

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 IIIIC settlement at Kavousi Vronda as seen from the west. Visualization created by Sayed Kashif Dafedar.

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KAVOUSI IIC

The Late Minoan IIIC Settlement at Vronda Specialist Reports and Analyses

by

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Preface

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).

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List of Abbreviations

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.

EN	Early Neolithic (ca. 6500–5900 B.C.)	EIA	Early Iron Age (ca. 1100–700 B.C.)
MN	Middle Neolithic (ca. 5900–5300 B.C.)	PG	Protogeometric (ca. 1000–850 B.C.)
LN	Late Neolithic (ca. 5300–4500 B.C.)	EPG	Early Protogeometric (ca. 1000–920 B.C.)
FN	Final Neolithic (ca. 4500–3200 B.C.)	MPG	Middle Protogeometric (ca. 920–875 B.C.)
EM	Early Minoan (ca. 3200–2100 B.C.)	LPG	Late Protogeometric (ca. 875–850 B.C.)
MM	Middle Minoan (ca. 2100–1600 B.C.)	PGB	Protogeometric B (ca. 850–810 B.C.)
LM	Late Minoan (ca. 1600–1100 B.C.)	G	Geometric (ca. 900–700 B.C.)
SM	Subminoan (ca. 1100–1000 B.C.)	LG	Late Geometric (ca. 750–700 B.C.)
LH	Late Helladic (ca. 1600–1100 B.C.)	EO	Early Orientalizing (ca. 700–660 B.C.)

A	Archaic (ca. 600–480 B.C.)	V	Venetian (13th–17th century A.D.)
C	Classical (ca. 480–331 B.C.)	Mod.	Modern (1900 A.D.–present)

The following additional abbreviations are also used in this volume.

avg.	average	min.	minimum
b.	breadth	mm	millimeter(s)
ca.	approximately	MNI	minimum number of individuals
cat.	catalog	N	north
cf.	comparable to (in faunal analyses)	NE	northeast
cm	centimeter(s)	NISP	number of identified specimens
cont.	continued	no(s).	number(s)
d.	diameter	NW	northwest
E	east	P	1/12 of N (N = 1/2 mina)
est.	estimated	P	pottery
ext.	exterior	pers. comm.	personal communication
F	figurine	pers. obs.	personal observation
fr	fragment	pres.	preserved
g	gram(s)	PT	possible tool
G	glass	s	shekel of Ugarit (9.4 g)
GS	ground stone	S	south
h.	height	S	stone
ha.	hectare	SE	southeast
H	hardness (Mohs scale)	ST	stone tool
HM	Herakleion Archaeological Museum catalog number	SW	southwest
IM	Ierapetra Museum number	TC	terracotta
Inv.	inventory	th.	thickness
kg	kilogram(s)	UM MS	University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Mediterranean Section catalog number
km	kilometer(s)		
L.	length	VGA	visibility graph analysis
L	liter(s)	W	west
m	meter(s)	w.	width
M	metal	wh	whole
m asl	meters above sea level	wt.	weight
MASSPROP	mass properties		
max.	maximum		



Glossary

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

<i>aloni</i>	threshing floor with stone-built border, usually round (pl. <i>alonia</i>)
<i>andreion</i>	building for communal male dining (pl. <i>andreia</i>)
<i>apotheke</i>	a building housing archaeological workrooms and storerooms
<i>conulus</i>	conical stone or terracotta bead (pl. <i>conuli</i>)
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
<i>kalderimi</i>	paved mountain road of the Ottoman and Modern periods (pl. <i>kalderimia</i>)
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. <i>kernoi</i>)
<i>marzeah</i>	a Near Eastern ritual practice that involved drinking and ancestor worship

<i>meltemi</i>	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
<i>stamnotaki</i>	a jar stand
<i>synoikismos</i>	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)
<i>tsakali</i>	soft marl bedrock that can easily be cut; also called <i>kouskouras</i>
umbo	lateral prominence just above the hinge of a bivalve shell
<i>unguentarium</i>	a small bottle commonly used as a container for oil in the Hellenistic and Roman periods
<i>Vierpasse</i>	a design that includes four interlocking spirals
<i>zembili</i>	a large rubber basket with two handles used for carrying dirt and stones; approximate capacity of 25 liters (pl. <i>zembilia</i>)