Livari Skiadi

A Minoan Cemetery in Southeast Crete

I. Excavation and Finds

PREHISTORY MONOGRAPHS 50

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by

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with contributions by

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Introduction and Acknowledgments

This is the first of a two-volume final report on the excavation of the Minoan cemetery and associated finds at Livari Skiadi, near Goudouras, at the southeastern end of Crete. The cemetery was unearthed during a rescue excavation performed by the 24th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, under the direction of Chrysa Sofianou, who was at that time responsible for the antiquities of the Siteia prefecture, and with the participation of Yiannis Papadatos, together with a small group of archaeology students from the Department of History and Archaeology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The excavation lasted three consecutive summers, from 2008 until 2010, and it revealed a tholos tomb and burial rock shelter used in the Prepalatial period, a house tomb dated to the Neopalatial period, and deposits of funerary material in open areas surrounding these tombs.

The study and analysis of the material followed immediately, allowing the full publication of the remains and the associated finds to be completed within five years of the completion of the excavation, while a second volume on the organic materials (e.g., human remains, ecofacts) and the final conclusions is in preparation. The quick advance of the excavation, study, and final publication is the result of generous funding provided by several institutions, and the hard work of a large number of colleagues, students, and friends, to whom we owe much.

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We also owe much to the specialists who spent time recording and studying the finds: Tristan Carter, Katharine Hall, Eleni Nodarou, and Michel Roggenbucke, who contributed to Volume I, and Valasia Isaakidou, Evi Margaritis, Maria Roumbou, and Tatiana Theodoropoulou, who will contribute to Volume II. Special thanks go to Sevi Triantaphyllou, who had to deal with thousands of heavily fragmented bones, a painstaking task carried out with the valuable help of two postgraduate osteoarchaeology students, Natassa Kalogirou and Niki Papakonstantinou. Many thanks also go to Michel Roggenbucke for the conservation of the pottery and to Katharine Hall for the conservation of the small finds. We are indebted to Kalliope Theodoropoulou for her careful and painstaking work in drawing the pottery and the small finds, Danica Mihailović for her detailed drawings of the chipped stone tools, and Chronis Papanikolopoulos for photographing all of the finds.

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List of Abbreviations

a	angular
B	miscellaneous finds catalog number
cm	centimeter(s)
CW	coarse ware
dia.	diameter
dims.	dimensions
DBW	Dark Burnished ware
DGBW	Dark Gray Burnished ware
DOLW	Dark-on-Light Painted ware (Prepalatial)
DOL	Dark-on-Light Painted Lustrous ware (Neopalatial)
EBA	Early Bronze Age
EC	Early Cycladic
EM	Early Minoan
FGW	Fine Gray ware
FN	Final Neolithic
h.	height
ha.	hectare(s)
J	jewelry catalog number
km	kilometer(s)
L.	length
LIV	petrographic sample
LM	Late Minoan
LOD	Light-on-Dark Painted ware
m	meter(s)
M	metal artifact catalog number
max.	maximum
MM	Middle Minoan
MW	Monochrome ware
No.	number
NV	no vitrification
OBBW	Orange-Buff Burnished ware
P	pottery catalog number
PPL	plane-polarized light
pXRF	portable X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy
PW	plain ware
r	rounded
RBBW	Red-Brown Burnished ware
RBW	Red Burnished ware
R/BSW	Red/Black Slipped ware
RSBW	Red Slipped and Burnished ware
S	seal catalog number
sa	subangular
SEM	scanning electron microscopy
sr	subrounded
Str.	stratum

TCFs	textural concentration features	w.	width
th.	thickness	WODW	White-on-Dark Painted ware
Tr.	trench	wr	well rounded
V	stone vase catalog number	WW	Wiped ware
VW	Vasiliki Ware	XP	cross-polarized light