

HOUSE X AT KOMMOS

A Minoan Mansion near the Sea

Part 2. The Pottery

*An Excavation on the South Coast of Crete
by the University of Toronto*



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HOUSE X AT KOMMOS

A Minoan Mansion near the Sea

Part 2. The Pottery

by

Jeremy B. Rutter

edited by

Joseph W. Shaw and Maria C. Shaw



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*Dedicated to the next generations,
Nicholas, Helen, and Daisy
and
Benjamin, Melissa, Greta, and Georgia*

Table of Contents

List of Tables in the Text.....	vii
List of Figures.....	xi
List of Plates.....	xv
Preface.....	xvii
Acknowledgments.....	xix
List of Abbreviations.....	xxi
Chapter 1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. House X within the Larger Context of the Site of Kommos.....	1
1.2. Organization and Presentation Format.....	4
1.3. Illustrations.....	7
Chapter 2. Catalog of Pottery.....	9
2.1. Space X1.....	9
2.2. Space X2.....	21
2.3. Space X3.....	36
2.4. Space X4.....	43
2.5. Space X5.....	47
2.6. Space X6.....	53
2.7. Space X7.....	63
2.8. Space X8.....	69
2.9. Space X9.....	75
2.10. Space X10.....	80
2.11. Space X11.....	88

2.12. Staircase X13.....	90
2.13. Spaces X14a and X14b.....	91
2.14. Staircase X15.....	94
2.15. Space X16.....	96
2.16. Space North of Space X2.....	98
2.17. Space North of Space X3.....	101
2.18. Space North of Space X10.....	111
Chapter 3. Ceramic Perspectives by Period.....	123
3.1. Late Minoan IA Early to Advanced.....	123
3.2. Late Minoan IA Final.....	127
3.3. Late Minoan IB Late.....	129
3.4. Late Minoan IB Final.....	137
3.5. Late Minoan II.....	141
3.6. Late Minoan IIIA:1.....	177
3.7. Late Minoan IIIA:2.....	196
3.8. Late Minoan IIIB.....	206
Chapter 4. Conclusions.....	217
4.1. Preliminary Considerations.....	217
4.2. Variability of Knossian Ceramic Influence with Time.....	218
4.3. Selected Aspects of Pottery Consumption in House X.....	230
4.4. Development of House X through Time.....	234
4.5. Deconstructing “House X”?.....	239
Appendix. Supplementary Data to the Catalog.....	241
Concordance of Catalog Numbers with Excavation Inventory Numbers.....	397
References.....	405
Index.....	417
Figures	
Plates	

List of Tables in the Text

Table 1.1.	Phasings of MM and LM ceramic development recognized at Kommos from 1990 to the present.	2
Table 1.2.	Phasings of the Neopalatial, Monopalatial, and Postpalatial eras at Kommos correlated with the corresponding phases recognized at Hagia Triada and Phaistos.	5
Table 2.1.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:1.	10
Table 2.2.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:2.	13
Table 2.3.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:3.	15
Table 2.4A.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:4 in Tr. 73A.	16
Table 2.4B.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:4 in Tr. 81A.	16
Table 2.5.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:5.	17
Table 2.6.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:6.	17
Table 2.7A.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:7 in Tr. 73A.	18
Table 2.7B.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:7 in Tr. 81A.	18
Table 2.8A.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:8 in Tr. 73A.	18
Table 2.8B.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:8 in Tr. 81A.	18
Table 2.9A.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:9 in Tr. 73A.	19
Table 2.9B.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X1:9 in Tr. 81A.	20
Table 2.10.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2:1.	22
Table 2.11.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2:2.	23

Table 2.12.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2:3.	26
Table 2.13A.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2:4 in Tr. 74A.	27
Table 2.13B.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2:4 in Tr. 80A.	27
Table 2.14.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2:5.	30
Table 2.15.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2:6 in Tr. 74A.	31
Table 2.16.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2:7 in Tr. 74A.	32
Table 2.17.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2:8.	33
Table 2.18.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3:1.	37
Table 2.19.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3:2.	38
Table 2.20.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3:3 in Tr. 93E.	38
Table 2.21.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3:4 in Tr. 93E.	39
Table 2.22.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3:5 in Tr. 93E.	40
Table 2.23.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3:6 in Tr. 93E.	41
Table 2.24.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3:7 in Tr. 93E.	42
Table 2.25.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3:Misc.	43
Table 2.26.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X4:1W.	44
Table 2.27.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X4:1E.	44
Table 2.28.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X4:2.	45
Table 2.29.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X4:3.	47
Table 2.30.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X6:1.	53
Table 2.31A.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X6:2 in Tr. 73B.	54
Table 2.31B.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X6:2 in Tr. 93E.	54
Table 2.32.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X6:3.	55
Table 2.33.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X6:4 in Tr. 73B.	56
Table 2.34.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X6:5 in Tr. 73B.	57
Table 2.35.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X6:6 in Tr. 73B.	62
Table 2.36.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X7:1.	63
Table 2.37.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X7:2.	64
Table 2.38.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X7:3.	66
Table 2.39.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X7:4.	67
Table 2.40.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X7:5.	68
Table 2.41.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X8:1 in Tr. 80A.	70
Table 2.42.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X8:3.	71
Table 2.43.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X9:1 in Tr. 81C.	76
Table 2.44.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X9:2 in Tr. 81C.	77

Table 2.45.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X9:3 in Tr. 81C.....	78
Table 2.46.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X9:4 in Tr. 81C.....	79
Table 2.47.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X10:1 in Tr. 87A.....	80
Table 2.48.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X11:1 in Tr. 73B.....	88
Table 2.49.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X11:2 in Tr. 73B.....	89
Table 2.50.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X13:1.....	91
Table 2.51.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X13:2.....	91
Table 2.52.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X14a:1.....	92
Table 2.53.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X14a:2.....	92
Table 2.54.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X14b:1.....	93
Table 2.55.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X15:1.....	94
Table 2.56.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X15:2.....	95
Table 2.57.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X16:1.....	97
Table 2.58.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X16:2.....	97
Table 2.59.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2N:1.....	98
Table 2.60.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X2N:2.....	99
Table 2.61.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3N:1.....	102
Table 2.62.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3N:2.....	102
Table 2.63.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3N:3.....	103
Table 2.64.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X3N:4.....	105
Table 2.65.	Statistical data for Pottery Group X10N:1.....	111
Table 3.1.	Inventoried pottery from principal LM IA deposits in House X.....	124
Table 3.2A.	Inventoried pottery from principal LM IB Late deposits in the northern part of House X.....	130
Table 3.2B.	Inventoried pottery from principal LM IB Late deposits in the southern part of House X.....	132
Table 3.3.	Inventoried pottery from principal LM IB Final deposits in and to the north of House X.....	139
Table 3.4A.	Inventoried pottery from LM II floors and fills in the western and southern portions of House X, including area Y2 immediately to the north of Space X2.....	143
Table 3.4B.	Inventoried pottery from LM II dumps in Spaces X10 and X11 and to the north of House X...	145
Table 3.5A.	Quantitative comparisons (by number of sherds, weight, and total inventoried vessels) of pottery groups from LM II floors and fills in the western and southern portions of House X...	148
Table 3.5B.	Quantitative comparisons (by number of sherds, weight, and total inventoried vessels) of pottery groups from LM II dumps in Spaces X10 and X11 and to the north of House X.....	149
Table 3.6.	The dimensional ranges of conical cup types common to the LM IB Late through LM IIIA:2 Early ceramic phases recovered from House X at Kommos.....	156
Table 3.7.	Inventoried pottery from LM IIIA:1 floors and fills to the northwest of House X.....	178
Table 3.8.	Inventoried pottery from LM IIIA:1 floors and fills in the western half of House X.....	179

Table 3.9.	Inventoried pottery from LM IIIA:1 floors and fills in the eastern half of House X.....	182
Table 3.10.	Inventoried pottery from LM IIIA:2 Early floors in House X.....	198
Table 3.11.	Functional groupings within LM IIIA:2 Early floor deposits in Spaces X4, X5, and X7.....	200
Table 4.1.	Frequencies of House X pottery imported from Knossos, from other regions on Crete (including Gavdos), and from areas of the eastern Mediterranean outside of Crete as a function of time.....	219
Table A.1.	Wear and state of preservation of all cataloged pottery from in and around House X.....	243
Table A.2.	Dimensions and proportions of all cataloged pottery from in and around House X.....	284
Table A.3.	Colors of fired pastes, surfaces, and decorative slips (paints) of all cataloged pottery from in and around House X.....	324
Table A.4.	Fabric description and surface treatment of all cataloged pottery from in and around House X.....	353

List of Figures

- Figure 1.1. House X: state plan. Modified from Shaw and Shaw, eds., 2012, figs. 1.6, 1.7.
- Figure 1.2. House X: restored plan. After Shaw and Shaw, eds., 2012, fig. 1.5.
- Figure 2.1. Pottery from Pottery Group X1:1.
- Figure 2.2. Pottery from Pottery Group X1:1.
- Figure 2.3. Pottery from Pottery Group X1:1.
- Figure 2.4. Pottery from Pottery Groups X1:1 and X1:2.
- Figure 2.5. Pottery from Pottery Group X1:2.
- Figure 2.6. Pottery from Pottery Group X1:2.
- Figure 2.7. Pottery from Pottery Group X1:3.
- Figure 2.8. Pottery from Pottery Groups X1:3 and X1:4.
- Figure 2.9. Pottery from Pottery Groups X1:4–X1:9.
- Figure 2.10. Pottery from Pottery Groups X1:9 and X1:10.
- Figure 2.11. Pottery from Pottery Groups X1:10–X1:12, and X2:1.
- Figure 2.12. Pottery from Pottery Group X2:2.
- Figure 2.13. Pottery from Pottery Group X2:2.
- Figure 2.14. Pottery from Pottery Group X2:2.
- Figure 2.15. Pottery from Pottery Groups X2:2–X2:4.
- Figure 2.16. Pottery from Pottery Group X2:4.
- Figure 2.17. Pottery from Pottery Group X2:4.

- Figure 2.18. Pottery from Groups X2:4 and X2:5.
Figure 2.19. Pottery from Pottery Group X2:6.
Figure 2.20. Pottery from Pottery Group X2:7.
Figure 2.21. Pottery from Pottery Groups X2:8–X2:10.
Figure 2.22. Pottery from Pottery Group X2:Misc.
Figure 2.23. Pottery from Pottery Group X2:Misc.
Figure 2.24. Pottery from Pottery Groups X3:1 and X3:2.
Figure 2.25. Pottery from Pottery Groups X3:2 and X3:3.
Figure 2.26. Pottery from Pottery Groups X3:4 and X3:5.
Figure 2.27. Pottery from Pottery Groups X3:6 and X3:7.
Figure 2.28. Pottery from Pottery Group X3:7.
Figure 2.29. Pottery from Pottery Groups X3:Misc, X4:1E, X4:1/W, and X4:2.
Figure 2.30. Pottery from Pottery Group X4:2.
Figure 2.31. Pottery from Pottery Group X4:2.
Figure 2.32. Pottery from Pottery Group X4:2.
Figure 2.33. Pottery from Pottery Groups X4:3 and X5:1–X5:4.
Figure 2.34. Pottery from Pottery Group X5:5.
Figure 2.35. Pottery from Pottery Group X5:5.
Figure 2.36. Pottery from Pottery Group X5:5.
Figure 2.37. Pottery from Pottery Group X5:5.
Figure 2.38. Pottery from Pottery Group X5:5.
Figure 2.39. Pottery from Pottery Group X5:5.
Figure 2.40. Pottery from Pottery Group X5:5.
Figure 2.41. Pottery from Pottery Group X5:5.
Figure 2.42. Pottery from Pottery Group X5:6.
Figure 2.43. Pottery from Pottery Groups X5:6 and X6:1.
Figure 2.44. Pottery from Pottery Groups X6:2–X6:4.
Figure 2.45. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:4.
Figure 2.46. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:4.
Figure 2.47. Pottery from Pottery Groups X6:4 and X6:5.
Figure 2.48. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:5.
Figure 2.49. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:5.
Figure 2.50. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:5.
Figure 2.51. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:5.
Figure 2.52. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:5.
Figure 2.53. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:5.

- Figure 2.54. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:5.
- Figure 2.55. Pottery from Pottery Group X6:5.
- Figure 2.56. Pottery from Pottery Groups X6:5, X6:6, X6:Misc, and X7:1.
- Figure 2.57. Pottery from Pottery Groups X7:1 and X7:2.
- Figure 2.58. Pottery from Pottery Group X7:2.
- Figure 2.59. Pottery from Pottery Groups X7:2 and X7:3.
- Figure 2.60. Pottery from Pottery Groups X7:3 and X7:4.
- Figure 2.61. Pottery from Pottery Group X7:4.
- Figure 2.62. Pottery from Pottery Groups X7:4 and X7:5.
- Figure 2.63. Pottery from Pottery Groups X7:5 and X8:1.
- Figure 2.64. Pottery from Pottery Group X8:1.
- Figure 2.65. Pottery from Pottery Groups X8:2 and X8:3.
- Figure 2.66. Pottery from Pottery Group X8:3.
- Figure 2.67. Pottery from Pottery Group X8:3.
- Figure 2.68. Pottery from Pottery Group X8:3.
- Figure 2.69. Pottery from Pottery Group X8:3.
- Figure 2.70. Pottery from Pottery Groups X8:3 and X8:4.
- Figure 2.71. Pottery from Pottery Group X8:4.
- Figure 2.72. Pottery from Pottery Group X8:4.
- Figure 2.73. Pottery from Pottery Groups X8:4 and X9:1.
- Figure 2.74. Pottery from Pottery Groups X9:1 and X9:2.
- Figure 2.75. Pottery from Pottery Group X9:2.
- Figure 2.76. Pottery from Pottery Group X9:2.
- Figure 2.77. Pottery from Pottery Groups X9:2 and X9:3.
- Figure 2.78. Pottery from Pottery Groups X9:4 and X10:1.
- Figure 2.79. Pottery from Pottery Group X10:1.
- Figure 2.80. Pottery from Pottery Group X10:1.
- Figure 2.81. Pottery from Pottery Group X10:1.
- Figure 2.82. Pottery from Pottery Group X10:1.
- Figure 2.83. Pottery from Pottery Group X10:1.
- Figure 2.84. Pottery from Pottery Group X10:1.
- Figure 2.85. Pottery from Pottery Group X10:1.
- Figure 2.86. Pottery from Pottery Group X10:1.
- Figure 2.87. Pottery from Pottery Groups X10:1 and X10:2.
- Figure 2.88. Pottery from Pottery Groups X10:3 and X11:1.
- Figure 2.89. Pottery from Pottery Group X11:1.

- Figure 2.90. Pottery from Pottery Group X11:2.
- Figure 2.91. Pottery from Pottery Groups X13:1, X13:2, X14a:1, X14a:2, X14b:1, and X14:Misc.
- Figure 2.92. Pottery from Pottery Groups X14b:1, X15:1, and X15:2.
- Figure 2.93. Pottery from Pottery Group X15:2.
- Figure 2.94. Pottery from Pottery Group X15:2.
- Figure 2.95. Pottery from Pottery Groups X15:2, X15:Misc, and X16:1.
- Figure 2.96. Pottery from Pottery Groups X16:1, X16:2, and X16:Misc.
- Figure 2.97. Pottery from Pottery Group X2N:1.
- Figure 2.98. Pottery from Pottery Group X2N:2.
- Figure 2.99. Pottery from Pottery Group X2N:2.
- Figure 2.100. Pottery from Pottery Groups X2N:2, X2N:Misc, X3N:1, and X3N:2.
- Figure 2.101. Pottery from Pottery Group X3N:3.
- Figure 2.102. Pottery from Pottery Group X3N:3.
- Figure 2.103. Pottery from Pottery Group X3N:3.
- Figure 2.104. Pottery from Pottery Groups X3N:3 and X3N:4.
- Figure 2.105. Pottery from Pottery Group X3N:4.
- Figure 2.106. Pottery from Pottery Group X3N:4.
- Figure 2.107. Pottery from Pottery Group X3N:4.
- Figure 2.108. Pottery from Pottery Group X3N:4.
- Figure 2.109. Pottery from Pottery Group X3N:4.
- Figure 2.110. Pottery from Pottery Group X3N:4.
- Figure 2.111. Pottery from Pottery Group X10N:1.
- Figure 2.112. Pottery from Pottery Group X10N:1.
- Figure 2.113. Pottery from Pottery Group X10N:1.
- Figure 2.114. Pottery from Pottery Group X10N:1.
- Figure 2.115. Pottery from Pottery Group X10N:1.
- Figure 2.116. Pottery from Pottery Group X10N:1.
- Figure 2.117. Pottery from Pottery Group X10N:1.
- Figure 2.118. Pottery from Pottery Group X10N:1.
- Figure 2.119. Pottery from Pottery Group X10N:1.
- Figure 3.1. Plan of LM IIIA:2 Early ground floor deposit in Space X4 (Pottery Group X4:2). Modified from Shaw and Shaw, eds., 2012, fig. 1.14.
- Figure 3.2. Plan of LM IIIA:2 Early ground floor deposit in Space X7 (Pottery Group X7:4). After Shaw and Shaw eds., 2012, fig. 1.19.

List of Plates

- Plate 2.1A. Giant teacup **X1:1/8**.
- Plate 2.1B. Tripod cooking pot **X1:3/9**: overhead view of missing sherd at junction of body and base.
- Plate 2.1C. Brown-burnished juglet rim, neck, and shoulder **X1:9/5**: swelling for attachment of handle or spout on shoulder.
- Plate 2.2A. Western Anatolian jug lower body and lug fragments **X1:12/2**: lug is middle sherd in upper row.
- Plate 2.2B. Conical cup (plain type C) **X2:4/16**: view of underside of base with circular impression at center.
- Plate 2.2C. Stirrup jar or jug **X2:5/1**.
- Plate 2.3A. Conical cup (solidly coated type P) **X3:3/2**: swelling indicative of horizontal handle attachment well below rim.
- Plate 2.3B. Cypriot Plain White pithos **X4:2/17**: profile view.
- Plate 2.3C. Cypriot Plain White pithos **X4:2/17**: overhead view.
- Plate 2.4A. Cypriot Plain White pithos **X4:2/17**: detail of underside of base with embedded white-slipped body sherd at middle right.
- Plate 2.4B. Pithos **X5:5/42**: horizontal breakage lines illustrate locations of coil joins.
- Plate 2.4C. Patterned teacup **X6:5/22**: overhead view at right of shallow troughed spout pushed out at rim.
- Plate 2.5A. Beaked jug **X7:2/3**: overhead view of shoulder.
- Plate 2.5B. Strainer-spouted vessel fragment **X7:2/4**: (a) view of exterior; (b) view of interior.
- Plate 2.5C. Headless bird's body(?) at base of handle of double vase **X10:1/17**: (a) profile view; (b) view of underside showing surfaces of attachment to juglet below. Photos T. Dabney.
- Plate 2.5D. Late Minoan II bell-shaped figurine **X10:1/47**: (a) profile view; (b) view of underside of exterior illustrating the invisibility of the patch covering the original hole in the base.

- Plate 2.6A. Late Minoan II goblet **X10:1/51** showing how stem was ground down to allow the vessel's reuse as a flat-based teacup.
- Plate 2.6B. Late Minoan II horizontal-handled bowl **X10:1/61**.
- Plate 2.6C. Late Minoan II conical cup (plain type C) **X10:1/66**.
- Plate 2.7A. Patterned teacup **X11:2/4**.
- Plate 2.7B. Patterned bridge-spouted jug(?) **X3N:4/10** illustrating the patchy character of the stippled decoration of the body zones.
- Plate 2.7C. Solidly coated bell cup **X10N:1/42** with spout pushed out from rim.

Preface

It is with great pleasure that we write a brief preface to this volume, written by Jeremy B. Rutter, on the pottery from in and around House X, a large Minoan house at Kommos situated not far from the sea in South-Central Crete. Rutter's contribution complements the discussion of the architecture, stratigraphy, and small finds written by Maria C. Shaw, Anne Chapin, John G. Younger, Deborah Ruscillo, and Joseph Shaw in Part 1, published in 2012 (Shaw and Shaw, eds., 2012). Part 1 is embellished throughout by drawings, most rendered by Giuliana Bianco.

Together, this pair of volumes offers a conclusion to a series of monographs we have already published about the site through Princeton University Press. Volume I is in two parts. The first (Shaw and Shaw, eds., 1995) surveys the archaeological history of the Kommos site and the Mesara plain in general, and it offers information about the local site geology, the flora and fauna, and the Minoan stone tool industry. The second part (Shaw and Shaw, eds., 1996) deals with the discoveries in the Minoan Hilltop and Hillside houses and their uses, while Volumes II (1990) and III (1992) in the series, by Philip P. Betancourt and L. Vance Watrous, respectively, explore the Middle and Late Minoan pottery found, chiefly, in the Hilltop and Hillside houses. Next in the series is Volume IV (Shaw and Shaw eds., 2000), also in two parts, and this deals with the well-preserved, and historically important, Greek Sanctuary found superimposed upon the monumental Minoan buildings in the southern part of the site. Finally, Volume V (Shaw and Shaw, eds., 2006) deals with the public, or civic, Minoan ashlar buildings in the Southern Area, as well as the site's history as a harbor town. The Kommos series is now completed by the two-volume publication on House X.

For their invaluable help in the Kommos collaborative project—involving some 50 authors over a period of 15 years—we are especially indebted, particularly in the present instance, to the author, aided by Aleydis Van de Moortel, who replaced Betancourt and Watrous as ceramic analysts when the latter went on to other field projects in Crete. Jerry, often with his son Nick, was a pleasure to have on the staff during the field seasons after 1990, when we completed excavation work in Minoan ashlar buildings P and T, as well as in House X. He also contributed substantially to a productive

dialogue with us concerning historical events possibly reflected on the site and the role of Kommos in the western Mesara.

Making our work possible were the administrative backers, especially the American School of Classical Studies and the Greek Archaeological Service, as well as the University of Toronto. Funds were generously provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP), the Deans of Arts and Science at the University of Toronto (especially Robin Armstrong and Carl Amrhein), and Lorne Wickerson. We are also much obliged to our publishers, the American School of Classical Studies, for the many preliminary reports in *Hesperia* and the *Hesperia* supplementary volume on the Minoan pottery kiln, as well as to Princeton University Press and to the INSTAP Academic Press.

Finally, thanks are owed to the village of Pitsidia for its moral support and for the excellent excavators and local friends it provided us with over the many years of excavation.

Joseph W. Shaw and Maria C. Shaw
Toronto, Canada
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Jeremy B. Rutter
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List of Abbreviations

C	Kommos clay registration number	LM	Late Minoan
ca.	circa	LOD	light-on-dark
c.	century	m	meter(s)
cm	centimeter(s)	max.	maximum
d.	diameter	min.	minimum
EM	Early Minoan	Misc	Miscellaneous
esp.	especially	MM	Middle Minoan
ext.	exterior	mm	millimeter(s)
F.	Phaistos (Fèstos) inventory number	MUM	Minoan Unexplored Mansion
FM	Furumark Motif	perf.	perforation
FS	Furumark Shape	pers. comm.	personal communication
g	gram(s)	pres.	preserved
h.	height	SSHRC	The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
HM	Herakleion Museum inventory number		
HTR	Hagia Triada inventory number	th.	thickness
I	Kommos inscription registration number	TM	Tardo Minoico
INSTAP	Institute for Aegean Prehistory	Tr.	Trench
int.	interior	w.	width
kg	kilogram(s)	wt.	weight
L.	length		
LH	Late Helladic		

