

obtrusive problems highlight the lack of authority in the work as a whole.

As might be expected in some student work, accessing professional-quality illustrations has been difficult and thus we are presented with lots of shots taken in museums through vitrines in poor light and poorly composed site photographs, as well as some ambitious drawn 'artistic' copies of objects or varying quality and without technical conventions or scales. Surprisingly, a very poor reproduction of inappropriate scale and resolution is made of Shaw and Shaw's general site plan of Kommos, surely important here (Fig. 1.6).

There seems little point in publishing PhDs without prior professional peer-review of them as scholarly publications contributing something new in an appropriate format and an appropriate level. Here, I struggled to find anything new. One of the concerning things is the characterisation of 'research' as simply selecting a range of evidence groups and hypotheses to review/describe, without considering how one relates to the other or has been related in the past, but as though these were elements in a paintbox. Here there is neither a standalone literature review or justification of selections made. 'Fieldwork' simply means visits to a selection of the chosen sites or museums. The publishing editor should take responsibility for these issues of quality; the author's supervisors may have advised on the lack of original contribution and proper procedure; if so, this could have been improved for publication.

Boardman, J. 1961. *The Cretan Collection in Oxford: The Dictaeon Cave and Iron Age Crete*. Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press.

Hodos, T. 2020. *The Archaeology of the Mediterranean Iron Age: A Globalising World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Shaw, J.W. and Shaw, M. 2000. *Kommos IV: The Greek Sanctuary* (2 vols). Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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Metaxia Tsipopoulou, with a contribution by Eleni Nodarou. *Petras, Siteia II. A Minoan Palatial Settlement in Eastern Crete. Late Bronze Age Pottery from Houses 1.1 and 1.2*. Prehistory Monographs 67. pp. 225, 98 B/W figures, 29 B/W and 13 colour plates, 68

tables. Philadelphia: INSTAP Academic Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-93153-432-1, hardcover £60.00.

Systematic publication of Petras, a large multi-period Cretan coastal site with the earliest material found dating to the Final Neolithic, is aided by the straightforward format and layout of the Prehistory Monograph volumes. Here, pottery of the Neopalatial period mainly from one building; House 1.1, forms the excavator's focus (the architecture, deposits and other finds having been published in 2016: M. Tsipopoulou, *Petras, Siteia I: a Minoan palatial settlement in eastern Crete*. Prehistory Monographs 53. Philadelphia: INSTAP Academic Press). The building, lying north of and below a palace or administrative building on the hill summit, includes the earliest complex stone olive pressing installation discovered in the Aegean but is likely residential in character like its less-excavated neighbour 1.2, with two floors reconstructed.

The decision has been taken to present the pottery by shape category, with multiple sub-forms usually listed for each shape. The catalogue entries for each shape appear by room/space as it was presented in the earlier publication, so that each individual pot can be traced back to its context. Plates and figures, however, group all the examples of a defined type together for useful comparison. The waste of paper on lengthy concordance tables (pp. 167-217) could have been avoided by adopting a much simpler context-based numbering system: findspots all appear in the catalogue and can be easily checked in the companion volume. Statistics are clearly presented: Figures 94-6, simple histograms indicating the frequency of different categories of pottery, highlight real differences between rooms, although a rather simplistic dual approach is taken to quantification: instead of calculating vessel MNIs, individual sherds are counted and their numbers presented (telling us little) alongside those of reconstructable vessel small finds. Notwithstanding some problems with this – e.g. in cases where the volume of sherds is higher than that of identifiable vessels – the method allows identification of areas where specific activities such as storage of various types, or drinking by potentially different social sub-groups took place. The catalogue is a work of painstaking and knowledgeable detail with plentiful comparanda presented for each shape and sub-shape, drawing on the author's long and deep expert knowledge of Cretan pottery: analysis of pottery use in relation to space/context appears within this discussion, when it might have been more accessibly viewed in the general conclusions.

For example, we get the important argument that large numbers of handleless cups in the LM IB destruction deposit of House II.1 relate to the practice of 'a hierarchical ritual of token hospitality, as well as to work-feasts' (pp. 59-60) rather than to the elite symposia typical of the Petras palace and its peer across Crete. Tsipopoulou's finding that there is minimal difference between LM IIA and LMIB production technologies and the evidence for mass production in identical vessel forms and dimensions (e.g. in the cups) is also discussed here, while contexts of 'storage', 'use' and 'curated discard' in pits which 'represent a mnemonic record of ritual deposition' are also conceptualised. Rich interpretation similarly appears for subtypes of the conical cup such as the bowl: e.g. arguments for this shape as having mainly food use or use as a lamp are set out, on the basis that it would be hard to drink from (pp80). The large number of fenestrated stands is noted as unusual in this period and an interpretation made that they served in feasts within the building, pp111.

Regarding the LM III pottery, which Tsipopoulou notes mostly dates to LM IIIA-B, with lesser representation of LM IIIC, the large concentration is noted and the idea of any ephemeral or seasonal occupation discounted: this is important as we build up our recognition of consistent occupation of major LM I settlements through the LM IIIA-B period. A Knossian import was able to be identified macroscopically with the identification confirmed by petrographic study, but the very small number of identified whole vessels of all types considered (78) makes the value of identifying fabric groups limited. Notable among these for me are the coarse flaring basins with applied and impressed cordon near the rim, which largely disappear by LM IIIC, when a carinated ledge-rimmed form starts to become more common (Figs. 84-93). As for the Neopalatial pottery, the tables show some excessive repetition, the table of technical characteristics (Table 62) simply repeats a few of the details – clay and paint colour – from the catalogue. Table 63 tabulates decorative forms rather in the manner of a spreadsheet for the project's own use – conclusions from this data, already presented in the catalogue should have been drawn together in the commentary, rather than re-presented in a non-searchable form.

The drawings, the crucial information source, are well presented, though perhaps not so many near-identical vessels such as the conical cups (299 catalogued) were worth illustrating individually. Plans and sections of the buildings could have been presented better (e.g. not so many absolute heights

on the walls; line scales of adjusted size; standard conventions on section drawings).

As usual, Nodarou's contribution on the petrography (pp.131-51) is impeccable and includes designation of fabric groups for the 104 pottery small finds of earlier (EM-MM) date studied by M. Relaki in the companion volume (pp. 93-124). The half-page full colour reproductions of the ceramic thin sections, are a luxury, though not likely to be validly compared by to or referred to by non-specialists in petrography.

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Anastasia Kanta, Costis Davaras and Philip P. Betancourt, with contributions by Davaras, G. Flouda, C.E. Galanaki, D. Grigoropoulos, D.Z. Kontopodi, G. Marakis. C. Papadaki, M. Perna, E. Platon, P. Themelis, and R.H. Wilkinson, *Honors to Eileithyia at ancient Inatos: the sacred cave at Tsoutsoros, Crete: highlights of the collection*. pp. 183, 1 table; 60 B/W figures fully illustrated catalogue with colour photographs of each object. Philadelphia: INSTAP Academic Press, 2022. ISBN: 9-781-93153-431-4, hardcover £57.00

and,

Günther Hölbl, with contributions by P.P. Betancourt and K. Chalikias, *The shrine of Eileithyia: Minoan goddess of childbirth and motherhood at the Inatos cave in southern Crete. Vol. 1. The Egyptian-type artefacts*. Prehistory Monographs 69. pp. 87, 14 B/W figures; 26 colour plates illustrating each catalogued object, 4 tables. Philadelphia: INSTAP Academic Press, 2022. ISBN: 9-781-93153-434-5, hardcover £55.00.

These two works in a planned series are rooted in an initiative by Museum of Heraklion staff and a local Cretan organisation interested in reclaiming local heritage assets. With funding from INSTAP, these groups sponsored study of ancient objects found in the Inatos/Tsoutsoros cave on the south coast of central Crete. These objects have never been previously studied as a group and derive from looting returns/confiscations/identifications and