

Livari Skiadi

A Minoan Cemetery in Southeast Crete

I. Excavation and Finds



PREHISTORY MONOGRAPHS 50

Livari Skiadi

A Minoan Cemetery in Southeast Crete

I. Excavation and Finds

by

Yiannis Papadatos and Chrysa Sofianou

with contributions by

Tristan Carter, Katharine Hall, Eleni Nodarou, and Michel Roggenbucke



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Introduction and Acknowledgments

This is the first of a two-volume final report on the excavation of the Minoan cemetery and associated finds at Livari Skiadi, near Goudouras, at the southeastern end of Crete. The cemetery was unearthed during a rescue excavation performed by the 24th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, under the direction of Chrysa Sofianou, who was at that time responsible for the antiquities of the Siteia prefecture, and with the participation of Yiannis Papadatos, together with a small group of archaeology students from the Department of History and Archaeology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The excavation lasted three consecutive summers, from 2008 until 2010, and it revealed a tholos tomb and burial rock shelter used in the Prepalatial period, a house tomb dated to the Neopalatial period, and deposits of funerary material in open areas surrounding these tombs.

The study and analysis of the material followed immediately, allowing the full publication of the remains and the associated finds to be completed within five years of the completion of the excavation, while a second volume on the organic materials (e.g., human remains, ecofacts) and the final conclusions is in preparation. The quick advance of the excavation, study, and final publication is the result of generous funding provided by several institutions, and the hard work of a large number of colleagues, students, and friends, to whom we owe much.

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List of Abbreviations

a	angular	LOD	Light-on-Dark Painted ware
B	miscellaneous finds catalog number	m	meter(s)
cm	centimeter(s)	M	metal artifact catalog number
CW	coarse ware	max.	maximum
dia.	diameter	MM	Middle Minoan
dims.	dimensions	MW	Monochrome ware
DBW	Dark Burnished ware	No.	number
DGBW	Dark Gray Burnished ware	NV	no vitrification
DOLW	Dark-on-Light Painted ware (Prepalatial)	OBBW	Orange-Buff Burnished ware
DOL	Dark-on-Light Painted Lustrous ware (Neopalatial)	P	pottery catalog number
EBA	Early Bronze Age	PPL	plane-polarized light
EC	Early Cycladic	pXRF	portable X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy
EM	Early Minoan	PW	plain ware
FGW	Fine Gray ware	r	rounded
FN	Final Neolithic	RBBW	Red-Brown Burnished ware
h.	height	RBW	Red Burnished ware
ha.	hectare(s)	R/BSW	Red/Black Slipped ware
J	jewelry catalog number	RSBW	Red Slipped and Burnished ware
km	kilometer(s)	S	seal catalog number
L.	length	sa	subangular
LIV	petrographic sample	SEM	scanning electron microscopy
LM	Late Minoan	sr	subrounded
		Str.	stratum

TCFs	textural concentration features	w.	width
th.	thickness	WODW	White-on-Dark Painted ware
Tr.	trench	wr	well rounded
V	stone vase catalog number	WW	Wiped ware
VW	Vasiliki Ware	XP	cross-polarized light