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Mycenaean Pottery from South Rhodes
A regional style

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A number of vases from south Rhodes have been assigned by Furumark to various stages of LHIIIC. They include, in particular, beaked jugs FS 148 and piri-form jars FS 38, the first shape being classed as Rhodo-Mycenaean. Other scholars have followed this dating. Since none of the vases assigned by Furumark comes from a stratified context, he dated them using stylistic criteria based on the Mainland Mycenaean pottery sequence. However, study of these vases shows that they have many Minoan elements in their decoration, elements which appeared much earlier on Crete than they did on the Mainland, that is in LMIIIA rather than LMIIIC. Furthermore, exactly the same motifs appear on another Rhodo-Mycenaean shape, the basket vase FS 319. Some of the basket vases have been found in north Rhodes at Ialysos in stratified contexts. The contexts are LHIIIA2. A comparison of the decorative elements on all these vases leads to the conclusion that all can be dated to LHIIIA2, the product of one or more south Rhodian workshops which had evolved a hybrid style mixing Minoan and Mycenaean elements.

Rhodes is well known for its basket vases, most of which come from the south Rhodian cemeteries of Vati, Asclepio and Apollakia. The vase is composed of two

NOTE 1
Dietz 96, 97, 98, Benzi 7-9.

NOTE 2
For example CVA DK 1 pl.47. For a full list see Benzi 162-64.
FIG. 1. Basket vases: 1 Ialysos T.62.1, Rhodes 12617, 2 Vati, Copenhagen 5789, 3 Vati, Copenhagen 5790.
Scale 1:3.
semi-globular bowls either joined by a cylindrical section FIG.1 giving an angular body or clamped together and joined by a plastic ridge - FIG.2; the rim is extremely short and set vertically to accommodate a semi-globular lid attached to the round basket handle by a loop of clay; the base is flat or ring and the three legs generally made up of three or four rolls of clay; a

variant has legs composed of a single strut with a curled up foot - FIG.3. The legs have a frame painted round them and bars across them; the large round handle carries similar decoration of framed bars, as does the round handle of the lid. This handle decoration of framed bars is not a Mycenaean feature, but a Minoan one found particularly on the handles of LMIII A closed shapes, such as on the stirrup jar from Ay.Pelayia - FIG.4a. The main decorative motifs used on the basket vessels are cross-hatched triangles, concentric arcs and semi-circles, while the lids usually have stacked, hatched and cross-hatched triangles, semi-circles, chevrons and millipedes. The stacked, hatched and cross-hatched triangles do not appear on the Mainland until LHIIIC Middle and Late, but they appear much earlier on Crete in LMIIIA, as, for example, the stacked triangles on the shoulder of the stirrup vase from Ayia Pelayia - FIG.4a., and in the Dodecanese. On Crete the triangle motif may well have evolved from the zigzag used initially with different filling motifs, such as the stacked V pattern on the piriform jar from Zafer Papoura -
A basket vase from Anemomili-Makeli on Karpathos has cross-hatched triangles on the lid, but adds a new motif to the repertoire, that of dot filled chequers, which are painted on the body of the vase; this is also a Minoan IIIA motif, well illustrated by the stand leg FIG.4e. The two tier decorative system on the basket vases - FIG.1.1,3 is a further Minoan characteristic, FIG.4a,c,d, in contrast to the Mycenaean fashion of a single zone of decoration. This large group of south Rhodian basket vases could not be dated by Furumark as the contexts are unknown. However, an example found in north Rhodes at Ialysos, from NT.48.12 - FIG.5, is one of several in good LHIIIA2 context. NT.62.1 - FIG.1.1 from a LHIIIA1-III2 context is identical to this vase and can also be dated to this phase. The Ialysos vases have exactly the same characteristics as the vases from south Rhodes: the angular body with short collar neck, large round handle and rolled legs; the hatched triangles of T.48.12 and T.62.1 appear on Vati 5789 - FIG.1.2 and the millipede on the lid appears on Vati 5790 - FIG.1.3; framed bars appear on the legs and handles of all three vases. The Ialysos vases would seem to be south Rhodian imports. The clay composition of T.48.12 has been analysed along with that of two other basket vases from Ialysos, T.63.2 and BM A811, but the results were not satisfactory: T.48.12 has a Rhodian composition, but the other two vases matched a Naxos/East Cretan composition. Mee suggests that there must be another Rhodian clay source; the material discussed here indicates the source should be south Rhodian. Whatever the source, the Ialysos basket vases suggest a LHIIIA2 date for the south Rhodian ones.

The group of basket vases can be extended to include beaked jugs FS 148, piri-form jars FS 35 and one or two other shapes all decorated with the same idiosyncratic motifs, particularly the accessory framed bars, and all coming from south Rhodes. The first shape is the large krater from Apollakia FIG.6.1 dated to LHIIIC Late by Furumark. It has triple rolled handles fashioned in the same manner as...
the legs of the basket vases and, like them, decorated with framed bars. It also has the same biconical body with rounded lower half, straight in-slanting upper body and plastic ridge at the joint as some of the basket vases - FIG.2. The decoration of cross-hatched triangles on the krater is the same as on the basket vases from Vati and lalysos - FIG.1. This krater can be assigned to one of the basket vase workshops and thus to a LHIIIA2 date. It has an extra feature consisting of a framed band of net flanking the decorative zone. This is another Minoan feature first seen in LMIIIA1, as exemplified by an alabastron from Palaikastro.19

The framed band of net brings several other vases into this group, such as the amphoroid krater from Apollakia - FIG.6.2, decorated with large isolated spirals; its handles also have framed bars. It is dated to LHIIIC Late by Furumark.20 A magnificent beaked jug from Yelandros has cross hatched triangles flanked by framed bands of net - FIG.7.1. It has a tall vertical spout with a hump at the base and a nipple each side of it; the handle has framed chevrons giving the effect of a fish spine. Its fabric and decoration suggest it comes from the same workshop as the krater - FIG.6.1. A jug of similar shape comes from Apollakia - FIG.7.2. It lacks the bands of net, but the fish spine handle decoration is repeated on the shoulder under the handle and on the body with a multiple zigzag above it. The piriform jar - FIG.7.3 has similar multiple zigzag set above a framed band of net with a narrower band at the base of the neck; the handle is decorated with framed bars; the rim is also barred. It is dated to LHIIIC Late by Furumark.21 A stand decorated with cross-hatched triangles - FIG.7.4, should also belong to the group. It has a plastic ridge halfway up it similar to that of the krater - FIG.6.1; the ridge may be merely cosmetic or it may indicate that the vase was made in two halves and then joined together. It is dated to LHIIIC Late by Furumark.22 Other vases which can be assigned to the group include a fragmentary piriform jar from Serraglio on Kos decorated with rows of cross hatched triangles as the basket vase - FIG.1.23 and a similar vase from Anemomili-Makeli on Karpathos.24 A piriform jar from the Langada cemetery on Kos - FIG.8 has framed bands of net, a barred rim and a nipple at the handle base in the manner of that on the beaked jug spouts. The wide belly band framed by narrow one is also found on the amphoroid krater - FIG.6.2; the triangles with solid fill are an addition to the repertoire of south Rhodian motifs. This piriform jar comes from a LHIIIA2 context.25

A number of vases decorated with other geometric motifs can be added to the group. The beaked jug - FIG.9.1 has the same handle decoration of framed bars as the other vases in this group or as the basket vase legs. Two bands round the base of the neck sweep down to the handle base. This is another Minoan feature found on jugs26 and stirrup jars - FIG.4.a,b. The body banding is unusual in having a single fat band set amidst zones of narrow bands. The main decoration consists of a zone of horizontal chevrons meeting under the spout to frame a filling ornament of blobs.

NOTE 19
Bosanquet and Dawkins 1923, 79 fig.63.

NOTE 20
MP 593 FS 57.1.

NOTE 21
MP 590 FS 38.5.

NOTE 22
MP 643 FS 336.4.

NOTE 23
ASAtene 50-51 (1972-73), 287, fig.253. A flask decorated with running spiral also has a framed band of net across it Ibid 295, fig.263, but the shape is an Anatolian one and is unlikely to have come from the Rhodes workshop.

NOTE 24
Melas 1985, pl.68,58.

NOTE 25
ASAtene 43-44 (1965-66), 228-32. No bones were found in the tomb, but all the remaining vases are LHIIIA2. Morricone suggests this vase belongs to a locally produced group (Ibid 296).

NOTE 26
See a Minoan jug from Karpathos ADelt 33A (1978), pl.73 P6852 and 280, fig.14.
FIG. 6. Kraters: 1 Apollakia, Copenhagen 5599, 2
Rhodes, Copenhagen 6436.
Scale 1:3.
FIG. 7. Beaked jug: 1 Yelandoûs, Ashmolean AE 1172, 2 Apollakia, Copenhagen 5568; piriform jar: 3 Rhodes, Copenhagen 6430; stand: 4 Apollakia, Copenhagen 5600. Scale 1:6.
A beaked jug whose decoration is a replica of that on this vase comes from Apollakia. Similar decoration appears on the askos from Vati FIG.9.3, but the handle has a wavy line down it rather than bars and the blob filling decoration is in the centre of each side below the handle base. This vase is dated to LHIIIIC by Furu-mark. A large carinated bowl with two horizontal handles on the rim from Passia - FIG.10, also has a zone of horizontal chevrons; below each handle is a stacked triangle, groups of four bands run down the body and the handles are decorated with framed bars. The vase seems to be a local east Mycenaean shape; other examples come from Astypalaia. The beaked jug - FIG.9.2, has similar body banding to - FIG.9.1, but stacked triangles on the shoulder and antithetic rock pattern down the handle, both Minoan motifs - FIG.4a,c. The stacked triangle is another motif which does not appear on the Mainland until later LHIIIIC. The antithetic placing of the rock pattern is a Minoan rendering of the motif; Mycenaean pendent rock pattern is always painted in a single zone. Both - FIG.9.1 and - 9.2 have a very small base in proportion to the height and wide body of the vase. The beaked jug - FIG.11.1, has the Minoan two tier decorative system: stacked triangles are painted above a zone of concentric arcs; there is a nipple each side of the spout and at the handle base. The piriform jar from Asclpio - FIG.11.2, also has stacked triangles. A beaked jug with a slight cutaway neck from Ialyssos T.23.7 has hatched triangles above zones of zigzag and is surely an import from south Rhodes; it is in a LHIIIA2 context. Other beaked jugs have similar geo-
FIG. 9. Beaked jug: 1 Rhodes, Copenhagen 6425, 2 Rhodes, Copenhagen 6424; askos: 3 Vati, Copenhagen 5768. Scale 1:3.
metric decoration with barred handles and body banding close to — FIG. 9, 1, 2; shoulder decoration includes horizontal chevrons with U pattern below the spout on a vase from Apollakia\(^{34}\) and vertical zigzag with stacked triangle below the spout on a vase from Passia — FIG. 12;\(^ {35}\) the latter has a LHIIIA2 flower tucked in by the handle, a solidly filled triangle on the neck and a band running down from the neck to encircle the handle base in the Minoan fashion. A piriform jar from Passia — FIG. 13 and a beaked jug from Lachania\(^ {36}\) have the same vertical zigzag, while a beaked jug from Lardhos has groups of vertical zigzag in two zones.\(^ {37}\) Both these beaked jugs have framed bars down the handle and body banding, where extant, similar to that of the Passia vases — FIGS. 12, 13. The multiple vertical zigzag is a Minoan motif.\(^ {38}\) A horizontal version can be seen on a basket vase from Apollakia — FIG. 3.\(^ {39}\) The Minoan rendering of this version is shown on the shoulder of the stirrup jar — FIG. 4b.\(^ {40}\) The earliest representation of this motif listed by Furumark dates to LHIIIC.\(^ {41}\) A small piriform jar from Apollakia — FIG. 11.3 with groups of horizontal chevrons classed as the LHIIIIC Early, FS
FIG. 11. Beaked jug: 1 Apollakia, Copenhagen 5567; piriform jar: 2 Asclepio, Copenhagen 6491, 3 Apollakia, Copenhagen 5588. Scale 1:3.
NOTE 42
MP, 592.

NOTE 43
BSA 58 (1963), pl.24d.

NOTE 44
MDP figs.80,81.

NOTE 45
CVA DK 1 pl.47.4. Other basket vases with concentric arcs from Ialysos are illustrated Benzi pl.55 T.31.24, pl.80 T.51.14. They appear to be south Rhodian imports.

NOTE 46
CVA DK 1 pl.41,6.

NOTE 47
CVA Italy 10 Rhodes 2 pl.8.3, no provenance.

NOTE 48
For FS 148 see OpArch 3 (1944) 209 fn.4, 220 fn.3.

NOTE 49
Mandrako, Mee 1982, 54 and Asclepio, Mee 1982, 72 can now be dated to LHIIIA2; at Apollakia Ibid 64-5 only 4 of the 15 vases listed as LHIIIC now belong to that phase: piriform jar CVA DK 1 pl.41.3 and 43.2, amphoriskos CVA DK 1 pl.43.10, cup CVA DK 2 pl.53.2; at Vati 10 of the 14 vases listed are LHIIIIC; CVA DK 2 Mee 1982, 70-71: piriform jar CVA DK 1 pl.41.2,4, 43.1, belly-handled amphora CVA DK 1 pl.43.8.9, jug CVA DK 1 pl.44.2, flask CVA DK 1 pl.48.1, ring vase CVA DK 1 pl.46.9, stirrup jar CVA DK 2 pl.60.11 and a kylix in the Caravella Collection, Mee 1982, 71.

NOTE 50

49 by Furumark is a mixture of Minoan and Mycenaen forms. It has a Mycenaean torus base, but the thickened rim, slight neck ridge and protruding ear-like handles correspond to the small Minoan IIIA piriform jar - FIG.4d rather than to the more elegant Mycenaean one. Finally to the basket vase decorated with concentric arcs - FIG.2 can be added a second with framed barred handle and single strut legs with rolled up foot; a piriform jar from Apollakia and a beaked jug have similar concentric arcs, the latter with the neck band sweeping down to the handle base in the Minoan manner.

All of these vases with geometric motifs have been dated to different stages of LHIIIC by Furumark. Furumark was misled by the geometric motifs, especially the stacked, cross-hatched and solid triangles which are a late feature on the Mainland. As has been shown all these motifs together with the accessorail motifs come from the Minoan repertoire where the motifs appear much earlier than on the Mainland. The south Rhodian workshops combined the Mycenaean and Minoan motifs and shapes to produce their own local versions. All these hybrid vases should now be dated to LHIIIA2, part of a large group from several south Rhodian workshops. The production and export of these vases to Kos and Karpathos as well as to the north of the island suggests that in LHIIIA2 flourishing settlements were to be found in South Rhodes equally receptive of Minoan and Mycenaean influence. Moreover, two of the south Rhodian sites dated to LHIIIIC solely on the presence of pottery belonging to this group must now be redated to LHIIIA2, while at others the amount of pottery dated to LHIIIIC can be halved, suggesting an even greater presence in LHIIIA2 and an even more extensive desertion of south Rhodes in LHIIIIC than has been supposed.
Catalogue of South Rhodian vases

The first colour always refers to clay

FIG. 1.1

FIG. 1.2

FIG. 1.3

FIG. 6.1

FIG. 6.2

FIG. 7.1

FIG. 7.2
Beaked jug FS 148.3. Apollakia Copenhagen 5568. Deep warm buff with grits and small round mica; buff slip, orange-brown to dark brown paint. D.base 10.7, D.max.22.6, H.30.2, FM 60, zigzag, FM 58.30, chevrons on shoulder and down handle. CVA DK 1 pi.45.2.

FIG. 7.3
Piriform jar FS 38.5. Rhodes Copenhagen 6430. Core not visible, buff slip with grits on surface, matt orange-brown to shaded-brown paint. D.rim 11.8, D.base 10.2, D.max.27.7, H.33-33.5. FM 61, zigzag flanked by zone of FM 57, net. CVA DK 1 pi.42.4.

FIG. 7.4

FIG. 8

FIG. 9.1
Beaked jug FS 148.5. Rhodes Copenhagen 6425. Buff; buff slip, red to shaded-brown paint. D.base 6.4, D.max.26.9, H.ex.35.4. FM 58, chevrons. CVA DK 1 pl.44.4.

FIG. 9.2
Beaked jug FS 148.4. Rhodes Copenhagen 6424. Core not visible, warm buff slip with small round mica flecks on surface, orange-brown paint. D.base 6.5, D.max.27, H.31.2. FM 61a, stacked triangle with fill of semi-circles, rock pattern down handle. CVA DK 1 pl.44.3.

FIG. 9.3

FIG. 11.1

FIG. 11.2
Piriform jar FS 35.32. Ascelpio Copenhagen 6491. Buff with small round mica flecks; thick yellow slip burnished, brown-orange paint. D.base 11, D.max.26.8, H.33.5. FM 61a, stacked triangles with FM 44, concentric arcs. CVA DK 1 pi.42.5.

FIG. 11.3
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Abbreviations other than those cited from the Bibliography:

Benzi

CVA DK 1
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CVA DK 2
Blinkenberg, C. & Friis Johansen, K. 1926
CVA Danemark Fasc.2 - Copenhagen: Musée National Fasc.2. Copenhagen.

Dietz

Kanta

MDP

MP
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