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Metaxia Tsipopoulou. *Petras, Siteia I. A Minoan Palatial Settlement in Eastern Crete. Excavation of Houses I.1 and I.2*. pp. 486, 57 b/w illustration, 48 b/w plates. 2016. Philadelphia: Instap Academic Press. ISBN 978-1-931534-85-7 hardback \$80.00

This volume is the third in a series that publishes the final results of the excavations at Petras. The first volume was dedicated to the Cretan Hieroglyphic archive from the palace, the second to the proceedings of the first Petras symposium that took place in 2010. Since the publication of the volume under review in 2016, the second Petras symposium that took place in 2015 has also been published.

The site of Petras is spread out over four hills (I–IV), which with two valleys in between that were filled with water, offered safe anchorage to boats in the Bronze Age. A Final Neolithic/EM I site is located on Hill II (Kephala), which also houses an extensive prepalatial-early protopalatial cemetery. In EM II, occupation moved to Hill I, which is also the location of the Protopalatial Wall, the Lakkos Deposit, the MM IIA Palace and the Proto- and Neopalatial settlement (Sectors I–III). The current volume is the first of two covering Sector I of the settlement, which is situated to the north-east of the Palace and comprises House I.1. and the partially excavated House I.2. It comprises chapters covering the stratigraphy and architecture (Tsipopoulou), the Early and

Middle Minoan pottery (Relaki), the Protopalatial, Neopalatial and Postpalatial cooking ware (Alberti), the miniature vessels (Simandiraki-Grimshaw) and the potters' marks (Tsipopoulou). Other chapters in the current volume cover figurines (Simandiraki-Grimshaw), textile production (Cutler), stone vases (Tsipopoulou), ground stone implements (Dierckx), obsidian (D'Annibale), mammalian faunal remains (Isaakidou) and marine faunal remains (Theodoropoulou). Note that the Neopalatial and Postpalatial pottery as well as the petrographical analytical work will appear in the next volume of Sector I.

Sector I was inhabited from the Middle Minoan period (transition MM IB/MM IIA) onwards, especially in its north-western part. The Protopalatial ceramic material from House I.1. points towards patterns of consumption on a notably smaller scale than the Lakkos Deposit but on a larger scale than the nuclear household, and are associated with a larger corporate group. Chronologically, the material from House I.1 bridges the gap between the MM IB Lakkos material and the first palatial establishment in MM IIA, and shows that relatively large consumption events were fairly regular in the settlement in the time just before and at the turn of the MM IIA period.

House I.1 was built in the Early Neopalatial period over the Protopalatial remains and was enlarged in a second Neopalatial (LM IA) phase. In its first phase, it consisted of five rooms (A, M, E, Lambda and 1–2) on the ground floor and probably also an upper story. The other rooms were added in LM IA. House I.1. was deserted after an earthquake destruction in LM IA and fell into ruin to be partially reoccupied in LM IIIA and LM IIIB. The partially excavated House I.2 was separated from I.1. by a narrow passage and reveals a similar building history as the latter.

House I.1. is interesting because it gives us an idea of how a Neopalatial house lacking in elite/palatial-type architectural features functioned and how it was integrated in the urban tissue through open spaces and passages. On its ground floor, it contained a wine-press installation and two storage rooms (E and Lambda) which, in contrast to the former, were only accessible from the first floor by means of ladders. Rooms M and A, which provided access to the stone wine-press installation, contained pithoi. On the whole, however, the house had low storage potential. Rooms engaged in the preparation of foodstuffs (Room Ksi) and rooms that were used as workspaces (Rooms 1–2 and Area 3) were also identified on the ground floor. Two pits (Thita and I) can be connected with the deposition of pottery

related to consumption activities. The open areas in Sector I were used for the manufacture of obsidian blades and stone vases as well as the preparation of food and keeping domestic animals. The pattern displayed by the obsidian from House I.1 is similar to other domestic contexts in Eastern Crete and characterized by a low frequency with 58 blades. The lack of waste material is explained by the fact that cores arrived on site as prepared products from which the occupants made their own blades.

The study of the cooking wares from Petras confirms previously identified distinctions between East and South-Central cooking wares and also suggests that cooking or other activities involving fire and embers/charcoal were taking place on a significant scale. Remains of cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, dogs and deer were recovered from EM II to LM III contexts, but the main assemblages date to LM I. A greater concentration of bones was noted in external or peripheral areas and the larger the sample, the wider the range of species and body parts represented. It is interesting to note that the animal bones show no dismembering marks but traces of burning suggest that more or less complete carcasses were roasted. Loomweights testify to the specialized production of textiles made with very thin to thin thread. The majority are discoid and cuboid and Cutler suggests that these could have been used in the manufacture of two different types of cloth, respectively dense, balanced textiles and weft-faced fabrics, or together in order to produce a pattern weave.

In all, 267 vases from Sector I bear potter's marks, an amount equal to the amount found at Malia, the majority of which are Neopalatial in date. Such marks are attested from the MM IB/MM IIA period onward and during the entire Neopalatial period. Although figurines from domestic contexts are generally rare on Crete, House I.1. yielded 13 bovine figurine fragments, while an anthropomorphic torso was found in House I.2.

The high standard of excavation and publication of the site of Petras is to be applauded. This publication and the forthcoming ones of the settlement at Petras will provide an indispensable tool for scholars interested in studying the social, political and economic organisation of a central place and its hinterland in East Crete.

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Haggis, D. 2007. Stylistic diversity and diacritical feasting at Protopalatial Petras: a preliminary analysis of the Lakkos Deposit. *American Journal of Archaeology* 111: 715–775.

Tsipopolou, M. (ed.) 2012. *Petras, Siteia: 25 Years of Excavations and Studies. Acts of a Two-Day Conference held at the Danish Institute at Athens, 9–10 October 2010* (Monographs of the Danish Institute at Athens 16). Athens: the Danish Institute at Athens.

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Tsipopolou, M. and E. Hallager 2010. *The Hieroglyphic Archive at Petras, Siteia* (Monographs of the Danish Institute at Athens 9), Athens: the Danish Institute at Athens.

A. Bernard Knapp and Stella Demesticha. *Mediterranean connections: maritime transport containers and seaborne trade in the Bronze and Early Iron Ages*. pp. xiv+263, 49 figs, (6 b/w pls.), 7 tables, 7 maps. 2017. New York and Abingdon: Routledge. ISBN 978–1–629–58354–9 hardback £80.99; 978–1–315–53700–9 eBook from £21.

This is a fairly short but important book that focuses on the part played in seaborne trade by the 'maritime transport containers' of the title (hereafter MTCs). It is packed with data; it is particularly useful to have authoritative accounts of the east Mediterranean material and of the great quantities of information now available from provenance studies and organic residue analysis. Almost inevitably some more recent studies like Stockhammer 2015 (which must have come out as it went to press) have been missed, but in general the coverage of the mass of accounts and studies of the material seems close to comprehensive. The book is produced to quite high standards, with a sturdy hard cover, and contains numerous illustrations and maps; the place names on the latter are often in notably small print, but still legible. The reviewer has spotted very few errors, but it does seem worth commenting that Dr Televantou's name is twice misspelt on p. 6, and that Cicones is the name of a people, not a person (p. 146).