

COMMUNICATIONS

Among several new joins made among the Knossos tablets in July 1965 were KN 150+7624, KN 193+7361, and KN 8031+8033. The texts which result are:

KN 150	𐀓 𐀔 𐀕 𐀖 : 𐀗 𐀘 𐀙 𐀚 𐀛
KN 193	𐀜 𐀝 𐀞 𐀟 𐀠 𐀡 𐀢 𐀣 𐀤 𐀥
KN 8031	𐀦 𐀧 𐀨 𐀩 𐀪 𐀫 𐀬 𐀭

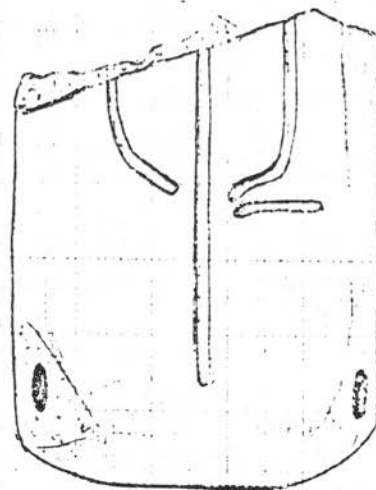
E. L. B.

A third and final season of excavations at Kastri on the southeastern coast of the island of Kythera was carried out in 1965 by the British School at Athens in association with the University of Pennsylvania Museum with G. Huxley as Director. On the promontory the excavation of a complex of houses discovered in 1964 was completed. The houses, which all belong to the Late Minoan IB period, were abandoned by the Cretan colonists during the fifteenth century B. C. Two phases of Late Minoan IB occupation were discerned. Beneath the floors of the Late Minoan IB houses stratified deposits of Late Minoan IA and earlier pottery were explored. Late Helladic IIA pottery was again found in the Late Minoan IB levels. Because the earliest wares, those lying upon virgin earth, were found to be of Middle Minoan I type, it is considered that Kastri is one of the earliest Minoan settlements to have been founded outside Crete. The first colonists may have arrived there as early as 2000 B. C. Amongst the most remarkable finds from the promontory excavations were two silver cups, a greenstone bowl, and a golden bead less than a centimetre long with four human faces exquisitely embossed upon it.

On the neck of land which lies north of Kastri one trench was excavated to a depth of more than 3 metres. Here was found a Late Minoan IB pebble floor with a fine deposit of whole pots, including a jar in the marine style; next a stone floor with Late Minoan IA sherds upon it, together with parallel walls suggesting that here was a small store-room or passage: finally, stratified under the stone floor were discovered sherds of Late Minoan IA and Middle Minoan III date. In the Middle Minoan III deposit a clay weight with a sign in Linear script A written upon it provided the first evidence of Minoan literacy at Kastri. The stratification is of great interest, since separate levels of Late Minoan IA and B pottery could be distinguished.

"Preserved length .058, width .056, thickness .048. Broken across the width. Surface worn. Gritty micaceous red clay. Pierced with 2 holes running through the thickness near the end, diameter .066. Traces here and there of a burnished surface. On one of the sides, part of a graffito, probably drawn in wet clay. MMIII context." [From the excavation record, kindly provided in Xero-graphic copy by G. L. Huxley.]

Scale = 1:1



The Seventh International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences will be held in Prague, 24-30 August, 1966.

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