

Fig. 1. General plan of the site after the 2013 excavation (crosses indicate 10 m squares).

The Greek-Swedish-Danish Excavations 2014

A preliminary report

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From August 4 until September 30, 2014, excavations were conducted in three large trenches in Parodos Kanevaro and one trench within the Ag. Aikaterini Square, while a minor restoration was also carried out in the old excavations (Fig. 1).¹

Results of the excavation

As in the 2013 excavation, a layer of gravel of varying thicknesses was reached immediately below the modern road. Of the post-Antique architectural remains, in the southern part we excavated the eastern wall of the Southeastern building from the Venetian period.² Stratified above the wall of the Venetian period we found an Ottoman building measuring 12.4 x 6.2 m, which had its western wall in common with the Gazoseria previously excavated.³ The finds of many small coins and broken Turkish pipes indicate the presence of a Turkish coffee house in this building. In the northern part, inside the Ag. Aikaterini Square, part of the aisle wall of the Early Christian basilica and the later Venetian cathedral was laid free, and a child's burial was recorded within the church. In this part of the excavation it was also observed that during the Turkish period, when the cathedral became a mosque, a heavy



Fig. 2. Sherd from Geometric krater.

foundation wall measuring roughly 2 x 2 x 2 m had been constructed, the purpose of which remains enigmatic.

From the remaining post-Minoan times, the Byzantine, Roman, Hellenistic, Classical and Archaic periods were represented by stray finds, mostly in the form of roof tiles and amphorae. The Geometric period was richly represented in large pits containing some interesting pottery (Fig. 2). Within the area of Room B (see Fig. 3), a heavy deposit of the period was located, and from this came an exciting find: the fragment of a Linear A tablet with two new ligatures not previously seen in the corpus of Linear A (Fig. 4). However, no structures of the period were recorded.

1 The excavation took place under the general direction of Dr. Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki with Dr. Ann-Louise Schallin and Dr. Erik Hallager as co-directors. The on-site work was directed by Dr. Erik Hallager, assisted from the Greek side by Anastasia Ntini, and from the Scandinavian team by Dr. Tomas Alusik, Robin Rönnlund, Naja Werther and architect Ann Pedersen. Eftikia Protopadaki represented the ephorate and the Kastelli Project. The artefact studies were directed by Birgitta Hallager assisted by Stella Petrakis. Water sieving and investigation of the material was directed by Dr. Anaya Sarpaki. We are extremely grateful to the following institutions for their financial support, without which the excavation would not have been possible: The Institute for Aegean Prehistory, Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien and Herbert och Karin Jacobssons Stiftelse.

2 GSE I, 140-2.

3 GSE I, 86-94.

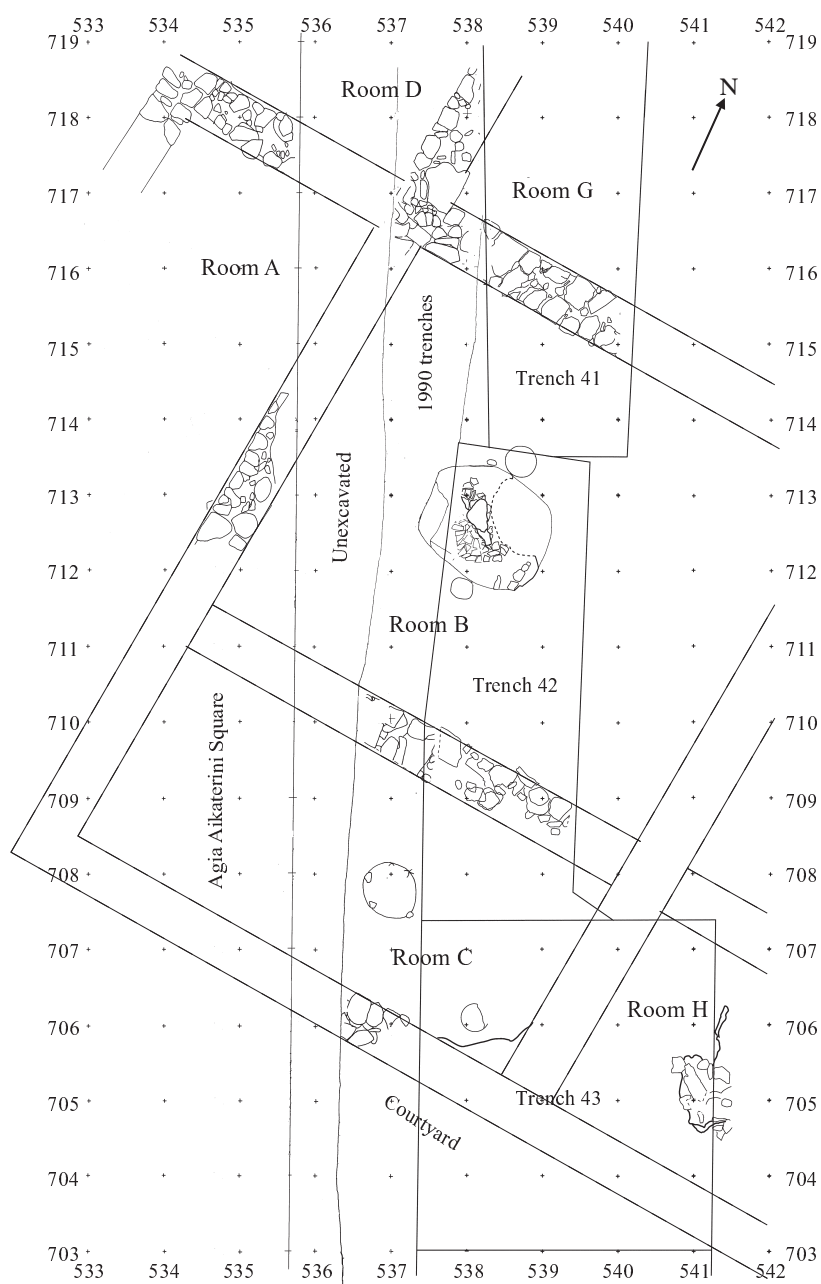


Fig. 3. Plan of the LM III C period with a conjectural reconstruction of the different rooms; the hearth in Room B is the later hearth/oven. Scale 1:50.

LM III C

The LM III C period provided interesting results (Fig. 3). Parts of two, or perhaps three rooms/spaces were excavated. The northernmost, Space B, had also been excavated in 1990 and 2005.⁴ It was a space measuring 5.2 by at least 5.3 m. Within the space, five floor levels were

observed and connected to these were two hearth/ovens, presumably placed in the centre of the space. The later one was constructed on top of the collapsed earlier one. It was built as a typical hearth of the period on a bedding of broken potsherds, covered with clayish earth and

⁴ The results will be presented in *GSE Supplementum*, forthcoming.



Fig. 4. Fragment of a Linear A tablet with remains from four lines; the last signs in both line 1 and line 2 are new signs in the corpus of Linear A. Scale 1:1.

finally given a plastered surface. It measured 1.60 x 1.40 m. Over this hearth was built a vault of broken pithos sherds, probably plastered in *kouskouras* (Fig. 5), thus functioning as an oven. The original oven, placed exactly below the latter hearth/oven, belonged with the earliest LM IIIC floors and was of a very different nature. An oval groove was dug c. 0.25 m into the floor and coated with a clay lining covered with a very thin layer of plaster. The oven was built up in clay and as far as the remains indicate, it had a combustion chamber below. The floor of the oven was also constructed in clay and it appears to have had a hole with a diameter of c. 0.15 m at the centre. Over this floor, a shallow dome was constructed. North and south of the hearth/oven(s), two column bases (?) were noted. They were of different sizes, but their centres were in both cases 1.80 m from the walls, and they probably functioned as bases for a wooden support. On the floors of Space B were found several stone tools, many pieces of obsidian and a piece of lead; in a small pit between the floors an exquisite bead was recorded (Fig. 6). South of Space B was identified another room/Space C. However, only fragments of the northern and southern walls were preserved, indicating a width of 2.80 m. All other architecture in this space had been destroyed



Fig. 5. Sherds from several broken pithoi found above the upper hearth in Room B; facing south.



Fig. 6. Pierced faience bead.

by later activities. We do, however, believe for several reasons that it was divided into two compartments. In 1990 a small circular hearth was found in Space C,⁵ while in 2014 an oven was found in the eastern part. These two

5 Hallager & Tzedakis 1988, 45 and fig. 24.



Fig. 7. The LM IIIC oven in Space H; facing southeast.



Fig. 8. Lower left corner of a linear A tablet with remains of three signs. Scale 1:1.



284 Fig. 9. Worn pestle.



Fig. 10. Rather unique terracotta object.

fireplaces probably belonged to separate rooms and if the conjecturally reconstructed eastern wall of Space B was prolonged southwards, one would have a natural dividing line between the two spaces – now baptized C and H. Two LM IIIC floor levels were recognized in both spaces. Close to the conjectural south corner of Space C a large jar had been partly sunk into the floor, on which a few stone tools and pieces of bronze were recorded. Space H also revealed two floor levels into which an oven had been constructed. This oven was built from stones covered with *kouskouras*, and an almost spherical stone closed the hole through which the heat would have reached the cooking pots (Fig. 7). Large fragments of a cooking pot were found inside the oven.

Concerning the LM IIIC period in general, it should be noted that when Space B was constructed the underlying LM IIIB:2 deposits had been cleared away – exactly as was noted in Space G in the 2013 excavation.⁶ Great effort had been made to construct this LM IIIC area, apparently for industrial activities.

LM IIIB:2

The LM IIIB:2 was poorly represented in terms of architecture and floor deposits. Although it is possible to reconstruct the outline of Rooms I (situated above Room D of

⁶ Cf. this volume p. 258.



Fig. 11. Fragment of an animal figurine en face.

the LM IIIB:1 period, cf. Fig. 1) and B, no floors were found there since they had been dug out in connection with the constructions in the LM IIIC period. A few small pits and deposits were recorded within those two rooms, however, and in the lower floors of LM IIIC, Space C, some good deposits with LM IIIB:2 pottery were observed. Further south in the Courtyard Area, two floor levels (44-Floor 5 and 7) with a few deposits were recorded. According to the levels, it is clear that the LM IIIB:2 courtyard sloped towards the southeast.⁷ In one small deposit below Floor 7, a small fragment of a Linear A tablet was discovered (Fig. 8). In Trench 45 inside the Ag. Aikaterini Square, three floor levels were recorded on the northern side of the LM IIIB:1 wall (38-Wall 4), indicating that this wall was reused in the IIIB:2 period. This was probably a prolongation of the open area in the north recognized in 2013.⁸ The major finds of the period, however, came from pits. The largest was 44-Pit F, located in the very southwestern corner of the excavated area. It produced 89 kg of pottery and may perhaps be connected to the large 20-Pit B.⁹ Pit F contained surprisingly few small finds, among which is the larger part of a horn, a fine stone tool (Fig. 9), a KS-whorl and a small fragment of a stone vase. The northern Trench 45 also revealed a few productive pits with much pottery but almost without small finds, the only interesting one being a terracotta grinder (?) (Fig. 10).

Fig. 12. The hour-shaped unique vessel/stand.

LM IIIB:1

Inside the Ag. Aikaterini Square, in Trench 45, we expected to find in the north corner of Room H a thick layer of LM IIIB:1 debris, as we did during the excavations in 2010.¹⁰ Most of the area was disturbed, however, by a Turkish foundation wall (cf. above) – but in the eastern part a small area was left undisturbed, and it fulfilled our expectations. The Turkish structure had almost completely destroyed the northwestern wall (38-Wall 4), while the outer foundation, set against a thick MM III/LM I rubbish deposit, was recognized below the LM IIIB:2 reuse of the wall. It was thus possible to reconstruct the northern corner of Building 2 and also to observe that it was set deep into deposits of the Neopalatial period.

In the southern part, the LM IIIB:1 period was richly represented. In Room D, where a painted pithos was discovered in 2013,¹¹ four floor levels were recorded at a c. 0.20 m depth. The room appeared in its original construction to be L-shaped. In connection with the floors excavated here 15 grinders, one whetstone and the head of an animal figurine (Fig. 11) were recorded. In the same deposit as the figurine, a unique cylinder-shaped vessel was recorded (Fig. 12). Most of the finds in this room were clustered

7 LM IIIB:2 courtyard, cf. GSE III, 86-90.

8 Cf. this volume p. 267-268.

9 GSE III, 114.

10 Hallager, Tzedakis & Andreadaki-Vlazaki 2014, 213.

11 Cf. this volume, p. 272.



Fig. 13. LM IIIB:1 lid from Room C; the handle on top was missing.

close to the mouth of the pithos, inside which 18 grinders and 4 more or less complete vases had been stored.¹² Room B, where three floors were recorded, did not reveal any significant finds. Room C, however, revealed two floor deposits with some pottery in situ. The southern wall of the room was the southern outer wall of Building 2, constructed at an odd angle compared to the remaining part of the building. In connection with Room C, we had also expected to find an eastern wall, but due to the activities of the Venetian, Turkish and Modern periods, no traces

of such a wall could be recognized. This means that we have, as yet, no indication of the eastern (or southeastern) limit of Building 2. Upon the upper floor of the room, four footed cups, one decorated lid (Fig. 13), a handleless cup and some pithos fragments were recorded. Upon the lower floor, two footed cups and the lower third of a broken pithos were recorded. The room might perhaps have functioned as a small storeroom. Except for a few pieces of obsidian, no further finds were observed on the floors.

South of Room C, in the Courtyard Area outside Building 2, a complete pithos was found. It was sunk into the LM I/LM IIIA:2 deposits with roughly half the pithos visible above the floor level (Fig. 14). The pithos was discovered while excavating a large Turkish/Venetian pit, and the content of this pit was found in the upper 0.58 m of the pithos, below which only Minoan soil was found. In this deposit a complete LM IIIB:1 jar (Fig. 15), the major part of a plain, stemless kylix, many bones including the horn of a goat, plaster fragments, a loom weight and pieces of mother of pearl were recorded. Around the pithos, a built structure was noted, the extension and nature of which remain uncertain due to later activities. The pithos is now exhibited in



Fig. 14. Complete pithos set in an LM III B:1 floor of the Courtyard south of Building 2.



Fig. 15. Near-complete jar found inside pithos.

the Archaeological Museum (Fig. 16). From the Courtyard Area south of Room C, three floor levels were noted at a slightly lower level than seen further west,¹³ thus displaying the same pattern as noted in the LM IIIB:2 period. On these floors only a few stone tools were recorded.

LM IIIA:1/LM II

Activities of the LM II and LM IIIA:1 periods were noted in all trenches except the one inside the Agia Aikaterini Square. In Trenches 42 and 43, a clear rehabilitation in the LM I House III was observed. In some cases, the LM I debris had been cleaned down to the floor surfaces of the LM I period, while in other instances parts of the LM I floors had been destroyed. A few new floors were laid during the period. Among the very few finds from these deposits can be mentioned a game marker (TC 048). In the large square south of House III, the situation was very similar to that observed in earlier excavations in that several new floors had been constructed upon the LM IB destruction debris.¹⁴ One construction which most likely belonged to this period was the fragment of a very large oven recorded in the very southeastern part of the excavated area (Fig. 17). It was constructed on a thick bedding of *kouskouras* and it had an 'air duct' leading from the north into the back part of the oven.



Fig. 16. Restored pithos exhibited in the Museum during the 2014 season.

LM I

The LM I period gave important new information about House III and the large square surrounded by Houses I, II and III. The south corner of House III and an entrance to this house were discovered (Fig. 18). The corner block measured 0.80 x 0.40 m and the entrance was situated in the southern part of the southeastern wall, next to the corner block. It consisted of a huge threshold (partly covered by LM IIIB:1 walls), probably measuring 1.20 x 0.80 m. The centre of the threshold was nicely worn. Inside, very close to the south corner, the arrangement for the pivot hole was found, revealing that the door would have opened inwards. The floor of the room was even, very well-constructed and plastered, with larger sand grains included. The entrance room measured 2.75 in width and was at least 7 m long. The walls had a lining of *kouskouras* which had probably also been covered with plaster. Up against the southeastern wall (42-Wall 7), a door with two typical Γ-shaped door bases led into Room B, which was probably a rather nar-

¹³ LM IIIB:1 and LM IIIA:2 floors in the courtyard. cf. *GSE* 4, 157-69 and 238-41.

¹⁴ See *GSE* V, 97-108, 183-187.

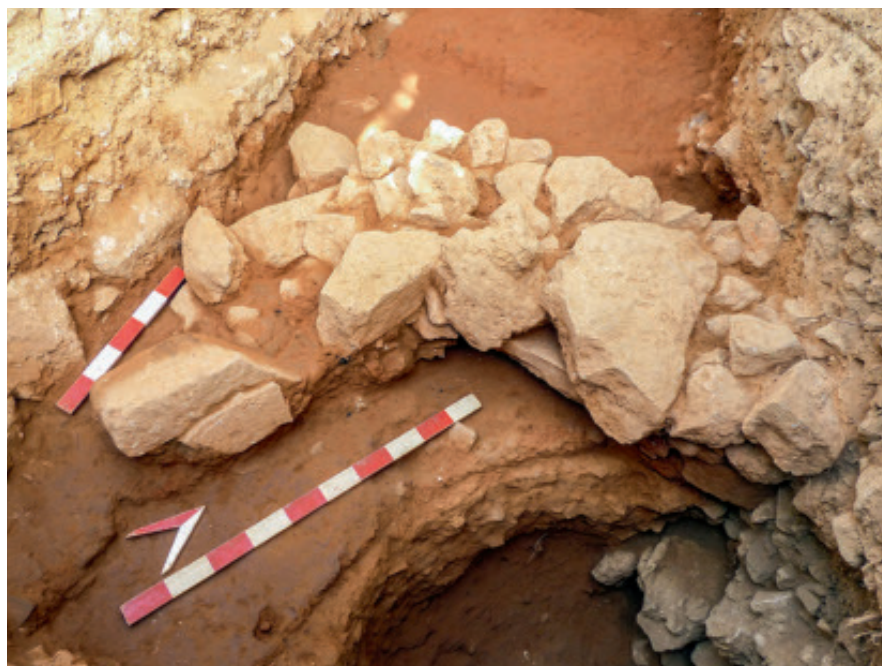


Fig. 17. Remains of a large oven or kiln from the LM II/III A:1 period.

row room with a width of 1.75 m and an unknown length. No finds of the LM I period were made since both rooms had been cleaned of destruction debris and reused during the LM II and LM III A:1 period (cf. above).

Outside the entrance, 0.10 m below the level of the threshold, a pavement in good limestone was recorded (Fig. 19). The second row of slabs was found at a 0.04 m lower level, while the beginning of a third row was at a 0.18 m lower level than the first. This shows that the pavement of the courtyard sloped towards the south, which fits very well with the fact that the paved part of the square excavated 11 m further south was found at a 0.77 m lower level.¹⁵ The deeper part of the paved square was covered with a few earthen floors during the LM I period, which were again covered with floors and deposits in the LM II and LM III A:1 periods (cf. above). This is also the reason why there were no finds of the LM I period in situ. In the destruction debris, a large ashlar block was recorded around 538/701.5. In previous excavations four worked ashlar blocks were found scattered in the Square outside House I, Room Q, while another was recorded in the Square around 536.5/699.5. The purpose of these scattered

ashlar blocks and a fallen pithos¹⁶ in the Square has not yet been satisfactorily explained.

In the northern part inside the Ag. Aikaterini Square, in Trench 45, a heavy levelling deposit of the LM I/MM III period was excavated. This deposit started outside the LM III B:1 Building 2 at a level more than 0.50 m above the LM III B:1 floor inside the building. Clearly this deposit had been levelled away in connection with the construction of Building 2. Below, or rather in the levelling deposit outside the building and below the LM III B:1 floor, a wall-like structure came to light. It consisted of larger stones facing southeast and smaller fist-size stones in a rather loose soil on the northwestern side. The direction of this wall (?) diverges slightly from the two neighbouring LM I houses, Houses III and V (Fig. 20). Until further investigations can be carried out, the function of the wall remains uncertain. What was interesting, however, was the discovery up against it on its southeastern side of a child burial. The infant had been buried in a small earthen pit and covered by three small stone slabs (Fig. 21).¹⁷ There were no grave goods so the grave can only be dated to MM III/LM I or earlier.

¹⁵ For this slabbed floor, cf. Hallager & Tzedakis 1988, 22.

¹⁶ Andreadaki-Vlazaki & Hallager 2014, 202 and fig. 14.

¹⁷ Cf. McGeorge, this volume.

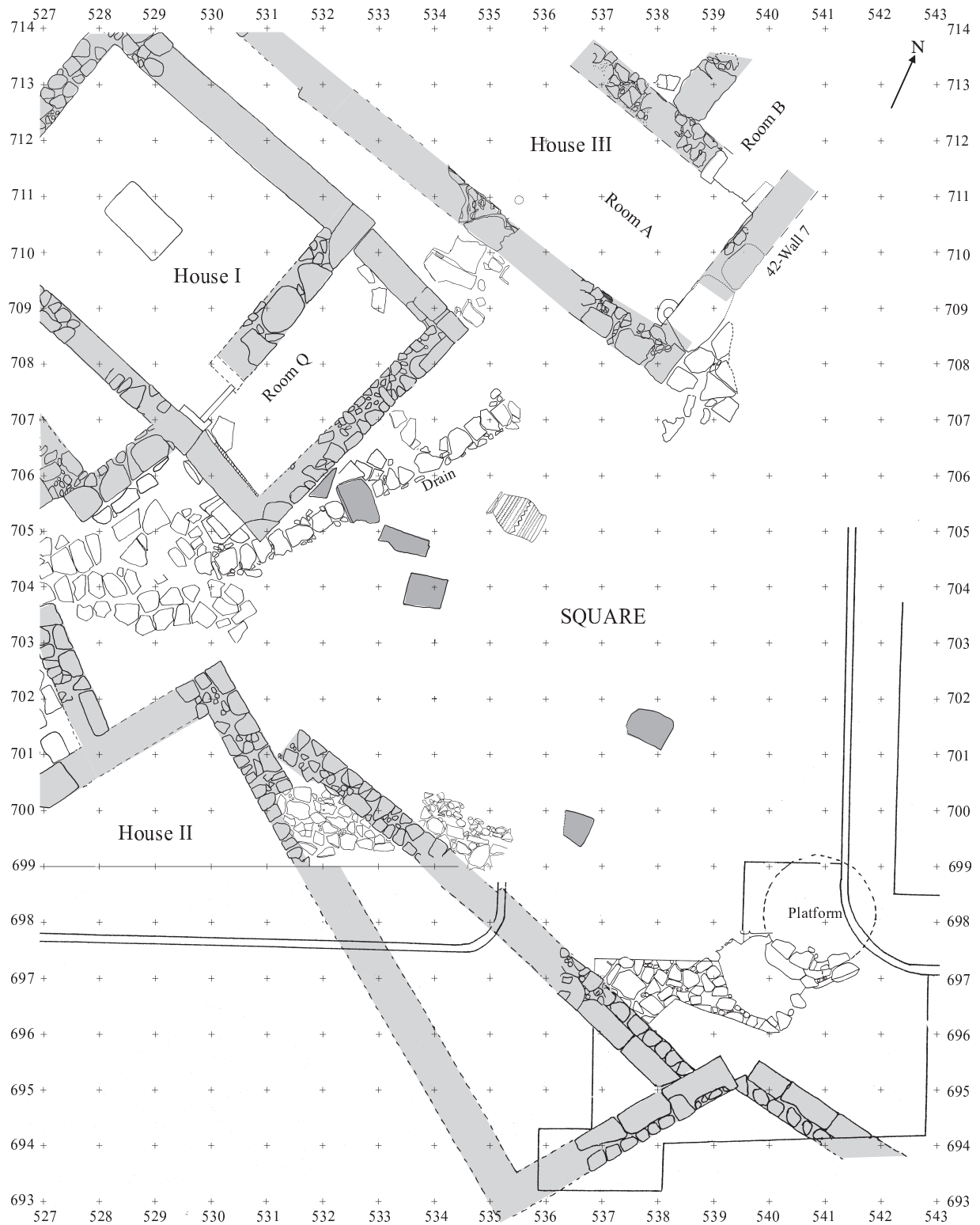


Fig. 18. Plan of the LM I Square surrounded by Houses I, II and III; the dark shaded stones are the scattered ashlar blocks. The crosses indicate 1 m squares.



Fig. 19. South corner of House III. Behind the slab stones of the courtyard the impressive threshold is partly covered by LM II and LM III walls. Facing northwest.

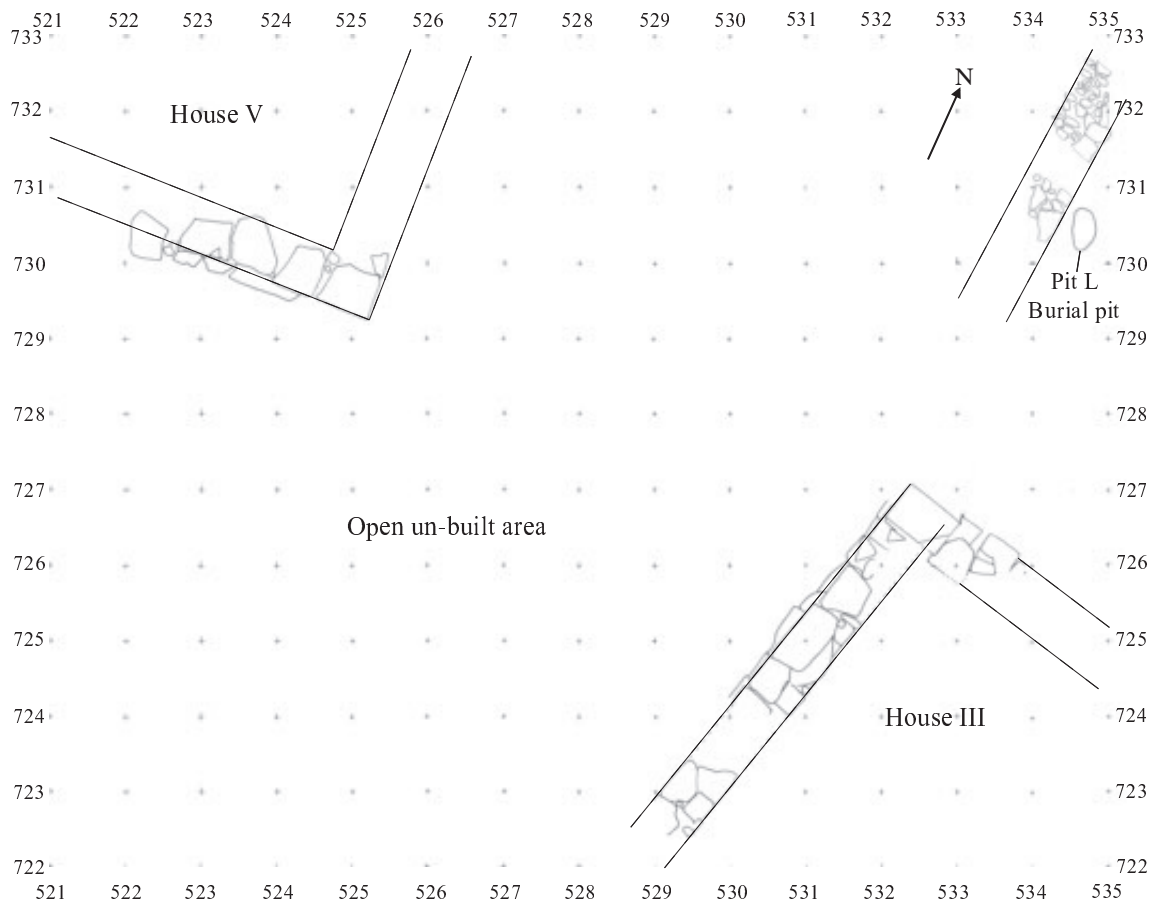


Fig. 20. Plan of the north corner of House III and the south corner of House V, as well as the wall-like structure behind which the child burial was discovered in Pit L. Scale 1:100.



Fig. 21. Position of the child burial. On the left side the wall-like structure, and to the right of that three (not well-cleaned) stone slabs which covered Pit L. Seen from above; north up.

Summary

The major aim of the 2014 excavation in the modern road Parodos Kanevaro was to investigate Building 2 of the LM IIIA:2/IIIB:1 period and the courtyard south of this building, as far as the modern habitation permitted. Concerning the architecture, our work confirmed that the north corner of the building existed as we had reconstructed it, and our theory that part of the LM I deposits had been dug away to construct the building was also confirmed. We discovered the southern outer wall of the building and saw that it had changed direction compared to the remaining part of the building. Towards the southeast no perimeter wall was found, which means that our earlier statement that the building covered an area of at least 350 m² still holds true. Inside the building we now have a clearer understanding of Rooms B (completely excavated), C and D. The courtyard provided the surprising find of a complete, sunken pithos, probably placed in a small shed. In addition to this we now have a much better understanding of the LM I House III, with the discovery of its southern corner and its entrance, and of the large LM I square surrounded by the town houses. The LM II/IIIA:1 periods revealed a pattern similar to the earlier excavations, with the only difference being that a very large oven was constructed in an open area in this period. The LM IIIB:2 period was relatively poorly represented, while the LM IIIC period with its ovens added important new

evidence. The post-Minoan periods yielded new evidence of the Venetian, Turkish and Modern periods. Concerning single finds, two were outstanding: the fragment of a Linear A tablet with two new signs in the corpus of Linear A, and a cylinder-shaped vessel which to our knowledge has no parallels in the Minoan pottery repertoire.

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Abbreviations

GSE: *The Greek–Swedish Excavations at the Agia Aikaterini Square Kastelli, Khania 1970–1987* (Skrifter utgivna av Svenska Institutet i Athen, 4°, XLVII:), E. Hallager & B.P. Hallager (eds).

Vol. I. *From the Geometric to the Modern Greek Period*, Stockholm 1997.

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