COMMUNICATIONS

A first season of excavations was conducted in July and August 1967 at Myrtos on the south coast of Crete, west of Hierapetra. The excavation, directed by Dr. Peter Warren, who has sent this report, was under the auspices of the British School at Athens and was sponsored by the Cambridge Faculty of Classics.

The site is a settlement on a hill and belongs solely to Early Minoan II (c. 2600-2200 B.C.). It was destroyed by fire. About 50 rooms have been opened so far in two areas, on the summit and on the south, seaward-facing slope. In neither area is there clear evidence as yet for more than one building. The rooms are small, with stone-built and mud-brick walls, often plastered, and roofed with reeds and plaster.

The finds include a very substantial corpus of pottery, with 250 vessels catalogued so far, 3 sealstones (one unfinished), a clay sealing with impressions of two seals, two figurines of clay, one human, the other a bull's head, a complete dagger, probably of copper, a prolific stone industry with many querns and about a hundred pieces of obsidian. The clay vases range from pithoi, large store jars and large clay tubs, which may be wine presses, to smaller jugs, cups, bowls and plates. Vasilike Ware is common, as is dark on light painted ware.

Of especial interest is an incised pot-mark, on a body sherd from a large jar. The marks were made with a sharp point, probably a piece of bone or obsidian. The cross appears on a pot at Gezer (Macalister, Gezer III, Pl. CXC 1) and the two diagonal marks are paralleled at Phylakopi (Phylakopi p. 179 B 2) where they were considered as numeration. But the marks are too simple to suggest any connections.

The site is of special interest since it is, on present evidence, of one period, and because only at Vasilike (in 1904 and 1906) has a substantial Early Bronze Age settlement been exposed in Crete. Samples have been submitted for radiocarbon determinations.

Reports have appeared also in The Times, 23 October and in Eleftheros Kosmos, 5 November 1967.

Papers presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association in Boston, 28-30 December, 1967, included:
Sterling Dow, "Homeric Writing."
Frank J. Frost, "Some Underwater sites in the Peloponnesus."
L. Hugh Sackett, "Lefkandi in Euboea; The Results of Three Seasons' Excavation."
Elizabeth Milburn, "The Late Helladic IIIC Pottery from Lefkandi in Euboea."
Spyridon Marinatos, "Field Discoveries from Thera" (read by Emily Vermeule).
Jean Vorys Canby, "Who made the Tiryns Bronze?"
Joseph V. Noble, "The Technique of Egyptian Faience."
Curt W. Beck, "The Provenience of Mycenaean Amber."
Charlotte R. Long, "The Obsequies of a Prince at Aghia Triadha."
Donald A. Preziosi, "The Harmonic System of Minoan Architectural Design."
William S. Woodard, "The Later History of Grave Circle A at Mycenae."
Katherine Coleman, "Wall Paintings from Keos."


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Lejeune, Michel, Contexte et interpretation, Minos 8 (1967) 100-114.

Chadwick, John, Mycenaean pa-wo-ke, Minos 8 (1967) 115-117.


With a tentative stemma embracing: Ind. Grundsprache, Atlantolisch, Lydisch, Keilschr.-Heth., Paläisch, Lykisch, Milyisch, Luwisch, and Hierogl.-Heth.


"One is entitled to hope that the current rapid development in basic research, together with refinements in counting technique, will succeed in calibrating the 'C14 clock', and in making radiocarbon counts utilisable, by means of reliable and precise correlation coefficients, for an absolute Neolithic chronology."


Examination of a theory that Iberia in early prehistoric times was colonized by settlers from the East Mediterranean.


On conservation in museums. With a color photo comes the caption, "The statuette at left is six and a half inches high and 3,500 years old. ...[William
J. Young of the staff of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts] brought the figure to life from the bits of ivory and gold shown at right below. The Museum bought the pieces, rather optimistically, from a Greek sailor. The statue instantly became the pet of the staff who now treasure her far above her actual value, which must be priceless because she is unique. Art lovers will know she's a chryselephantine Minoan figure of the Snake Goddess, circa 1600 B.C."


... qu'il est permis de rire entre mycénologues

THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW! ©

By Shorten and Whipple

PROF. DIGGUM, THE ARCHAEOLOGIST, IS A WHIZ AT DECODING THE SCRIBBLINGS OF LONG, LONG AGO...

HERE WE HAVE AN EXAMPLE OF RUNIC TOE-WRITING: ABOUT 1200 B.C! VERY SIMPLE TO DECIPHER? LET'S START WITH THIS SQUIGGLE AT THE TOP!

BUT YOU SHOULD GET A PEEK AT HIS HANDWRITING!

THIS NOTE FROM PROF. DIGGUM LOOKS LIKE CHICKEN TRACKS!

THE CHICKEN MUSTA BEEN DRUNK!

TRY HOLDING IT UPSIDE DOWN!


courtesy of The Milwaukee Journal