by, a small quarry shows that a good deal of ashlar masonry must have been used in this period, although at first I had hoped that it might date from Minoan times and indicate a building similar to the small palace at Gournia; but as no remains of this kind came to light in the Minoan stratum, and the only existing ashlar walls belonged to the late houses, it appears that the quarry must date from the same late period ...."[5] A detailed examination of the quarry, published in the *Journal of Field Archaeology* in 1983, showed that stone from the quarry was in fact used in the Minoan town on the island at the beginning of the LM IB period and that the quarry was contemporary with this town.[6] The Greek-American excavation also found that the material was put to use in the Artisans' Quarter at the same time, but in a more limited fashion.

The second site published here, the farmhouse at Chalinomouri, was also discovered in an earlier investigation of the area. In the 1950s, Nicholas Platon, then Director of Antiquities in Crete and Director of the Herakleion Museum, carried out rescue operations and small trial excavations along the Mochlos plain. In the course of this work, he identified two Minoan structures at the eastern end of the plain at Palia Vardia and Chalinomouri. He described each as a "M.M. house," although it is not clear that he excavated either.[7] In 1990, the Greek-American excavation was able to investigate the site of Palia Vardia. It uncovered a modern structure, perhaps a Turkish watchtower associated with a small, nearby castle or perhaps simply a shepherd's hut, but failed to find any trace of a Minoan house. It appeared that, if it existed, it was destroyed in the construction of the road that runs through the site on its way to the main highway.[8] Excavation at Chalinomouri, on the other hand, succeeded in uncovering a Neopalatial farmhouse

of the same date as the Artisans' Quarter that showed traces of reoccupation in the Mycenaean period. The walls of the building were clearly visible on the surface when excavation began, and this is probably the house that Platon identified.

Introduction Notes

1. Papastamatiou, Vetoulis, Tartaris, Bornovas, Christodoulou, and Katsikatsos 1959; C. Frederick, personal communication, 16 Jan. 2001.
2. Seager 1909; Platon 1959.
3. Seager 1909, p. 274, fig. 1, a photograph of this promontory showing Seager's camp as it appeared in 1908.
4. Seager 1909, p. 274.
5. Seager 1909, p. 275.
6. Soles 1983; Pike and Soles 1998.
7. Platon 1959, p. 388.
8. Soles and Davaras 1994, p. 427.

The Artisans' Quarter