

KENTRO

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A SOLES CELEBRATION: 50 YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT MOCHLOS

Thomas M. Brogan

Friends from Mochlos, Crete, and the wider archaeological community joined Jeffrey Soles and his family on July 29 to celebrate his outstanding work at the site of Mochlos since the early 1970s (Fig. 1). Chrysa Sofianou, director of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi, kicked things off with warm greetings from the Ministry of Culture. I followed with an overview of Jeff's career, including his service in the Peace Corps, distinguished teaching at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and co-direction of one of the longest running and most illustrious cooperative excavation projects of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (five campaigns over 13 seasons, all but the last conducted with Costis Davaras[†]). Georgios Dougalis then presented the top 20 discoveries by Soles and Davaras at Mochlos, followed by a discussion of Jeff's major publications on the finds from the site and Minoan archaeology in general.

Next, a series of presentations were given, beginning with Jeff's children, Abigail and John, who read a passage by their late mother, Mary Ellen, describing her work with Jeff at Mochlos in the early years. Jerolyn Morrison then presented Jeff with his Festschrift, *Kleronomia: Legacy and Inheritance. Studies on the Aegean*

Bronze Age in Honor of Jeffrey S. Soles, which she co-edited with Joanne Murphy. Susan Ferrence, Director of Publications at INSTAP Academic Press, also presented him with the first copy of *Mochlos IVA: Period III. The Neopalatial Settlement on the Island: The House of the Metal Merchant and Other Houses in the Settlement*. Last but certainly not least, the mayor of Siteia, Georgios Zervakis, awarded Jeff a plaque in honor of his contributions to the study of Cretan history and archaeology at Mochlos.

Guests then joined Jeff and the Soles family for a dinner at Ta Kochilia taverna organized by Georgios Frangiadakis and the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete. The venue has special significance because its three generations of owners have been nourishing Jeff and his excavation teams since he first came to Mochlos as a graduate student and member of the American School of Classical Studies. It was a memorable feast and a

great way to end the busy summer, which also marked our 25th year of operations at the Study Center. We all wish Jeff continued success with future studies of Mochlos material and plans for preservation of the Minoan settlement.



Figure 1. The Soles family at the celebration, from left to right: daughter Abigail Zimmerman, grandchildren Penny, Mary Ellen, and Chris Zimmerman, honoree Jeffrey Soles, and son John Soles. Photo J. Vasdeki.



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PROTOPALATIAL POTTERY OF BRONZE AGE CRETE

Georgios Doudalis and Ilaria Caloi

An international workshop titled “Protopalatial Pottery: Relative Chronology and Regional Differences in the Middle Bronze Age” was held in Pacheia Ammos, Crete, on June 10–12, 2022, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete (Fig. 1). The event was organized by Ilaria Caloi, Georgios Doudalis, and Tom Brogan under the auspices of Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia and the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete (Fig. 2).

The goals of this workshop centered around questions concerning the relative chronology of the Protopalatial period and the identification of ceramic sequences, including the Middle Minoan IB, IIA, and IIB phases across the island from east to west and from north to south. Study of these temporal and regional distinctions helped to flesh out the character of regionalism during the Protopalatial period. Presentations also addressed the question of technologies in the production of pottery that ultimately resulted in uniformities, homogeneities, or peculiarities

across the island. By discussing these questions we thus tried to understand the social behavior of the people who inhabited the Middle Minoan sites across the island and their connection or isolation during the three phases of the Protopalatial period.

The program began with a keynote lecture by Jan Driessen of Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain). The workshop was divided into three parts. Session 1 discussed North-Central Crete with papers concerning the Protopalatial ceramic sequences from Knossos, the palatial settlement of Malia, the sites of Kato Gouves and Sissi, and the two peak sanctuaries of Galeniano-Mamaloukos and Juktas. Session 2 concerned the sites of East Crete including Petras, Mochlos, Chryssi, Alatzomouri-Pefka, Palaikastro, Kato Zakros, and the Zakros hinterland. Session 3 focused on the palatial center of Phaistos, the sites of Hagia Triada, Monastiraki, Apodoulou, the island of Gavdos, the tholos tombs at Porti, Koumasa, and Apesokari, and the Kamares Cave. Discussants Todd Whitelaw, Donald Haggis, Filippo Carinci, and



Figure 1. Participants of the workshop. Photo E. Almasidou.



Figure 2. Organizers of the workshop: Georgios Doudalis, Ilaria Caloi, and Tom Brogan. Photo E. Almasidou.

Nicoletta Momigliano provided insightful, critical commentary on papers, disciplinary assumptions, and methodologies.

The presentation of the material from all these sites led to fruitful discussions for every region by recognized and emerging scholars, and a general discussion at the conclusion led to the decision to submit the proceedings of the workshop to the *AEGIS* series of monographs published by UCLouvain. The volume is

planned to have the same format as the workshop: an introductory paper discussing a non-ceramic perspective on regionalism in Crete and the role of pottery, the papers of the presenters organized by region, and a concluding paper synthesizing the scholarship.

Finally, we hope and expect that the edited volume will be a point of reference for Protopalatial studies in Crete because it includes many different sites from most of the island. It is also our intention to be a reference for the ceramic typology of this period due to our development of a common semantic set of types used in all papers.

We would like to thank the Università Ca' Foscari Venezia and the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete for their support, Angela Ratigan for her editorial and design expertise, Sofia Antonello and Roxane Dubois for their logistical assistance, and the people of Pacheia Ammos for their warm hospitality.

PETROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF CERAMICS FROM THE PEAK SANCTUARY OF GALENIANO-MAMALOUKOS

Eleni Nodarou

A peak sanctuary located on the hill of Mamaloukos, 1.5 km west of Kastelli in the Pediada region of North-Central Crete, was excavated by Georgios Rethemiotakis as part of a rescue campaign (2001–2004). The excavation revealed a large Middle Minoan IB–IIA ceramic assemblage consisting of figurines and pottery. The latter includes mainly drinking and serving vessels (various types of bowls, cups, tumblers, and jugs) but also domestic vessels such as cooking pots, pithoid jars, and basins. The macroscopic fabric study showed a high degree of homogeneity: the majority of the vessels is manufactured in a deep-red-firing fabric with metamorphic rocks and small amounts of mica. The fabric is easily identifiable as the “Pediada fabric” connected with production in the broader area of Kastelli (Rethemiotakis and Christakis 2011, 202); there is also a buff-firing fabric, which is less common and is encountered mainly in transport amphorae and fine cups.

The aim of the petrographic analysis of the ceramic assemblage is to explore the mineralogical composition and texture of the macroscopic fabric categories and discuss the possible origin of the vessels. This research is expected to shed light on broader issues such as consumption patterns at the Protopalatial peak sanctuary as well as pottery production and distribution in the Pediada, and the possible connection (or not) with palatial centers.

The Analytical Results

The petrographic analysis of the pottery resulted in the establishment of four main petrographic groups. Two of them are considered local to the Pediada whereas the other two are rare: they represent different raw materials, and most likely they were imported to the peak sanctuary.

FABRIC GROUP 1

The predominant fabric of the assemblage is red firing, usually with a dark core and red margins in cross section. It occurs in different granulometries, from coarse to fine (Figs. 1, 2), and it is encountered in a range of shapes. The coarse variant is used for domestic vessels, such as serving (jugs), transport, and small-scale storage (amphorae, closed shapes) vases as well as cooking pots; the semi-fine and fine variants are used for drinking vessels like chalices, tumblers, and various types of cups.

The non-plastic inclusions consist of a mixture of metamorphic rock fragments, mainly dark brown phyllite, biotite mica schist, quartzite, quartz-mica schist, and less commonly muscovite mica schist. There are also frequent fragments of quartz whereas in the fine fraction there are biotite and muscovite mica laths. A recurrent textural characteristic is the dark reddish-brown, occasionally black clay pellets; their regular