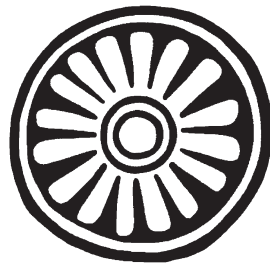


AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
GOURNIA LANDSCAPE

A Regional History of the
Mirabello Bay, Crete, in Antiquity



PREHISTORY MONOGRAPHS 37

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE GOURNIA LANDSCAPE

A Regional History of the Mirabello Bay, Crete, in Antiquity

by

L. Vance Watrous, Donald Haggis, Krzysztof Nowicki,
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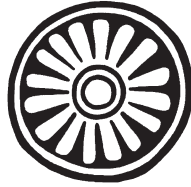
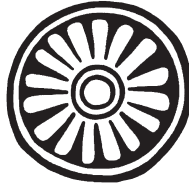


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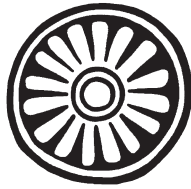
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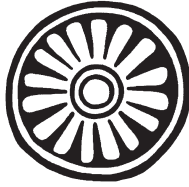
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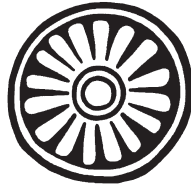
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Preface

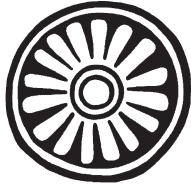
This project was conceived in 1991 by L.V. Watrous. At that time, the Mirabello Bay area had been the focus of excavation at various sites—e.g., Vasiliki, Mochlos, Kavousi, and Pseira—for a number of years. Moreover, two surveys had just been completed in the Istron and Kavousi areas. All of this work left the central part of the Mirabello Bay area, the Isthmus of Ierapetra, and the palatial site of Gournia untouched. For this reason, Watrous approached Costis Davaras, Ephor of East Crete, with the idea of undertaking a regional survey around Gournia to be followed by excavation at Gournia itself. Davaras agreed, and the three-year project began in 1992 with the general goal of providing a regional context for the site of Gournia. The area included the northern coast of Crete in the Gournia Valley and the northern half of the Isthmus of Ierapetra, ending in the valley of Episkopi (Map 1, middle area).

Archaeological survey work has been carried out in Crete for over fifty years (Gkiasta 2008). Surveys record archaeological data horizontally, that is, across the present land surface. For this reason, regional survey evidence differs fundamentally from excavation data. Excavations proceed vertically and produce immense amounts of material from one location over time. Excavation data, therefore, is particularly suited to answer questions about the subsistence, technology, exchange, social organization, and ideology of households within a single settlement, both synchronically and diachronically. Survey evidence, on the other hand, has a broader focus, and is particularly informative on the environment, population(s), and social organization of an entire region. In most cases, previous surveys have been content to document their pattern of settlement and limit their interpretation to questions answerable by survey data alone. As a consequence, the interpretations of settlement

patterns and their development remained, in these studies, rather abstract and attributed on a tenuous basis.

This study will combine both sets of evidence. Hence, this volume differs from other survey publications in two main ways. First, as this survey was the last and most central of three surveys (Hayden 2004a; Betancourt, Davaras, and Hope Simpson 2005; Haggis 2005) conducted in the Mirabello region, it will attempt to tie together the data from all three of these surveys. Second, it goes beyond the survey data to consider, at some length, the evidence from local excavations, so as to provide an in-depth and integrated picture of the regional socio-economic development. This is particularly important because previous publications of excavations and surveys have concentrated on their limited areas, and also because settlement patterns by themselves, based as they are on the broad sweep of a ceramic sequence, inevitably can mask specific events and developments within a region. This volume, therefore, is meant as a regional archaeological study of the Mirabello Bay area during antiquity.

Harriet Blitzer will publish the post-antique finds from this project.

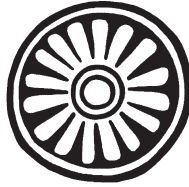


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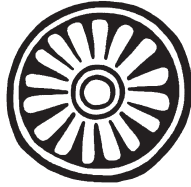
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Chronology

All prehistoric dates (calibrated ¹⁴C) are based on Coleman 1992, Manning 1999, and Tomkins 2007.

Final Neolithic	4000–3500 B.C.	Late Minoan IIIC	1220/1200–1100 B.C.
Early Minoan I	3500–2900 B.C.	Subminoan	1100–970 B.C.
Early Minoan II	2900–2200 B.C.	Protogeometric	970–800 B.C.
Early Minoan III	2200–2100 B.C.	Geometric	800–700 B.C.
Middle Minoan IA	2100–1900 B.C.	Orientalizing	700–600 B.C.
Middle Minoan IB	1900–1850 B.C.	Archaic	600–500 B.C.
Middle Minoan II	1850–1800/1775 B.C.	Classical	500–323 B.C.
Middle Minoan III	1800/1775–1725/1700 B.C.	Hellenistic	323–66 B.C.
Late Minoan I	1725/1700–1570/1540 B.C.	Early Roman	66 B.C.–A.D. 400
Late Minoan II	1570/1540–1490/1450 B.C.	Late Roman	A.D. 400–700
Late Minoan IIIA	1490/1450–1375/1360 B.C.	Early Byzantine	A.D. 700–828
Late Minoan IIIB	1375/1360–1220/1200 B.C.		



List of Abbreviations

BG	Black Glaze	LN	Late Neolithic
c.	century	LPMC	Late Prepalatial medium coarse
ca.	approximately	LPP	Late Prepalatial
EC	Early Cycladic	m	meter(s)
EG	Early Geometric	m asl	meters above sea level
EMC	Early Minoan cooking ware	MG	Middle Geometric
EMMC	Early Minoan medium coarse	MM	Middle Minoan
EH	Early Helladic	NPP	Neopalatial phyllite
EM	Early Minoan	pers. comm.	personal communication
est.	estimated	PG	Protogeometric
FN	Final Neolithic	PGB	Protogeometric B
ha	hectares	PPC	Protopalatial cooking ware
km	kilometer(s)	PPMC	Protopalatial medium coarse
LG	Late Geometric	pop.	population
LM	Late Minoan	SM	Subminoan