Kea Update

Research and publication of the University of Cincinnati excavations at Ayia Irini and Kephala, Kea, Greece

Excavated under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens

Site Director of Record: Professor Jack L. Davis

Volume 3

2018

The architecture of EB II at Ayia Irini

Work resumed in 2014 on the Ayia Irini EB II stratigraphic and architectural study for final publication by David Wilson, Mary Eliot, and Whitney Powell-Cummer. The field study for this project had been carried out at Ayia Irini during six lengthy seasons between 1982 and 1987, with a subsequent first draft of the results by Eliot and Wilson completed by the mid-1990’s. The resumption of this project has entailed a comprehensive re-assessment of the excavation evidence, resulting in a substantially revised manuscript detailing the sequence of settlement phases at Ayia Irini during Periods I – III (latest Neolithic and Early Bronze II).

While EBA remains were found throughout the excavated area of the site, the most complete settlement sequence was uncovered in the Western Sector. The earliest evidence of settlement here, belonging to the latest Neolithic (Period I), consists only of secondary erosion deposits in the bedrock, with no associated built features. After a lengthy gap in occupation, settlement resumed in Period II, marked by five successive architectural phases in the Western Sector, spanning the mature and late periods of EB II in ceramic terms (Wilson 2013; see page 5 of this newsletter). In Period II (mature EB II) three phases of building can now be distinguished: IIA, IIB, and IIC. The initial re-settlement phase of Ayia Irini in Period IIA is scantily preserved, comprising only early paving and drains on the bedrock. Large secondary deposits deriving from this first phase were re-used as construction IIB in later EB II building activity, and provide key evidence for the origin of the first settlers at EBA Ayia Irini.

The earliest preserved architectural remains date to phase IIB, represented by wall fragments of two buildings, Houses EF and EC (beneath LBA Houses F and C respectively). At this same time, the fresh water source in a deep bedrock cleft bordering House EF was filled in for the construction of a monumental ramped entrance to the settlement from the west, the Lower Western Road. This necessitated the utilization of the spring chamber further downslope to the northwest, which became the main fresh water source for the settlement into the LBA. The best preserved Period II building, House E, falls in the final phase of the period, IIC, comprising two large rooms with two successive yellow clay floors. A large ceremonial stamped hearth was found in situ centered against the back wall of the inner room of this house (E.2); the numerous fragments of dozens large stamped hearths found at EB II Ayia Irini appear to be a feature restricted to the Period II settlement (Wilson 2015).

Period III at Ayia Irini, belonging to late EB II (contemporary with the Kastri-Lefkandi I Groups), had two successive building phases, IIBa and IIBb. The earlier, IIBa, saw the construction of a two-storey building, House ED, built over the remains of earlier House EF of Period IIB. This house had carefully built stone walls standing once to the full height of the corridor; it was built over the remains of earlier House ED of Period IIBa and the still earlier Houses E and EF of Period II. Certain architectural refinements make this building stand out, including the use of roughly dressed rectangular stones for the construction of walls, stone floor paving instead of the usual thick-packed clay floors, and an EC II marble bowl re-used as a pivot stone for the door between Rooms D.1 and D.2. House D is the largest of the preserved EB II buildings found at Ayia Irini, with a minimum length of at least 18.0 m. and a maximum width of about 8.0 m., comparable at least in size to most of the late EH II ‘corridor houses’ on the contemporary mainland.
The narrow surviving row of Late Bronze Age rooms designated House B is on the extant eastern shore of the peninsula, east of House A and south of the Temple; they and the Early and Middle Bronze Age remains beneath them were excavated in 1961, 1975, and 1976 by Aliki Halepa Bikaki. She worked toward the publication of the area until 2008, when she passed the assignment to Natalie Abell, then a graduate student in the Department of Classics at the University of Cincinnati. Based on Aliki’s extensive and exemplary documentation of the area, Natalie was able to generate a detailed account of the stratigraphy, architecture, and occupation sequence in the area, which formed the basis for her dissertation (completed in 2014). Natalie is currently finishing the petrographic study of ceramics from the area and revising the manuscript for publication in the Keos series.

Area B is a small but important part of Ayia Irini, especially because of its well-stratified deposits, which include abundant local and imported ceramics dating from Periods III through VII. A major component of Natalie’s work has thus been an in-depth, diachronic study of changes in ceramic shapes, wares, and fabrics represented in the Area B strata, which has been used to support new interpretations of the history of the site; some of the results of these investigations have already been published.

Diachronic, technical, and contextual studies of the ceramics have provided new insights into the processes and mechanisms of Minoanization:

- A collaborative study together with Evi Gorogianni and Jill Hilditch complicated the picture of local use of the Minoanizing potter’s wheel at Ayia Irini, on the basis of evidence from Area B, the Northern Sector, House A, and the Western Sector (Gorogianni, Abell, and Hilditch 2016; see page 5 of this newsletter). The potter’s wheel was found to have been used for wheel-coiling—i.e., finishing a coil-built rough-out on the wheel—rather than wheel-throwing. Although this technique was closely associated with Minoanizing shapes in its earliest phases of use, non-Minoanizing shapes were added to the wheel-coiled repertoire over time, especially open shapes like cups and bowls.

- Other collaborative studies with the same co-authors based in part on evidence from Area B have considered issues of Minoanization through the lenses of import and local production patterns (Abell and Hilditch 2016; Gorogianni, Abell, and Hilditch 2017).

The Middle Bronze Age has been a focus of diachronic analyses of the assemblage in Area B:

- Evidence for mobility and the origin(s) of Period IV residents of Ayia Irini were reexamined, in part on the basis of imports and variable practices (especially crafting techniques) associated with different Aegean regions (Abell 2014).

- The Minoanizing aspects of the Period V assemblage were discussed in relation to significant changes in the non-Minoanizing part of the assemblage (Abell 2016).

- The Minoanizing aspects of the Period VI assemblage were discussed in relation to significant changes in the non-Minoanizing part of the assemblage (Abell 2014).

Close study of the clays and inclusions in ceramics from Area B enabled the creation of macroscopic fabric groups, associated with both local and imported wares.

Local pottery was examined with the goal of clarifying how potters at Ayia Irini worked through time. Imported ceramic fabrics were compared with collections from various parts of Greece in an attempt to clarify import patterns. The coherence of these macroscopic fabric groups is now being tested with petrographic and chemical analysis, including re-firing small chips of samples to a uniform temperature, in order to examine the materials and production techniques associated with local and imported pottery.

It has also been possible to clarify and refine the ceramic sequence, most notably with respect to the phasing of Period VI, which has also been discussed in publications by Jack Davis and Elizabeth Schofield.

Area B has proven to be a fruitful part of the site for examining the history of Ayia Irini, and for considering how the community fit into long-term patterns of Aegean interaction and socioeconomic development.
The Kea Archaeological Research Survey (KARS), directed by Joanne Murphy (University of North Carolina at Greensboro), is testing the longevity of survey results by re-surveying the area of the island that had been surveyed in the 1980s by J. F. Cherry, J. L. Davis, and E. Mantzourani.¹ It is the premise of intensive archaeological survey that modern distributions of evidence for past human activity in a landscape can be analyzed to generate an accurate and enduring understanding of ancient land use, population density, politics, and trade. The value of this data has been debated; KARS expands the testing of this methodology by conducting a replicability study of intensive surface survey.

Modern activity on Kea has changed significantly during the 30 years since the previous survey, with increased development as a vacation destination and decreased farming; these changes in activity alter access to and visibility of archaeological sites. By surveying the same area of Kea using the same methodologies as the original surveyors, KARS is able to assess the value of survey as a reliable archaeological research method under different landscape conditions.

From 2012 to 2014 cultural artifacts (usually pieces of pottery, stone tools, and metal slag) were collected; the field walking was divided into two methodological phases. During the first phase, teams spaced a minimum of 15 m apart walked across the land identifying areas of cultural interest, defined by a densities of pottery or worked stone tools or by lower numbers of Final Neolithic or Bronze Age sherds. During Phase II, they returned to the areas of interest, designated Field Sites, to conduct more intensive exploration and collection. Under the guidance of John Wallrodt, who manages IT for UC Classics, KARS data were “born digital,” using iPads that had the database and the iGIS; an advantage of this system was that all raw data was instantly accessible to the full team by the iGIS; an advantage of this system was that all raw digital, using iPads that had the database and the


The large questions about the replicability of survey results cannot be answered until all the materials have been fully analyzed, but preliminary analysis has generated interesting discoveries and research questions about particular periods. Two Final Neolithic sites are included in the KARS survey area, Kephala and Paouras; both had been explored by John L. Caskey during the 1960s.² Restudy by KARS has revealed that they were not completely contemporary, since, unlike Kephala, Paouras produced sherds from a later stage of the Final Neolithic as well as the Early Bronze Age, which may alter understanding of changes in patterns of settlement, production, and connection on Kea and in this region. Imported pottery identified by KARS suggests that Kephala and Paoura were well connected to Attica and other islands. Their network connections are also demonstrated by the imported stone used for stone tools; although the familiar imported black obsidian, probably from Melos, was most common, rarer imported mahogany obsidian and chert were also found. These identifications indicate a larger trade network than previously evidenced.

Archiving the Kea Records

ASCSA and UC Classics

The records from the excavations at Kephala and Ayia Irini are housed in two institutions: the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and the Department of Classics at the University of Cincinnati. The archivists of these collections, Drs. Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan and Jeffrey L. Kramer, respectively, have been working to make these records accessible to researchers through scanning and the creation of finding aids. All of the digital records are available from UC Classics; permission to access them should be sought from Jeff: kramerjy@ucmail.uc.edu.

Digitizing the Kea excavation records began in 2005 when Natalia generously loaned the photograph albums to UC Classics to be scanned by Jeff, then Postdoctoral Fellow. The process resumed in 2013; Natalia personally carried the field, inventory, and pottery notebooks in the ASCSA archives to a digitization service in Athens in weekly batches. The pottery notebooks in the UC Classics archives were scanned by Grant Bruner, the E. Tucker Blackburn Intern at UC Classics during the summers of 2016 and 2017.

The finding aid for the Kea records in the Personal Papers and Archives at the ASCSA is available at https://www.ascsa.edu.gr/archives/kea-excavations-catalog; the finding aid for the records in the Archives and Special Collections of UC Classics (https://classics.uc.edu/index.php/archives) is in progress.

Digitization to date

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Other categories of records at UC Classics are digitized on as needed; files can be provided or created on request: hershecr@ucmail.uc.edu.

Donations of records

The Archives and Special Collections of the Department of Classics at the University of Cincinnati has been grateful to receive donations of the Kea records and personal slide collections of Elizabeth Schofield in 2005, Ellen Davis in 2010, and Tucker Blackburn in 2018, and drawings by Rosemary Robertson in 2017-2018. In 2013 Jeffery Kaimowitz, who excavated Areas R and Q in 1967, sent scans of his personal photographs. Liz’s slide collection has been scanned and a spreadsheet of the contents is available on request. Donated items are processed and will be identifiable on the finding-aid for the UC Classics Kea excavation records. We welcome other donations of primary excavation records held by researchers and of personal photographs of the UC Classics Kea excavations.
Publications


Reviews

Schofield, Elizabeth. 2011. *Keos, Results of Excavations Conducted by the University of Cincinnati under the Auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens X. Ayia Irini: The Western Sector.*

- Reviewed by Whiteley, Todd. CR 63.2 (2013), 561-564

New Keos Publisher: INSTAP

The final excavation reports, *Keos, Results of Excavations Conducted by the University of Cincinnati under the Auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*, has a new publisher: INSTAP Academic Press; manuscripts intended for publication in that series should be written in accordance with INSTAP’s style sheet, available at [http://instapress.com/submitting-manuscripts/](http://instapress.com/submitting-manuscripts/). INSTAP will be the third publisher of the Keos series:

- ASCSA Press: Volumes I-II.
- Verlag Philipp Von Zabern: Volumes III-X.
- INSTAP Academic Press: Volume IX (forthcoming) and following.
Remembrances
Pictures from the Archives and Special Collections of UC Classics

Getzel M. Cohen
1942-2015

1982: Getzel moving restored pots into the Museum in Chora

1983: Mary and Johanna (JoJo) Eliot

Lloyd E. Cotsen
1929-2017

1965: Lloyd surveying at Kephala

1985: Ellen and Lyvia Morgan

W. Wilson Cummer
1938-2015

1986: Lloyd, Getzel, Mary, and Rosemary Robertson in Tucker’s Taverna, the kitchenette behind the apothiki

1970: Wil drawing Tomb 40

1987: Wil and Lloyd, with Whitney Powell-Cummer

1987: Miriam Caskey, Ellen, and Lloyd at the end-of-project party
Remembrances
Pictures from the Archives and Special Collections of UC Classics

Joanne E. Cutler
1962-2016

Ellen N. Davis
1937-2013

Mary Eliot
1930-2016

2010: Joanne in Koressia. Photo courtesy of Jill Hillditch

1986: Ellen on helicopter ride provided to the study season team by Lloyd

2009: Rod Fitzsimons, Tina Ross, Joanne Cutler, Natalie Abell, and Evi Gorogianni. Photo courtesy of Rod Fitzsimons

1960: Mary on the porch of the Michalianos house

1979: Malcolm, Matthew, and Liz Schofield with Lloyd

1986: Aliki Bikaki and Mary

1982: John Overbeck and Wil
Keos IX.2. Ayia Irini: Periods I-III. The Architecture
David Wilson has resumed the study begun by Mary Eliot of the architecture from the Early Bronze Age settlement at Ayia Irini. Page 1

2018: David Wilson and Peter Day at Ayia Irini
Wilson and Day returned to Kea to check the EBII pottery ware samples taken in 1997 for a program of PE and NAA analyses to investigate the provenances of much of the imported pottery from Ayia Irini Periods II and III.

Area B
Re-firing chips of sampled sherd s from Area B at the Fitch Laboratory of the BSA. Natalie Abell is preparing her 2014 UC Classics dissertation on House B for publication. Page 2

The Kea Archaeological Research Survey (KARS)
Joanne Murphy and Michael Bell (UNCG) examining slags.
An international team is recreating the 1983-84 intensive surface survey of northeast Kea to test the longevity of the results from this methodology. Page 4


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We look forward to the publications that will result from the research reported above and from other studies of material excavated by the University of Cincinnati on Kea; write to us about your progress in Kean studies in the coming years.

hershecr@ucmail.uc.edu
Phone: (513) 556-3095

News
Bibliography of the numerous publications from study of the UC excavations on Kea plus more reviews of Keos X. Page 5

Remembrances
1987: Wil Cummer and Lloyd Cotsen at Miriam Caskey's house, Otzias.
Getzel M. Cohen
Lloyd E. Cotsen
W. Wilson Cummer
Joanne E. Cutler
Ellen N. Davis
Mary Eliot

1986: Getzel Cohen in front of Tucker's Taverna Pages 6-7