Keos X: Countdown

On November 30, 2010, *Keos X: The Western Sector* by Elizabeth Schofield was sent to Verlag Phillip von Zabern, who published *Keos* volumes III-IX. This is the second area of the site during the earlier periods of the Late Bronze Age to receive publication, following Liz’s previous volume with W. Willson Cummer, *Keos III: House A*. It is with great pride that we present to the archaeological world Liz’s insights into the Western Sector and its history, her prose explicating those insights, and her selection of illustrations visualizing that prose.

The Water Supply

Access to water from the Spring Chamber was fundamental to Liz’s understanding of the plan of the Western Sector. Among the successive changes to that plan - the construction, remodeling, and abandonment of the houses - she identified in every period a means through or over the Great Fortification Wall approached by a terraced path through the Western Sector, linking the town to its source of fresh water.

Telling the Story in Plans

“The Western Sector does, to be sure, look a mess on the published plans. But these plans are an amalgamation of walls of various periods,” Liz wrote in her 1994 Myceanaean Seminar paper on the water supply and planning of Cycladic towns. Compounding the confusion was the flattening on the plane of the paper of walls at different elevations and with different functions: terrace walls, basements, semi-basements, and ground-level constructions.

Untangling that multi-period “mess” is one of Liz’s great achievements in *Keos X*; that complex history is explained visually to the reader by the series of period plans crafted on the basis of Liz’s text by Whitney Powell-Cummer, among which the Period VI plan is illustrated here.

Plate 4: Period VI Phase Plan

Plate 33a: Period V “Portal”

When the Great Fortification Wall was built during Period V (the later MBA), a small “portal” at the jog in the Wall provided a route to the Spring.

Plate 25: Staircase in room F.1

A path may have led across a bridge between the remaining top of the Wall and room F.1 after the “portal” was blocked by the reinforcing facing built in Period VI (LM IA/LH I) in response to the partial collapse of the Wall.

Plate 38: Hydria from room F.1

It is surely no coincidence,” Liz wrote, “that large jars suitable for containing water figure prominently” among the contents of Room F.1 during Period VI.

Plate 22: The Spring Chamber

In Period VIIa (LM IB/LH IIA), a series of terraces led through the Western Sector to the steps built down to the Spring, which was roofed with cover slabs.