KAVOUSI

The Results of the Excavations at Kavousi in Eastern Crete

directed by
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and William D.E. Coulson

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Digital reconstruction of the LM IIIC settlement at Kavousi Vronda as seen from the west. Visualization created by Sayed Kashif Dafedar.
KAVOUSI IIC

The Late Minoan IIIC Settlement at Vronda
Specialist Reports and Analyses

by
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Plate 31. Gradual disintegration of the Vronda experimental oven: (a) 1997; (b) 1999; (c) all clay gone in 2012.
This book is the third volume in the final report of the cleaning and excavations at Kavousi Vronda, conducted between 1983 and 1992 by Geraldine C. Gesell, Leslie Preston Day, and the late William D.E. Coulson. The reports on the houses of the settlement in their context, with focused analyses of specific buildings, can be found in two previous volumes. *Kavousi IIA* describes the buildings on top of the Vronda ridge: Building A-B, Building Complexes C-D and J-K, and Buildings P, Q, and R (Day, Klein, and Turner 2009). *Kavousi IIB* presents the buildings on the slopes of the Vronda ridge: Building Complexes E, I-O-N, and L-M, Building F, and the pottery kiln, as well as areas excavated on the periphery that did not belong to any of these buildings (Day and Glowacki 2012). Detailed analyses of the architecture, pottery, other finds (including figurines and stone tools), and botanical and faunal remains are presented here, along with a complete history of the site and an attempt to reconstruct the social, political, and religious organization of the Late Minoan (LM) IIIC settlement. For building and room designations, the reader should consult the previous two volumes, which also present the analysis of the stratigraphy that serves as the basis for the assignment of the material into chronological phases and periods. Pottery and objects are discussed in this volume using the catalog numbers given in the first two volumes. In each case, the catalog number has a letter designation for the building in which the object was found (e.g., A, B, C, and so on) followed
by the room number (e.g., C1, C2, C3, and so on) and then a letter designation: P for pottery, TC for terracotta, F for figurine, S for stone, ST for stone tool, M for metal, and G for glass; any individual object or building thus can be easily located in Kavousi IIA and Kavousi IIB. All of the objects are discussed fully here, with illustrations (figures and/or photographs), some of which are repeated from Kavousi IIA and Kavousi IIB. Objects are arranged on figures according to types, and within those types they are grouped by similarity of features (e.g., size, preservation, diagnostic parts). Only some of the pottery is illustrated since drawings of all cataloged ceramics appear in the first two volumes; figures of major shapes in each period and some of their variations are provided here.

Reports on the LM IIIC Shrine (Building G) and the later cemeteries at Vronda are being prepared as separate books. The Kavousi series also includes volumes on the excavations on the Kastro, a site high on the mountain above and to the east of Vronda, and another volume presents the material from the tombs on the slopes surrounding the Kastro that were recovered by earlier archaeologists.

A history of excavations at Kavousi can be found in Kavousi I (Haggis 2005, xvii–xix) and Kavousi IIA (Day, Klein, and Turner 2009, xxv–xxviii, 3–5) and will not be repeated here. Information on the topography of the site, the methodology employed in excavation, the cataloging of finds, and the presentation of the material in this publication are to be found in the first volume on the Vronda settlement (Day, Klein, and Turner 2009, 1–14). The fabric types referred to in this report appear in the appendix to Kavousi IIA (Mook and Day 2009).

The list of acknowledgments for the three volumes on the LM IIIC settlement at Vronda is presented in Kavousi IIA (Day, Klein, and Turner 2009, xxix–xxxv), and additional acknowledgments follow. Peter Day and David Wilson helped with the identification of the Prepalatial pottery, Donald Haggis and Carl Knappett with the Protopalatial pottery, and Kellee Barnard and Emilia Oddo with the Neopalatial pottery. Their comments were insightful, but any faults in the final discussion are the responsibility of the author. Heidi Dierckx would like to thank Vasilis Tsikouras, Charalambos Fassoulas, and Yannis Bassiakos for helping with understanding the geology of the area and for providing identification of the raw materials used for the stone tools. Her thanks also extend to Maria Emanuela Alberti for help with the Type 11 possible balance weights. Finally, she is grateful for the help of Elizabeth Warkentin and Ashley Cesta in scanning the inkings of the tools. Kevin Glowacki and Nancy Klein wish to thank Melissa Eaby for panoramic photos from the Vronda summit, Sabine Beckmann for insights on topography and inter-site visibility, Sayed Kashif Dafedar for his work on the digital reconstruction of the Vronda settlement, and Ryan Collier, Matthew Hurley, Shireen Kanakri, Matthew Miller, Megan Oehrlein, and Mark Willingham for assistance with the architectural illustrations and estimates of vessel capacities. Geraldine Gesell would like to express her appreciation for the assistance of the director, Thomas Brogan, and the staff of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete during her study and preparation of the manuscript on the figurines. In particular she would like to thank Eleanor Huffman for both preparing the figures and plates for this chapter and her assistance with the digital problems involved in this and in general throughout her years of study there. She would also like to thank Nota Dimopoulou-Rethemiotakis, the Director of the Heraklion Museum in 2005 at the time the study of the comparanda figurines was made, and her staff for their helpful assistance in the study of the material from Hagia Triada, Karphi, and Patsos.
The following chronological abbreviations are used. Early Neolithic and Middle Neolithic dates are based on Tomkins 2007b; Final Neolithic and Bronze Age dates are based on Warren and Hankey 1989 and Nowicki 2002a.

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Period (B.C.)</th>
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<td>LH</td>
<td>Late Helladic (ca. 1600–1100)</td>
<td>EO</td>
<td>Early Orientalizing (ca. 700–660)</td>
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## Abbreviations

The following additional abbreviations are also used in this volume.

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A | Archaic (ca. 600–480 B.C.)
C | Classical (ca. 480–331 B.C.)

V | Venetian (13th–17th century A.D.)
Mod. | Modern (1900 A.D.–present)
Glossary

The text uses the following terms, which are specialized terminology or do not have exact English equivalents.

- **alonii**: threshing floor with stone-built border, usually round (pl. *alonia*)
- **andreion**: building for communal male dining (pl. *andreia*)
- **apotheke**: a building housing archaeological workrooms and storerooms
- **conulus**: conical stone or terracotta bead (pl. *conuli*)
- **dint**: thumb impression on pottery, generally at the attachment of handle or leg
- **dromos**: the entrance passage of a tholos tomb
- **jift**: solid and semi-solid residue from olive pressing
- **kalderimi**: paved mountain road of the Ottoman and Modern periods (pl. *kalderimia*)
- **kernos**: a flat stone whose surface is decorated with a ring of small indentations, possibly used as an offering table or gaming table; also called a cupule stone (pl. *kernoi*)
- **marzeah**: a Near Eastern ritual practice that involved drinking and ancestor worship
meltemi  strong, dry northern wind that blows primarily in the summer months; also called Etesian winds
nodulus  a small lump of clay with one or two seal impressions but without any means of attachment to another object (pl. noduli)
plaka  large flat stone or paver (pl. plakas)
plateia  a wide court or square
sgraffito  a technique of decorating glazed ceramics by scratching designs through a surface layer to reveal a different color beneath
stamnotaki  a jar stand
synoikismos  uniting of several towns or villages into one community
tholos  a type of tomb that is generally round in plan and covered with a corbeled vault (pl. tholoi)
tsakali  soft marl bedrock that can easily be cut; also called kouskouras
umbo  lateral prominence just above the hinge of a bivalve shell
unguentarium  a small bottle commonly used as a container for oil in the Hellenistic and Roman periods
Vierpasse  a design that includes four interlocking spirals
zembili  a large rubber basket with two handles used for carrying dirt and stones; approximate capacity of 25 liters (pl. zembilia)