

Chronological List of Review Excerpts of Published Books by INSTAP Academic Press, 2002–2011

Nowicki, K. 2003–2004. Review of *Pseira VI: The Pseira Cemetery 1. The Surface Survey* (*Prehistory Monographs* 5), P.P. Betancourt and C. Davaras, eds., 2002; and *Pseira VII: The Pseira Cemetery 2. Excavation of the Tombs* (*Prehistory Monographs* 6), P.P. Betancourt and C. Davaras, eds., 2003, *Aegean Archaeology* 7, pp. 78–82.

“...we have a comprehensive study of the burial place(s), investigated between 1985 and 1994. The publication is especially welcome, as it yields evidence complementary to the other cemeteries in the Mirabello district of east Crete...”

French, C. 2004. Review of *Soil Science and Archaeology: Three Test Cases from Minoan Crete* (*Prehistory Monographs* 4), by M.W. Morris, 2003, *The Holocene* 14, p. 794.

“This is a very well-produced and rather unusual book. As an archaeological publication that almost exclusively deals with soil science and applications, it is a rare animal...All in all, the well-presented studies in this book are to be applauded...”

Merrillees, R.S. 2004. Review of *Marsa Matruh I: The Excavation* and *Marsa Matruh II: The Objects. The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology's Excavations on Bates' Island, Marsa Matruh, Egypt, 1985–1989* (*Prehistory Monographs* 1 and 2), by D. White, 2002, *JARCE* XLI, pp. 200–202.

“...The report is a meticulous work of scholarship which enables the finds to be comprehensively reviewed and evaluated...His accomplishment is all the greater for having pulled together diverse contributions from several specialists and published the composite account of his excavations in a coherent, stylish and relatively prompt manner...White and his team have rendered the history of the region and period an invaluable service by their careful and thorough report on the excavations at Marsa Matruh, which fill in a significant gap in the archaeological record...”

Hayden, B.J. 2006. Review of *Pseira VIII: The Archaeological Survey of Pseira Island, Part 1* (*Prehistory Monographs* 11), P.P. Betancourt, C. Davaras, and R. Hope Simpson, eds., 2004; and *Pseira IX: The Archaeological Survey of Pseira Island, Part 2. The Intensive Surface Survey*, P.P. Betancourt, C. Davaras, and R. Hope Simpson, eds., 2005, *AJA* 110, pp. 664–666.

“...These volumes are excellent additions to the Pseira series and to the corpus of publications detailing recent work in the Mirabello area. A primary contribution of these carefully prepared and thorough publications concerns Bronze Age agricultural practices and features. The conclusions drawn regarding the nature and development of the settlement on Pseira securely place this island within a historical framework that spans the broad Gulf of Mirabello.”

Platon, L. 2006. Review of *Crete Beyond the Palaces: Proceedings of the Crete 2000 Conference* (*Prehistory Monographs* 10), L. Day, M.S. Mook, and J.D. Muhly, eds., *AJA* 119, pp. 317–319.

“This glossy, richly illustrated book contains all but one of the papers presented in the conference “Crete 2000: A Centennial Celebration of American Archaeological Work on Crete (1900–2000)” held in Athens. The papers, in five thematic sections, are published in the order in which they were presented. Even section headings have remained unchanged. The editing is near perfect...a carefully organized edition...Regardless of any objections the reader may have to views expressed in the papers included in this bumper volume, undoubtedly *Crete Beyond the Palaces* together with the also recently published *Knossos: Palace, City, State* (London 2004) contain the most interesting papers on Cretan archaeology written during the last five years. The work is a necessary acquisition for every library considered up-to-date in the field of Aegean archaeology.”

Wallace, S. 2006. "Natural and Cultural Landscapes in Bronze to Iron Age Crete," review of *Soil Science and Archaeology: Three Test Cases from Minoan Crete (Prehistory Monographs 4)*, by M.W. Morris, 2003, *Aegean Archaeology* 7, pp. 73–76.

"...The aim of rapidly publishing important primary data on Aegean archaeology using the high-profile INSTAP name is a laudable one. There seems little need to compromise production quality in a brand-new series, and every reason to try for a high professional standard."

Francis, J. 2007. Review of *Kavousi I: The Archaeological Survey of the Kavousi Region (Prehistory Monographs 16)*, by D.C. Haggis, 2005, *Phoenix* LXI, no. 3–4, pp. 386–388.

"...This volume is a splendid addition to the library of survey publications. The writing is clear and only occasionally repetitive (the Prefaces and Introduction), and the layout facilitates simultaneous use of the site gazetteer, the ceramic catalogue, and the chronological sections on site interpretation. The illustrations, maps, and pottery profiles at the back are clear and well chosen; the concordance of artifacts is a necessary inclusion. This work is important on several fronts...The questions asked and answered by the ceramic studies here are of universal significance for both survey material and excavated pottery. Finally, it emphasizes the necessity of environmental data in obtaining as complete an interpretation as possible of ancient sites...excellent quality and overall importance of this research. The volume presents a comprehensive interpretation of the Kavousi region, and its data and results will augment considerably the publication of the two excavated Kavousi sites, whose appearance is eagerly awaited."

Hamilakis, Y. 2007. "Tombs for the Living," review of *Tholos Tomb Gamma: A Prepalatial Tholos Tomb at Phourni, Archanes (Prehistory Monographs 17)*, by Y. Papadatos with S. Triantaphyllou, 2005, *Antiquity* 81, pp. 1090–1093.

"...The published report is thorough, detailed and clear with excellent illustrations...This report...contains, in an appendix by Triantaphyllou, the first detailed analysis of human remains from a Cretan Early Bronze Age tholos tomb: despite the small sample size (30 being the minimum number of individuals), this is an extremely valuable study..."

Osborne, R. 2007. Review of *Kavousi I: The Archaeological Survey of the Kavousi Region (Prehistory Monographs 16)*, by D.C. Haggis, 2005, *JHS* 127, pp. 213–215.

"...Haggis' Kavousi survey...does provide a very much richer picture of the settlement history of this part of the Bay of Mirabello than was previously known and, together with the Kavousi Vronda, Kastro and Azoria excavations, provides us with an extremely rich and remarkably nuanced picture of, amongst other things, the society and economy of Dark Age and Archaic Crete...This is in all respects an exemplary publication, laying out in a very lucid way both the material and the case for the interpretation offered. It is immaculately presented with excellent maps and profile drawings of the pottery..."

Sbonias, K. 2007. Review of *Tholos Tomb Gamma: A Prepalatial Tholos Tomb at Phourni, Archanes (Prehistory Monographs 17)*, by Y. Papadatos with S. Triantaphyllou, 2005, *BMCR* 2007.10.52, <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2007/2007-10-52.html>.

"...The book is a very thorough, detailed and careful publication of the excavation context, with many illustrations of the plan and stratigraphic section of the tholos, the location of burials and distribution of the individual finds, in a way which is exceptional in publications of prepalatial cemeteries...One of the most important results of the book is the reconstruction and date of the stratigraphy of the tomb, which differs from the initial suggestion by the excavator, who recognized one single burial stratum containing the clay coffins, and interpreted the artifacts below the burial containers as funerary offerings related to the burials made above...a very useful appendix on the human skeletal remains from the upper stratum, by Sevi Triantaphyllou, completes the presentation of the tholos...The analysis is systematic and based on modern standards of recording and interpreting skeletal remains and practically initiates the paleodemographic study of prepalatial Crete...In conclusion, this book is well written and presented...it is an extremely useful work for every student of prepalatial Minoan Crete and an excellent documentation of a prepalatial tholos tomb assemblage."

Shaw, J.W. 2007. Review of *Akrotiri, Thera: An Architecture of Affluence 3,500 Years Old (Prehistory Monographs 15)*, by C. Palyvou, 2005, *AJA* 111, pp. 579–579.

“This extraordinary, relatively short book examines broadly the architecture of Late Bronze Age Akrotiri on the Cycladic island of Thera as revealed by Spyridon Marinatos from 1967 through 1974 and, after his death in late 1974, by Christos Doumas. The book’s author, an architect by training and an instructor at the University of Thessaloniki, here combines her professional skills in examining the buildings with her interest in and knowledge about both Cycladic and Minoan (Cretan) culture...As in many of her presentations, Palyvou remains extremely concerned with design and morphology, topics she explores in chapter 10 and part of 12. Technical aspects of form are investigated, such as measurements and units, symmetry and order, the gridiron pattern traceable in the complex wooden framing systems (‘where dimensions are largely approximate’ [159]), questions concerning the artist and architect, and the decorative use of wall painting to link spaces and rooms, illustrated by her black-and-white drawings as well as a series of computer-generated views at the back of the book. Throughout is a rich presentation of history, architecture, and humanism as seen through the prism of a professional architect as well as a scholar and concerned observer.

This new multispectrum presentation is both a pleasure and challenge to read, more generous in its scope than most discussions of ancient architecture. It also prompted this review to regret that the book’s focus is limited chiefly to discussion of a single site, even when it is clear from her writing that she has an impressive knowledge of other Cycladic, Mycenaean, and Minoan architecture. Palyvou would be a strong, if not the only, candidate, one suspects, for writing an inspiring history of all aspects of Late Bronze Age Aegean Architecture.”

Wallace, S. 2007. Review of *Kavousi I: The Archaeological Survey of the Kavousi Region (Prehistory Monographs 16)*, by D.C. Haggis, 2005, *BMCR* 2007.03.13, <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2007/2007-03-13.html>.

“An impressive publication from INSTAP Academic Press, the first of the Kavousi series, gives us much to look forward to. Haggis’...dissertation was completed in 1992, but the intervening years have lent polish to the text and expanded the illustrations. Important information is still emerging from the area, not least from the author’s excavations at Azoria, and has been referred to here, bringing the study up to date...”

Warren, P.M. 2007. Review of *The Hagia Photia Cemetery I: The Tomb Groups and Architecture (Prehistory Monographs 14)*, by C. Davaras and P.P. Betancourt, 2004, *JHS* 127, pp. 211–212.

“...The present volume is a fundamental record, well produced and very fully illustrated...The corpus of over 1,800 artifacts in discrete, well-recorded groups (individual tombs) is one of exceptional richness for developing understanding of Early Bronze Age Crete...”

Anderson, E.L. 2008. Review of *Introduction to Aegean Art*, by P.P. Betancourt, 2007, *Choice* 45.

“...The sense of being in the hands of a thorough, conscientious scholar should make this a classic read for anyone wanting a survey or taste of this period of civilization...”

Kramer-Hajos, M. 2008. Review of *Midea. The Megaron Complex and Shrine Area. Excavations on the Lower Terraces, 1994–1997 (Prehistory Monographs 20)*, by G. Walberg, 2007, *BMCR* 2008.03.43, <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2008/2008-03-43.html>.

“...The discussion of the megaron is very detailed but at the same time contains many observations which are interesting to the beginning student as well...The organization of the book is very thematic, which contributes to the clarity of discussions; the level of detail is very high. Handily, all figures and plates are printed in a separate volume. A pocket in the back contains two fold-out plans of the citadel, a state plan of the megaron area, and a beautiful color coded reconstruction plan of the megaron and shrine area. Plans and drawings of finds are professional. The two volumes are beautifully produced, on high-quality paper...All in all, this is a high quality professional publication, with a clear and detailed presentation of the evidence and sober and sensible interpretations.”

Rupp, D. 2008. Review of *Monastiraki Katalimata. Excavation of a Cretan Refuge Site, 1993–2000 (Prehistory Monographs 24)*, by K. Nowicki, 2008, *Mouseion* LII, Series III, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 296–298.

“Various catalogues, a table, and two concordances assist in organizing this vast amount of data into manageable packets of information...It should be noted here the uniformly excellent quality of the plethora of visible materials. Nowicki has crafted a dense, exhaustively documented and well-argued site report of an example of a significant location and type of occupation throughout much of the history of the island that is under represented in the archaeological literature...”

Warren, P.M. 2008. Review of *Aegean Bronze Age Rhyta (Prehistory Monographs 19)*, by R. Koehl, 2006, *The Classical Review* 58, pp. 251–254.

“...The long-awaited *magnum opus* of Robert Koehl is a first-class presentation and discussion of the material...A comprehensive selection of pieces is illustrated by excellent technical drawings and photographs of good quality...”

Button, S. 2009. Review of *The Cave of the Cyclops: Mesolithic and Neolithic Networks in the Northern Aegean, Greece. Vol. 1, Intra-Site Analysis, Local Industries, and Regional Site Distribution (Prehistory Monographs 21)*, by A. Sampson, 2008, *BMCR* 2009.08.21, <http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-08-21.html>.

“...This most recent publication, part of a commendable effort on the part of the INSTAP Academic Press to bring excavation data to print in a timely manner...”

Chapin, A.P. 2010. Review of *Introduction to Aegean Art*, by P.P. Betancourt, 2007, *CAA Reviews*, July 14, 2010.

“...This excellent introduction to Aegean art reflects a lifetime of knowledge presented with practiced clarity and skill in undergraduate teaching...the illustrations are very good...the volume’s balanced presentation of complex problems of interpretation, together with its broad coverage of prehistoric material, make this book an enjoyable read and an excellent choice as a textbook for college courses on ancient art...”

Efstratiou, N. 2010. Review of *The Cave of the Cyclops: Mesolithic and Neolithic Networks in the Northern Aegean, Greece. Vol. 1, Intra-Site Analysis, Local Industries, and Regional Site Distribution (Prehistory Monographs 21)*, by A. Sampson, 2008, *AJA* 114, http://www.ajaonline.org/sites/default/files/09_Efstratiou.pdf.

“...The book under review, written by Sampson and his associates and elegantly published by INSTAP...In more than 400 pages of text, tables, figures, and plates, the reader can find 12 chapters in which a number of experienced researchers present seven categories of archaeological finds from the cave material...Overall, the volume is a welcome continuation of research in the same area, which began in the early 1980’s with the excavation of the nearby permanent settlement of Agios Petros...Sampson and his team should be lauded for their determination and skill in presenting the evidence from this enigmatic archaeological palimpsest of a seasonally occupied site, visited occasionally by hunters, foragers, fishermen, and farmers of the northern Aegean from the ninth millennium B.C. onward...”

Hayden, B.J. 2010. Review of *Monastiraki Katalimata. Excavation of a Cretan Refuge Site, 1993–2000 (Prehistory Monographs 24)*, by K. Nowicki, 2008, *AJA* 114, http://www.ajaonline.org/sites/default/files/11_Hayden.pdf.

“...The thorough pottery catalogues (chs. 6–7) present ceramics by context and pottery group (KT number), year of excavation, room number, number of sherds, date, and weight. A brief catalogue of small finds follows. This facilitates easy retrieval of information involving a variety of criteria. Concordance A presents the catalogued pottery in numerical and chronological order, and concordance B presents every pottery group, context, and the catalogues ceramics from each group. The index is thorough and includes relevant place names. Illustrations comprise maps with sites mentioned in text and maps of the immediate area, plans, sections, perspective views of settlement and structures, and the plan of Building C in relation to layers, contexts, and features excavated. Pottery profiles and photographs follow, in accordance with the ‘layers’ shown in the plans. A representative selection of vases is illustrated, including one detailing Final Neolithic clay fabrics and surface treatments (pl. 26). Illustrations are clear

and complete and systematically follow the text... No one individual working on the island knows more about how these sites evolved or related to one another within complex environments. Few, if any, have been as enterprising or as brave, and the partial results of this lifetime's achievement can be found in this concise and well-organized volume.”

Steel, L. 2010. Review of *Aegean Bronze Age Rhyta (Prehistory Monographs 19)*, by R. Koehl, 2006, *JHS* 130, pp. 246–247.

“...Perhaps most helpful is the series of tables at the back of the volume, which present the archaeological data very clearly... the archaeological discussion is impeccable...this in an interesting and stimulating book offering a valuable contribution to Aegean prehistory, in particular in its discussion of the mechanical functions of the rhyta.”

Gaignerot, F. 2011. Review of *Kavousi IIA: The Late Minoan IIIC Settlement at Vronda. The Buildings on the Summit (Prehistory Monographs 26)*, by L.P. Day, et. al., 2009, *AJA* 115, http://www.ajaonline.org/sites/default/files/10_Gaignerot.pdf.

“...The text is abundantly illustrated by tables of the faunal remains and marine shells from the different buildings, charts showing pottery room by room or space by space, 108 figures, and 25 plates. The figures are clearly organized following the order of the chapters: for each building complex, there is a state plan, a LM IIIC plan, sections, drawings of all of the catalogued material, and phase plans. The same goes for the plates, which contain black-and-white photographs of the site, and some of the material, organized room by room. The volume is important for increasing our knowledge about domestic architecture and social organization during the LM IIIC period...*Kavousi IIA* offers useful and detailed information not only for archaeologists focusing on the LM IIIC period on Crete but also more widely for scholars interested in the process of city-state formation in the Greek world. The abundance of the data and the quality of the illustrations provided in this volume deserve to be underlined.”