

Mochlos IIC

Period IV. The Mycenaean Settlement and Cemetery
The Human Remains and Other Finds



Necklaces from the Limenaria cemetery (from top to bottom): numbers 6, 4, 1, and 7. Plakalona Necklace at bottom. Watercolor by D. Faulmann.

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Period IV. The Mycenaean Settlement and Cemetery The Human Remains and Other Finds

by

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edited by

Jeffrey S. Soles and Costis Davaras



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- 35C. LIBS spectrum from orange-red layer beneath darker red (**IIC.780**, PL 4a), also showing characteristic emission features of an iron oxide pigment, with slightly weaker emissions from Fe at 258–264 nm, and 302 nm than the darker red sample.

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Jeffrey S. Soles
Costis Davaras

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this volume:

AMS	accelerator mass spectrometer	FF	Fine Buff fabric
AQ	Artisans' Quarter	FM	Furumark motif
approx.	approximate	FTIR	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy
Cal	calibrated	g	gram
CC	calcium carbonate	GS	ground stone
cf.	compare with	h.	height
CF	Coarse Ware fabric	HM	Herakleion Museum
CS	chipped stone	IMS-FORTH	Institute for Mediterranean Studies–Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas
d.	diameter		
dims.	dimensions		
EDS	energy dispersive spectroscopy		
EM	Early Minoan	int.	interior
Eo	life expectancy	L.	length
est.	estimated	LB	Late Bronze (Age)
ext.	exterior	LC	Late Cycladic
F	female or fused	Le	left

LH	Late Helladic	Ph.	Phase
LIBS	Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy	PL	plaster
LM	Late Minoan	PLM	polarized-light microscopy
LRS	longitudinal radial section	pres.	preserved
LTS	longitudinal tangential section	R	right
M	male or mature	RH	relative humidity
MM	Middle Minoan	RL	render layers
m	meter	sp.	species level identification
max.	maximum	T	temperature
min.	minimum	th.	thickness
mm	millimeter	TNR	total number of remains
μm	micrometer	TS	transverse section
MNI	minimum number of individuals	UF	unfused
NAA	neutron activation analysis	UV	ultraviolet
NISP	number of identifiable specimens	vert.	vertebra(e)
nm	nanometer	w.	width
O	old	XRD	X-ray diffraction
pers. comm.	personal communication	XRF	X-ray fluorescence
pers. obs.	personal observation	Y	young
P	prime	yrs.	years

Introduction

Jeffrey S. Soles

Mochlos IIC is the third and final part of the second volume in the Mochlos Publication Series. Volume II overall is concerned with Mochlos in the Mycenaean era, or the LM II and LM III remains uncovered by the Greek-American excavations in the summers of 1989–1994 and 2004–2005. In *Mochlos* IIA (Soles 2008) the contributors present descriptions of the two main sites of the Mycenaean community, including the stratigraphy and architecture of the settlement, the tombs in the Limenaria cemetery, and a list of all finds placed in their respective contexts. Soles also offers general conclusions about the nature of life and death at Mochlos in this period. The organization of the Mochlos volumes is premised on the belief that finds have meaning only in context. For this reason, all finds are listed in *Mochlos* IIA in their contexts, and the main conclusions about Mycenaean Mochlos are located there. There is only limited space in volume IIA for the description of these finds, however, and subsequent parts of the volume are designed to present more detailed information about these finds. Therefore, the LM II and LM III pottery finds from the settlement and cemetery,

along with the earlier and later pottery found in these contexts and a petrographic analysis of LM III ceramics, are published in *Mochlos* IIB (Smith 2010). In *Mochlos* IIC, the authors present additional information on the skeletal material, small finds, and ecofactual material from LM III settlement and cemetery contexts.

In Chapter 1 Triantaphyllou completes the study of the human skeletal remains from the Limenaria cemetery that are itemized after the description of each tomb in *Mochlos* IIA (Soles and Triantaphyllou 2008, 135–184). The chapter provides an overall picture of the physical attributes of the LM III population, particularly the sex, age at death, and stature of individuals, as well as aspects of their health, including the evidence for disease, deformity, cause of death, and nutrition or malnutrition. This examination of the skeletal material reveals a great deal about the lives of the LM III inhabitants and complements the information that the artifactual and ecofactual evidence provides.

In Chapters 2, 3, and 4, the authors discuss the various types of artifacts recovered from the excavation. Chapter 2 is concerned with the burial containers

from the Limenaria cemetery. The different types of containers reflect social ranking in the population, and the painted scenes on the sarcophagi, like those on the large pyxides, depict popular beliefs about the afterlife that show a remarkable resemblance to later Homeric beliefs, as previously noted in *Mochlos* IIA (Soles 2008, 196–197). Chapter 3 contains the catalog of jewelry and other small finds that were inventoried from the excavation. Most of these finds are organized by material categories, including copper, bronze, lead, clay, bone, shell, and stone. Each of these material categories includes several different kinds of objects. The jewelry is cataloged and discussed separately since it forms a discrete group, even though it is made from many different materials. All of these objects reveal something about life in LM III Mochlos, although some reveal more than others. Chapter 4 presents the catalog of ground and chipped stone implements collected from the LM III levels, along with the identification of the sources of the raw materials that were used to make these implements and a description of the uses to which they were put.

In Chapter 5 the authors discuss the faunal assemblage, including mammal, shell, and fish remains, and the floral finds, including wood charcoal and seeds. Like the human skeletal remains and small finds, these organic materials are also detailed in context in the lists that follow each room description in *Mochlos* IIA. Of all the finds from the LM III levels, the organic remains are probably the most likely to be compromised by earlier and sometimes later occupation on the site. It is possible to distinguish a LM I sherd from a LM III sherd lying in a LM III level, but it is not possible to distinguish LM I mammal remains from LM III remains lying in a LM III level. LM I deposits lay below virtually every LM III level, and the potential for material to have been kicked up from below is considerable. Some of the organic remains must derive from the LM III period, however, and they provide some indication of the types of food that the LM III population consumed.

In Chapter 6, which concludes the main text of the volume, Brogan and Smith examine Mochlos's

position in its wider region. This position is likely to have changed during the course of the Mycenaean occupation as a result of the destruction of the palace at Knossos. Originally dependent on Knossos, Mochlos was freed of this dependency when the palace and the polity it controlled came to an end (Soles 2008, 201–205).

The volume ends with five appendices. In Appendix A, Soles publishes three radiocarbon dates from LM III deposits in the settlement that supplement one already published from the Artisans' Quarter Cemetery in *Mochlos* IC (Soles 2004a, 145–146). Each comes from a well-stratified level associated with cataloged LM III pottery, including two from the floor deposit of a house and one from the floor deposit of an exterior space, but only one is from a short-lived sample. In Appendix B, Alessandra Giumlia-Mair discusses the findings from her XRF analysis of necklace no. 1 from Tomb 10 in the Limenaria cemetery. In Appendix C, Carter presents the stone vase remains found in LM III contexts. In Appendix D, Westlake discusses the painted plaster found in House A, and in Appendix E, Caldwell and Smith consider the pumice collected from LM III levels. The stone vases are LM I in origin, although some of them may have been reused, and the plaster may also be a LM I survival, although it lay on a LM III floor next to a wall.

The present work, like *Mochlos* IIB, contains important documentation for the general conclusions reached in *Mochlos* IIA. The authors describe the actual physical remains of the LM III inhabitants, the foods they consumed, and the activities in which they engaged through an examination of lines of evidence that are sometimes also important sources of cognitive information. The pottery vessels the inhabitants chose and the way they used those vessels, the different burial containers they selected and the scenes they painted on those containers, and the various personal possessions and tools they used provide insights into who the inhabitants were, how they thought, and sometimes even what they thought.