

EXCAVATIONS AT MOCHLOS, 1990–1991

(PLATES 89–107)

THE joint Greek-American excavations at Mochlos, which were begun in 1989, continued during the summers of 1990 and 1991.¹ Work again focused on the island of Mochlos, where the excavation has now uncovered stratified architectural evidence for seven different periods of occupation, ranging from the Early Minoan (EM) IB phase of the Prepalatial period to the Late Byzantine period of the 13th century after Christ. At the same time, the excavation also began work on three sites located across from the island on the adjacent coastal plain, all of which were identified in an earlier survey of the plain² and thought to

¹ The excavation is being carried out as a joint project under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens in cooperation with the Greek Archaeological Service. Financial support was again provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (Grant No. RO-219232-89, awarded for 1989–1992), the Institute for Aegean Prehistory, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), and private donors.

The staff consisted of the directors: Professor Julie Hansen, Boston University, who continued to supervise the project's water-sieving system in 1990 with the help of Maureen Smyth, a student from Boston University; Dr. Anaya Sarpaki, University of Crete, who took over supervision of the project's palaeoethnobotany in 1991 with the aid of Maria Droungaki, a student from the University of Crete; Helen Kingsley, conservator in 1990; Christine Del Re, Field Museum of Natural History, and Carola Bohm, Tekniska Institutionen Riksantikvarieämbetet, Stockholm, conservators in 1991 with the aid of Giota Guioni, a student from the University of Athens; Susan Springer, Metropolitan Museum of Art, the main registrar, assisted in 1991 by Eleanor Huffman, a student from UNCG; Margaret Reid, Guilford Technical Community College, the project's artist; Douglas Faulmann, UNCG, architect in 1990, and Peter Alexander, Wake Forest University, architect in 1991; Professor Robert Gerhart, UNCG, photographer in 1990 with the aid of Chris Drozdowski, a student from UNCG; and Michael Traister, photographer in 1991, Paige Vinson, pot-washing supervisor and pottery analyst in 1991, and David Snipes, who set up the project's computer data base in 1990, all students from UNCG. Scholars who spent a shorter amount of time with the excavation included Dr. Mary Ellen Soles, North Carolina Museum of Art, cataloguer; Helène Whittaker, University of Toronto, who undertook a study of the stone tools; Dr. David Reese, Field Museum of Natural History, who is responsible for the study of the site's animal bones and shells; and Anne Blasingham, American School of Classical Studies, who visited the site in 1991 to reorganize the apotheke and begin a study of lamps from the excavation.

Trench supervisors included Tom Brogan, Brian Shelburne, Aleydis Van de Moortel, and John Marszal (1991), all from Bryn Mawr College; Evi Sikla, University of Athens; Hara Thliveri, London University; Peter Wahlstrom (1990), University of Minnesota; Olga Kalentzidou (1991), Indiana University; Stuart Evans (1991), Alex Inglis (1991), Harvard University; and Angus Smith (1991), Dartmouth College. In 1991 Tom Brogan was promoted to the position of assistant field director.

Other students and volunteers who participated in 1990 included Claudia Honeywell and Stephanie Larson, both from the University of Minnesota; Stephen Mihm, Haverford College; Susan Allen, Mary Bemis, and Dayton Joline, all from UNCG; and in 1991 Robert Lawrence and Lonnie Player, both from Duke University; Blake Woodruff, UNC Chapel Hill; Chris Monroe, University of Michigan; John Erler, Swarthmore College; and Noah Reid and Barry Shrum, both from UNCG.

Preliminary reports of the 1989 season have now appeared in Soles and Davaras 1990, 1992; and Davaras and Soles 1992. For 1990 and 1991, see Soles and Davaras 1993.

² Soles and Davaras 1992, p. 416.

Hesperia 63.4, 1994

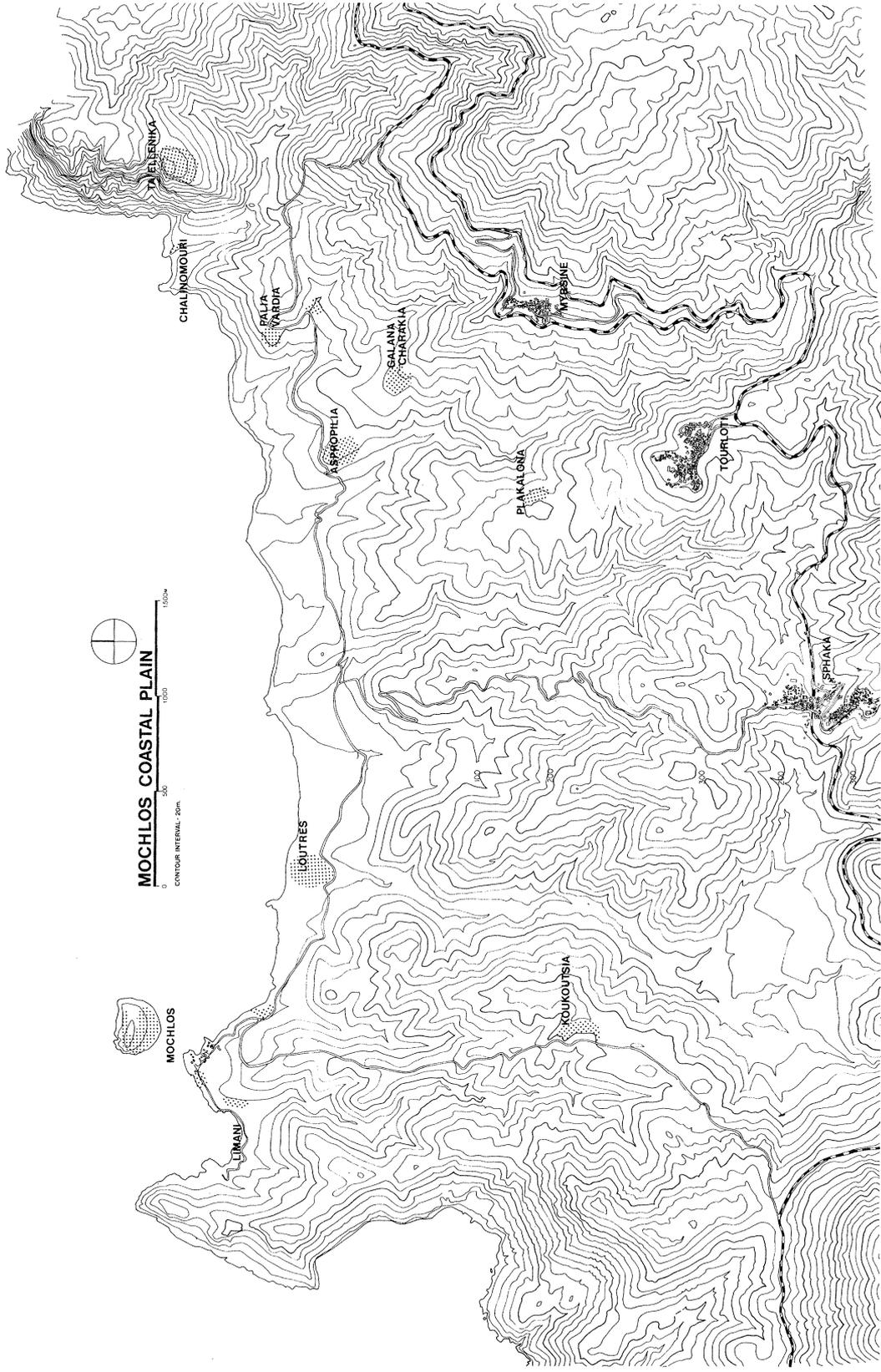


FIG. 1. The Mochlos coastal plain

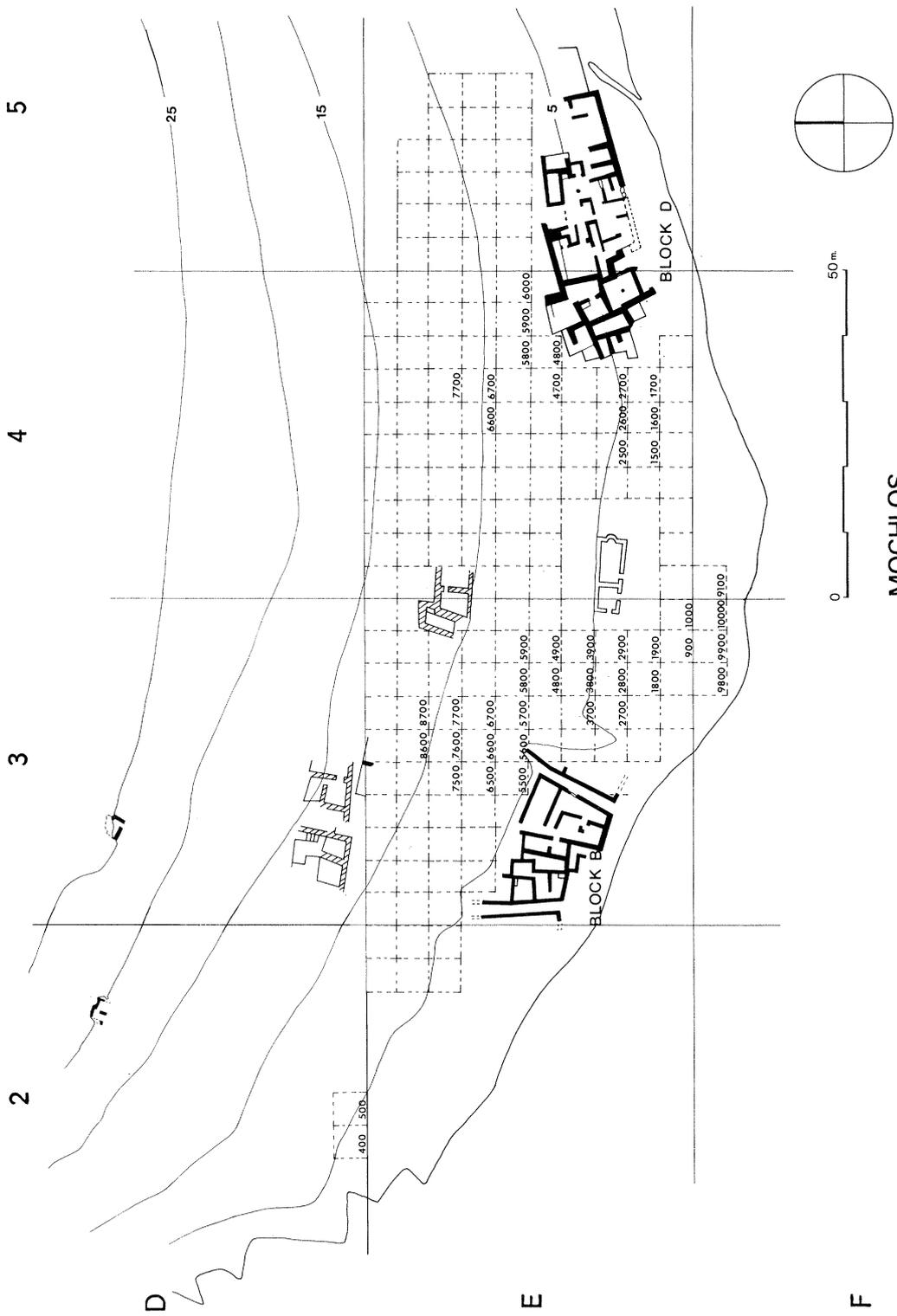


Fig. 2. Mochlos Island: Trenches in the settlement area 1989-1991

be related in one way or another to the main Minoan settlement on the island. These include the sites at Palia Vardia and Chalinomouri, located towards the eastern end of the coastal plain, and another site located directly across from the island behind the modern village of Mochlos (Fig. 1).

MOCHLOS ISLAND

Nearly all of the excavation conducted in 1990 and 1991 was carried out in the settlement area, where 32 new trenches were opened (Fig. 2). The main objective was to expose more of the Late Minoan (LM) I town, but earlier and later remains were also located.

PREPALATIAL PERIOD

In order to expose more of the Prepalatial house that was discovered along the coast in Area F3, Trench 10,000 in 1989,³ the area to the west in Trenches 9800, 9900 beneath the LM I house, C.1, was excavated to bedrock, and a new trench, F4, 9100, was opened to the east (Fig. 3, Pl. 89). The Prepalatial remains in 9800, 9900 lay immediately beneath the LM I floor level of House C.1 and were badly denuded. In some cases the walls of the later house rested on top of earlier walls, but elsewhere the early walls were completely destroyed, and the plan of this area in the Prepalatial period is somewhat conjectural as a result. Two walls that stand just inside the threshold stone of House C.1, to its west, appear to belong to the Prepalatial house exposed in 1989 and to mark its westernmost limits. Cobblestones lie alongside the western of these and belong to another street running north–south just to the west of the Prepalatial house (Fig. 3, left); the street may have continued to the north, but, because of the rising terrain, it seems more likely that it turned to the east and joined the east–west street that runs along the north side of the Prepalatial house.⁴ It is flanked by a wall on the west and provided with a low step where it begins on the south. More EM III potsherds were found here, just as they had been in 1989 in the other section of the street. More of this section was found in F4, 9100, where it begins to run up the hillside on a diagonal behind the Prepalatial house. Rising from an elevation of 1.17 m. at the west, where it begins, to 1.50 m. at the east, it is 1.10 to 1.75 m. wide and flanked by house walls; it has been traced for a total east–west distance of *ca.* 10.40 m.

The northeast corner of the Prepalatial house, as well as part of its east façade, was found in Trench 9100; if its western façade has been correctly identified in Trench 9900, then the house was *ca.* 9.80 m. long, east–west, and contained three different rooms in its original plan; of course, the southern part of the house has been destroyed by beach erosion, and there is no telling how far it may have extended in this direction. Room 1, the cobbled room described in 1992, measures 3.07–3.73 m. in width (Fig. 3); Room 2, which is *ca.* 3.24 m. wide, is unusual because it is subdivided by a small square area in its northwest corner. This area, which has a narrow opening only 0.30 m. wide at the southeast, was excavated in 1989 and contained five different floors full of carbon and fragments of baking plates; it appears to

³ Soles and Davaras 1992, p. 426.

⁴ Note that, to simplify descriptions in this report, “north” is used to designate a northeasterly direction, the other compass directions following suit.

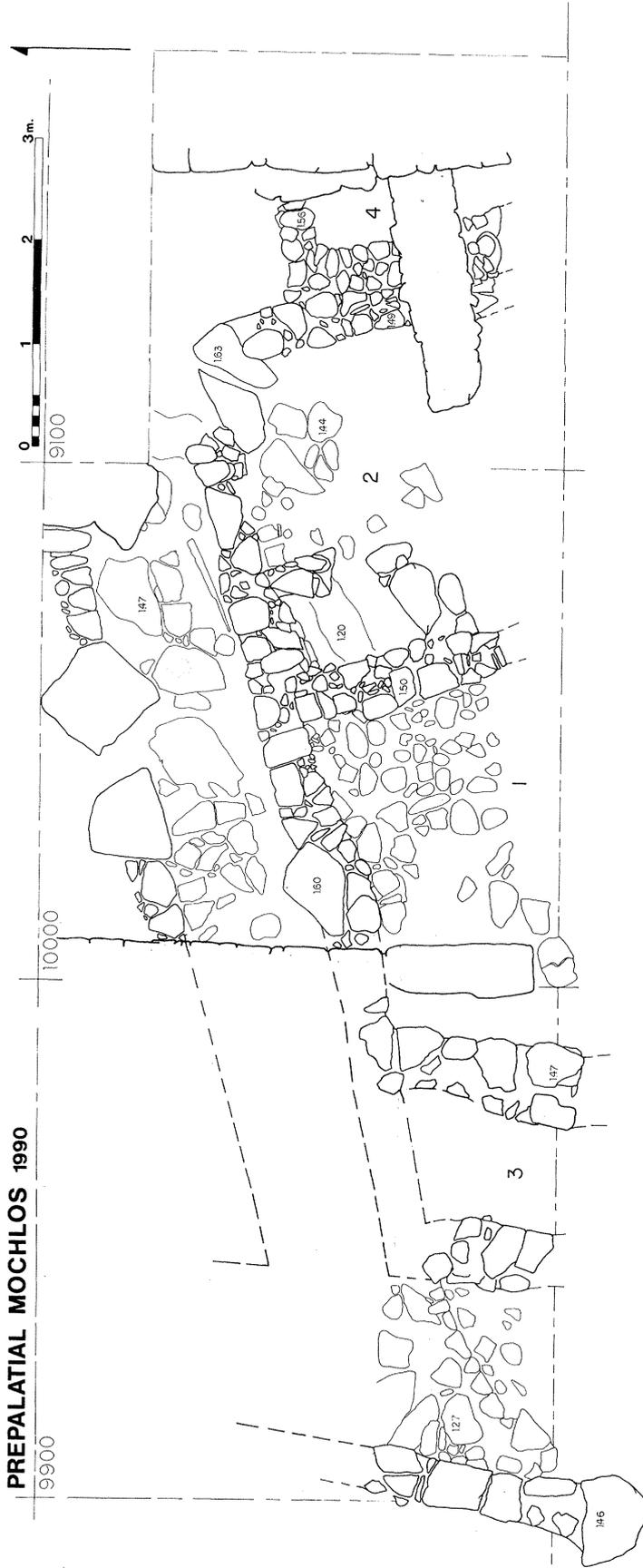


FIG. 3. Prepalatial House 1 (Area F3, Trenches 9800, 9900, 10,000; Area F4, Trench 9100)

have served as a cooking or baking enclosure within the room. (The earliest pottery from the house, a rim sherd from an EM IB goblet, comes from this room.⁵) Room 3 is the westernmost room; only 1.00–1.15 m. wide, its north wall still lies unexcavated beneath House C.1, and its floor was destroyed by the later LM I occupation.

A fourth room, which may well belong to a second house, was built against the eastern wall of the house at a later time. Set back from the original northeast corner of the house, it was also badly disturbed by later walls, including a large Neopalatial wall that runs down its east side; just to the east of this wall was found a closed EM IIB deposit, which probably belongs to this room, and more of the room may still be preserved in this area.

NEOPALATIAL PERIOD

Most of the remains exposed on the island and the coast in 1990 and 1991 belong to the LM IB phase, and as a result, the excavation is uncovering an extensive plan of the Neopalatial settlement at Mochlos.

On the island, parts of two north–south streets have been uncovered in addition to the two that Richard B. Seager uncovered on either side of Block B, and parts of six houses have been exposed in Blocks B and D, adding to the four exposed by Seager. In 1991 an ashlar building, which should probably be identified as the main administrative and religious center of the LM IB town, was also located, immediately above Block B.

Block C (Fig. 4)

Five of the six houses are located in the area that Seager identified as Block C. Three of these, C.1, C.2, and C.3, lie on the western side of a narrow alley that runs up through the middle of the Block, and two, C.4 and C.5, lie to its east.

House C.2 (Area E3, Trenches 2700, 2800, 3700, 3800; Fig. 4)

This house is located on the coast between House C.1 and Block B. Its western façade runs along the east side of the street separating Block B from Block C. Seager excavated the western part of the house and then reburied most of the excavated area with a large dump. The southwest corner of the house is exposed, but the southeast corner along the coast remains buried beneath this dump. In 1989 the eastern wing of the house, which is set back from the coast, was exposed (Pl. 90:a), and Room 1 at the southeast corner of this wing was excavated for the first time.⁶ In 1990 two rooms to the west of Room 1 (2 and 3) were excavated, and work also began on removing Seager's dump to connect the eastern part of the house with the part previously excavated by Seager and thus uncover the whole plan of the house. Several rooms began to appear, but only one, Room 4, was completely cleared (Pl. 90:b). In 1991 two rooms, 5 and 6, were excavated just to the north of Rooms 1 and 2, and a narrow alley was uncovered along the eastern side of the house; it runs into the open area excavated in 1989 on the south side of the eastern wing.

In all the rooms of this house where Seager did not excavate first, the current excavations have uncovered several distinct strata at varying distances beneath surface. The uppermost consists of collapsed wall debris, which usually extends across the entire room and ranges

⁵ Soles and Davaras 1992, p. 426, note 31.

⁶ Soles and Davaras 1992, pp. 429–433.

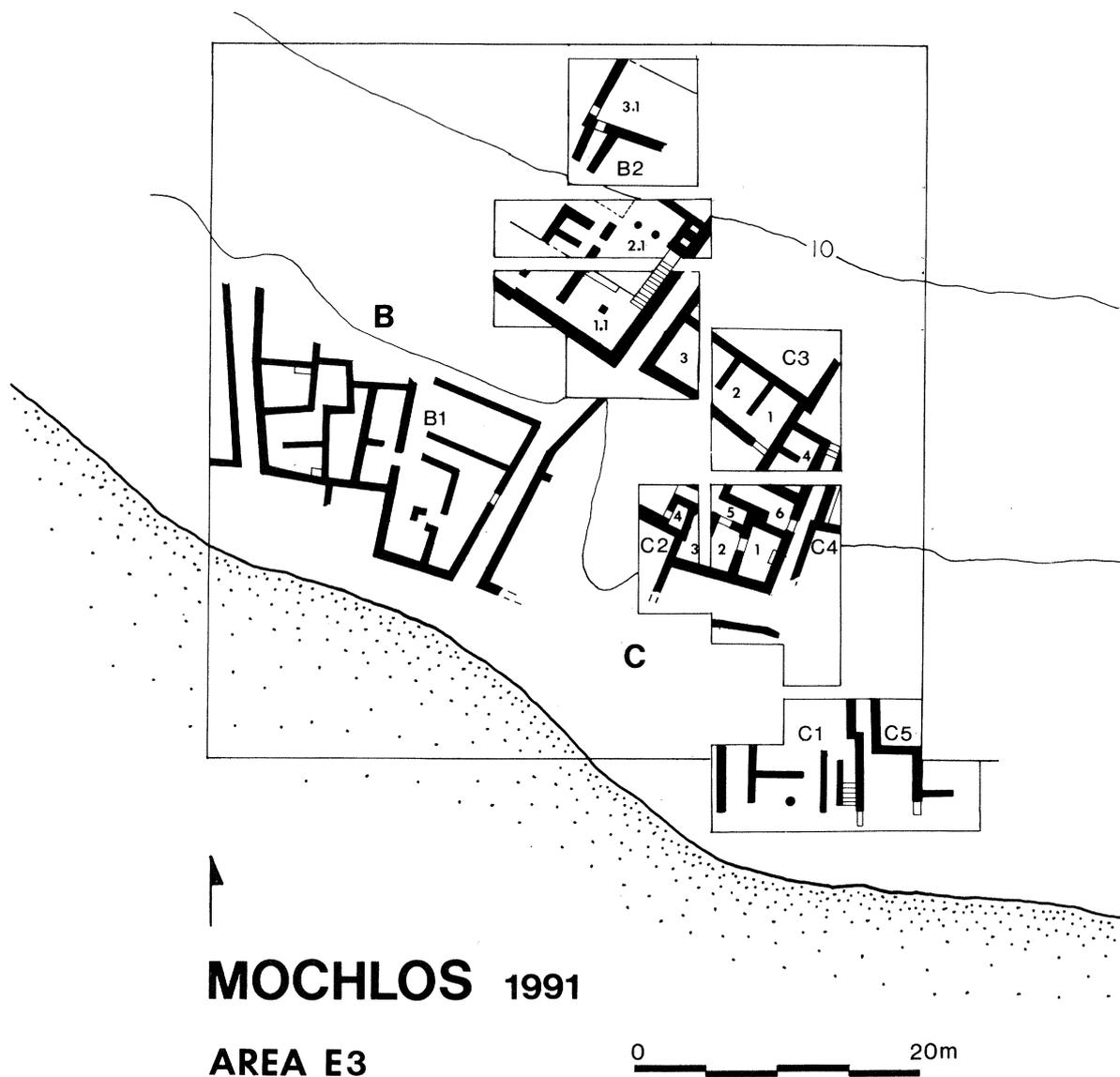


FIG. 4. Mochlos Island: Area E3, Blocks B and C

from 0.50 to 1.00 m. in depth. The remains of roofing material are sometimes mixed with this debris but are always found beneath it; they also form a distinct layer consisting of green schist slabs, often unbroken, and crushed purple schist, which is preserved only in a rather narrow layer. Nodules of white plaster are also often found with the schist. Schist slabs were used for roofs throughout the LM I settlement, on both the island and the coast opposite; the material is abundant all around Mochlos, and thin, relatively light weight slabs of green schist could be extracted from these outcroppings without difficulty. The purple schist, which is much more friable and therefore less easily cut into slabs, and plaster were probably then

used as sealer in the roof. A deep deposit of material, 0.40–0.90 m. thick, which is found beneath the wall and roof debris, may be identified as upper-story collapse; beneath it one or two LM IB floor deposits have been uncovered. These floors lay at the ground-floor level, one directly above the other, and are each usually 0.05–0.15 m. thick. The stratigraphy uncovered in the open space to the south suggests that the house was built at a much earlier date, and although excavation inside the house has stopped upon reaching the lower LM IB floor, a good deposit of earth, which probably conceals earlier floors, remains to be excavated in each room.

In 1990 excavation continued in the northern part of Room 1, which lay in Trench 3800 and therefore was not excavated with the rest of the room in 1989. The north wall of the room was completely exposed, revealing a room that measures *ca.* 1.87 × 4 m. A plaster floor was located at an elevation of +3.61–3.45 m.; 0.05–0.09 m. thick, it belonged to a second or later LM IB ground-floor room. The bench found in 1989, located against the east wall, rests directly on top of it and was added to the room with the later floor. A second floor was found under it at an elevation of +3.50–3.30 m.; an earth floor, it lies *ca.* 0.21 m. below the threshold of the doorway in the west wall of the room but also dates to the LM IB period. The finds made in 1989 belonged to the upper of these two floors, as did additional finds made here in 1990 at the north end of the room, including a large piece of unworked obsidian imported from Giali in the Dodecanese (CS 57), four stone tools (GS 464, 489, 490, 495), and a bronze earring (CA 10).

A doorway in the west wall of Room 1, which is provided with stone slabs on each side to support wooden door jambs, leads into Room 2; it is a little smaller than Room 1, measuring *ca.* 2.10 × 2.72 m. Three floor levels were found here, too, beneath the tumble of wall and roof debris. Remains of upper-story collapse were found at an elevation of +3.94–3.42 m.; the large amount of plaster found in this deposit indicates that the upper-story floor was plastered. The first ground-floor level lies at an elevation of +3.50–3.32 and corresponds to the first ground floor in Room 1; like that floor, it was also plastered. Fragments of a large pithos (P 124) and a bowl with two horizontal handles (P 551) were found along the eastern side of the room at this level. A second floor level was found beneath it at an elevation of +3.35–3.23; it also appears to have been plastered but was then covered with a thin layer of earth, which separated it from the floor above. Numerous fragments of stone vases, six loomweights (C 12, 247, 272–275), and various stone tools (GS 475, 476, 478) were found here.

A doorway at the northwest corner of Room 2, also provided with stone slabs to support wooden jambs, opens into Room 5, which formed a corridor 0.72–1.15 m. wide and *ca.* 5.55 m. long that runs east–west through the building (Pl. 90:b). It extends into Trench 3700 and probably provided access through its south wall to Room 3, west of Room 2.⁷ The upper-story collapse was found here at the same elevation as in Room 2, again filled with a lot of plaster, and the upper ground-floor level was found at an elevation of +3.46–3.35 m. It was a nicely plastered floor like those in Rooms 1 and 2, and it covered a number of stone paving slabs at the west side.

The rooms that lie to the west of these rooms, 3 and 4, were located beneath Seager's dump. Room 4, a small square room measuring *ca.* 1 × 1.56 m., with a doorway in its west

⁷ The east balk of Trench 3700 runs across the north wall of this room and the southwest corner of Room 2.

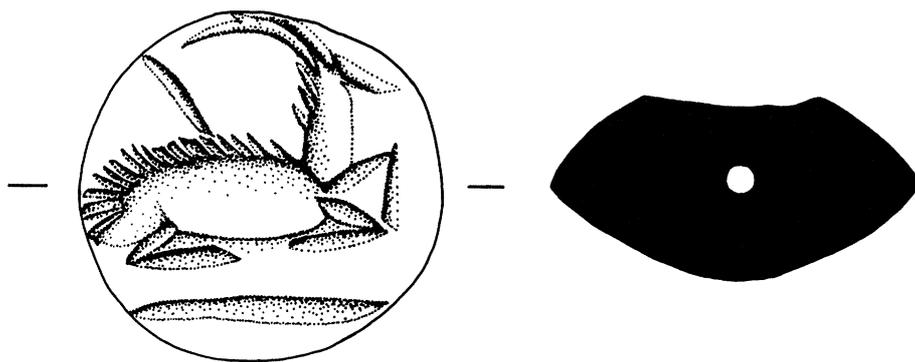


FIG. 5. Seal S 15 with a wounded agrimi from House C.3 (M. Reid)

wall, was completely excavated by Seager, and it is remarkable chiefly for the kernos that was cut on the stone threshold of its doorway (Pl. 90:b). Room 3 appears to have been missed by Seager; much of it still lies in the east baulk of Trench 3700 and has yet to be completely excavated.

Room 6 is an L-shaped room, 1.54–2.16 m. wide and *ca.* 4.40 m. long, provided with its own doorway leading out over a stone threshold into the alley running along the eastern side of the house (Pl. 90:c). It is the only room in the house uncovered to date that has an exterior doorway, and yet it did not serve as a vestibule for the rest of the house since it lacks an interior doorway. Five distinct strata have been uncovered in the room so far. The uppermost is a layer of rock tumble that extended over the whole room and which may be identified as collapsed wall debris like that found in other rooms of the house. Beneath it is a layer of schist, mostly crushed purple schist concentrated near the center of the room, which belonged to the roof. At an elevation of +4.20–3.89 m. remains of the upper-story collapse were uncovered. In addition to carbon and animal bones, it contained a number of conical cups (P 294, 296, 301, 312, 317, 387, 427, 441) and fragmentary cooking ware. Fragments of a one-handled cylindrical stone vase (S 61) were also found with this deposit. The main ground-floor level was found beneath this at an elevation of +3.94–3.75 m.; it consisted of an earth floor that sloped downwards from the east, where it was level with the threshold, towards the west (Pl. 90:c). A small stone mortar (GS 517) is located in the northeast corner of the room just to the right of the entrance; two bronze needles (CA 15, 16; Pl. 92:a) were found nearby. Respectively 0.106 and 0.102 m. long, each lay on the floor intact, with eyes still preserved; a single loomweight (C 70) was found a short distance to the west. Two stone tools (GS 382, 387), which could have been used with the mortar, were also found at this level. Perhaps the most remarkable find was a lentoid seal of carnelian (S 15; Fig. 5), 0.01 m. wide, horizontally pierced, and engraved on one side with a wounded agrimi. It is the second seal with this motif found in the house, but it is much more delicately carved than the other and lacks the accessory landscape details.⁸ The pottery from this floor

⁸ For the other seal from Room 1, see Soles and Davaras 1992, p. 432, fig. 10, pl. 96:a, and for the identification of these wounded agrimia as talismanic goats, see Bloedow 1992, pp. 15–23.

included numerous conical cups (P 283, 286, 289, 290, 299, 328, 332, 334, 340, 341, 386, 421, 426, 490, 528, 529), two handleless semiglobular cups (P 395, 547), and fragments of several cooking plates (P 309, 319, 320, 321, 323). The most interesting pottery find, however, was a scoop in the shape of a semiglobular cup with an internal handle (P 396). A second LM IB floor was found beneath this floor at an elevation of +3.86–3.65 m. The stone mortar was already in use at this time and was supported in position on a crudely built platform of stacked stones (Pl. 91:a). It was set *ca.* 0.72 m. above the floor of the room, and a large flat stone in front of it, buried by the later floor, was probably used as a seat. A stone tool (GS 415) lay nearby. Unlike the floor above, this floor formed a fairly level surface across the room but was located *ca.* 0.42 m. below the level of the threshold. A hard, packed area of earth just inside the threshold seems to have formed a step down to the lower level. The pottery differed little from that found in the floor above and included numerous conical cups (P 302, 333, 335, 351, 357, 381, 382, 425, 520), a handleless semiglobular cup (P 380), a fragmentary cooking plate (P 358), two more scoops with internal handles (P 499, 502), and four loomweights (C 49, 53, 64, 118).

House C.4 (Area E3, Trench 3900; Fig. 4)

The alley, 0.84–1.27 m. wide, that runs alongside House C.2 ascends the hill towards the north, where it is provided with three steps leading up into an open area alongside the east façade of House C.3. Towards the south the alley is blocked by Early Byzantine construction (Pl. 91:b), but it probably continued here into the open area at the southeast corner of House C.2 and may also have continued farther south into the narrow passage that separates House C.1 from C.5 and towards the isthmus that connected Mochlos to Crete.

Another house, C.4, lies along the east side of the alley across from House C.2. Parts of two rooms were exposed. The northern, provided with a low bench running along its west wall, lies mostly outside the trench, and very little of it was excavated. The southern room is cut into by later Byzantine walls, which were sunk all the way to the LM IB level along the east and south sides of the trench. As a result of this later disturbance, little stratigraphy was observed in the room until, at an elevation of +3.62–3.52 m., a LM IB level was reached; this level represents the ground floor of the house. Two large pithoi (P 122, 123), a large bronze bowl (CA 25; Pl. 92:b) that lay still intact,⁹ and a pedestal lamp of serpentine (S 5; Pl. 92:c)¹⁰ were found here.

House C.3 (Area E3, Trenches 4800, 4900, 5700, 5800, 5900; Fig. 4)

Another house lies directly behind House C.2 farther up the south slope of the island (Pl. 93:a). It could be a continuation of House C.2, but in this case C.2 would be a very large house. Since the southwest corner was located in Trench 5700 and the southeast corner in Trench 3900, it probably formed a separate house that was built up against the northeast corner of House C.2 in its final phase of construction. Further excavation in the area between the two houses, which is obscured by the baulk that runs along the north side of Trenches 3800, 3900, is needed to define their relationship more clearly. The house is bordered on the west by the continuation of the street that separates Block B from Block C

⁹ H. 0.068 m., Diam. of bowl 0.305 m.

¹⁰ H. 0.222 m., Diam. of bowl 0.118 m.

and on the east by the narrow alley that runs along the eastern side of C.2. Its northern boundaries have not yet been located.

Excavation of the house began in 1990 and continued in 1991. Badly ruined LM III remains were found on top of the house, just below the surface, and the house itself, which was constructed earlier in the Neopalatial period, was expanded still within the LM IB period. Parts of the four rooms that lie along the south side have been excavated to date. Three of these, Rooms 1, 2, and 3, are storerooms that appear to have been approached, in the first stage of construction, by a passage that ran east–west between the main street along the west side of the house and the narrow alley along its east side. In the LM IB phase a rectangular room, Room 4, was attached to the southeast corner of the house; it blocked the east end of the cross street and directed traffic into the storerooms that lie on the south side of the house. The cul-de-sac created by this addition comes to a dead end at the west wall of Room 4b, and a doorway located on the left at the end of the passage leads over a stone threshold to the first of these storerooms. A corridor just inside runs along the south side of the storerooms and leads from one room to another.

Evidence for upper-story collapse was found in each one of these rooms but was most remarkable in Room 1, where much of the upper-story floor was still intact, located at +5.53–5.16 m. and held in place *ca.* 0.20–0.58 m. above the ground-floor level by a number of large pithoi still standing on the ground floor (Fig. 6, Pls. 93:b–d). A layer of purple-schist packing, probably sealing material from the roof, was found in places above the upper-story remains, and a thin layer of white plaster, identified as the paving of the upper-story floor, often lay beneath it. Finds from the upper story included a shattered pithos (P 759), a large, unbroken piriform jar (P 489),¹¹ and a painted lid with its handle missing (P 267). The undecorated piriform jar, wheelmade in two sections of phyllite-tempered fabric and with two vertical and two horizontal handles on its shoulders (Pl. 93:d, center), is a smaller version of the larger pithoi that were found on the floor below in this room and in Room 2.¹²

The ground floor lay at an elevation of +5.34–4.96 m. Five pithoi were found here in 1990 (P 125, 126, 134, 135), including one which had been cut in half horizontally (P 133) and was still sitting upright on the floor by the entrance to the room (Pl. 93:b). Three more (P 769, 775, 789) were found in 1991, making eight to date; the rear of the room remains to be excavated in 1992. With the exception of P 133, which was still intact, all the pithoi had fallen on their sides and were shattered, although they retained their original shape. An unbroken bridge-spouted hydria (P 119; Fig. 7, Pl. 94:a), elaborately painted with red and white in a well-known LM IB style, lay wedged between the pithoi.¹³ Other objects were scattered among the pithoi on the ground floor, and it was often difficult to tell which had fallen from above and which belonged to the ground floor. These included 15 conical cups (P 157, 165, 166, 169, 172, 186, 264, 275, 300, 331, 337, 420, 422, 602), at least two of which had clearly fallen from the floor above, two handleless semiglobular cups (P 155, 188), a one-handled cup (P 265), the upper half of a painted LM IB stirrup jar (P 263), a miniature bridge-spouted jar (P 269; Pl. 94:b), a one-handled storage-jar lid (P 599), a small

¹¹ H. 0.523 m.

¹² Compare P 139 below. The most common LM I coarse ware at Mochlos is made of a phyllite-tempered fabric and is frequently described in this report simply as phyllite ware.

¹³ H. 0.426 m. Compare jars with similar decoration from Zakros: Platon 1971, p. 117.

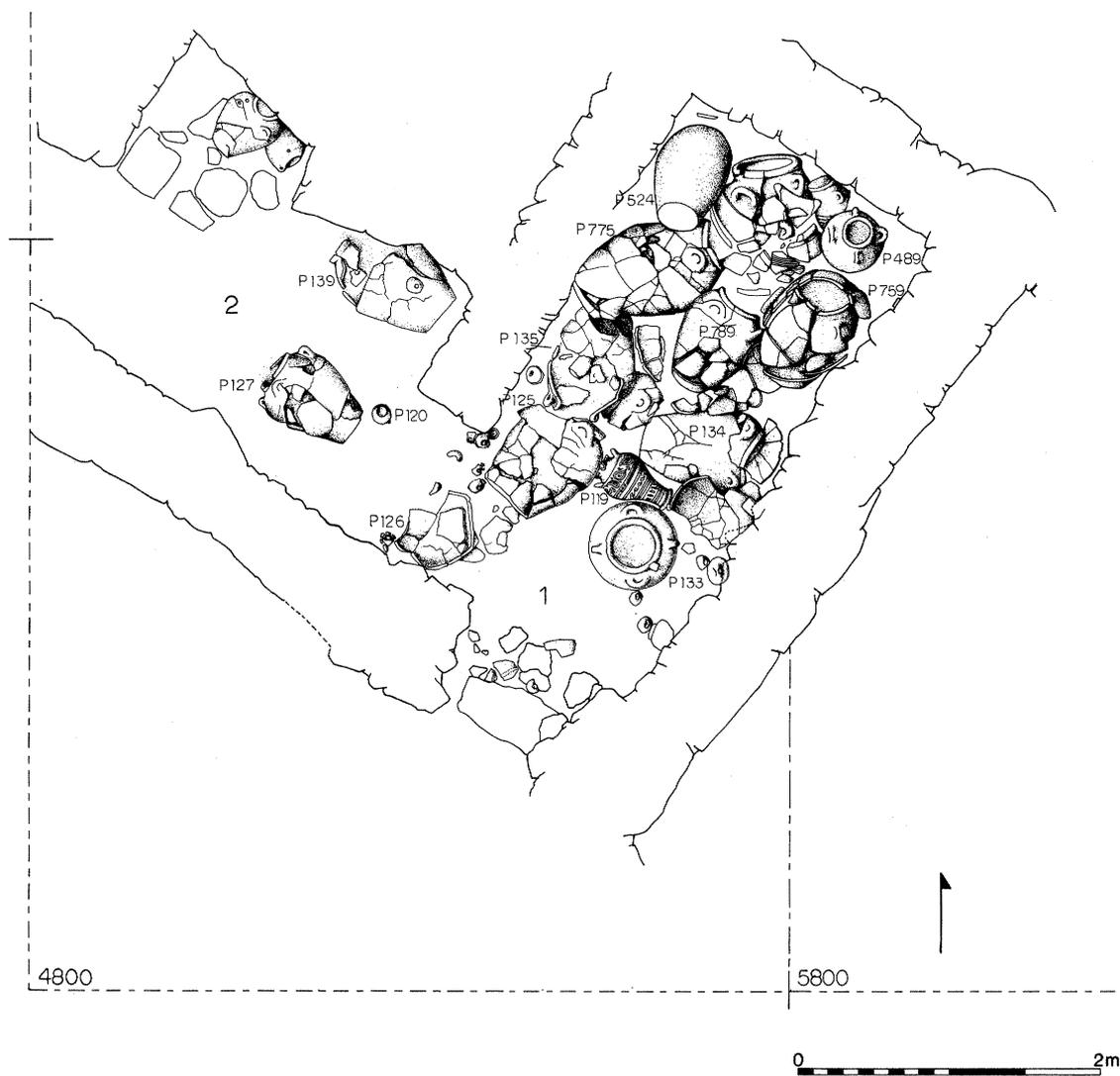


FIG. 6. House C.3, Rooms 1 and 2 with finds *in situ*

carinated bowl of breccia (S 12; Pl. 94:c), two stone lids (S 8, 13), fragments of two other stone vases (S 103, 138), a stone weight (S 105), three loomweights (C 105, 143, 189), and a bronze knife (CA 66).

Only the southern half of Room 2 was excavated to its LM IB floor level. Upper-story collapse was found here at an elevation of +5.53–5.00 m. A one-handled jug with trefoil mouth and traces of dark-on-light trickle decoration (P 120), which had fallen upside down but remained unbroken, was found at the bottom of this collapse just above the floor, which was found at an elevation of +5.33–4.92 m. Two large pithoi (P 127, 139) lay here just inside the doorway; they had fallen on their sides and were shattered by the upper-story



FIG. 7. Hydria P 119 from House C.3, Room 1 (M. Reid)

collapse but still retained their original shape (Pl. 95:a). P 139 is typical of many LM IB pithoi on the site and the coast opposite. It has a piriform body 0.87 m. high, with a rim diameter of 0.328 m. and a base diameter of 0.263 m.; it has a vertical lipless rim and no neck, with two horizontal and two vertical handles on the shoulders. It is made of coarse, unslipped, phyllite-tempered fabric and was wheelmade, probably in two sections.

The western part of Room 3 was also excavated to the LM IB floor. A deep deposit of upper-story collapse was found at an elevation of +5.72–4.89 m. Among the finds were a pithos (P 128), which was badly smashed, fragments of a spouted stone bowl (S 89; Pl. 95:b), which was nearly complete in spite of being badly broken, and many fragments of a large piece of painted wall plaster (Pl 2; Pl. 95:c). The plaster had fallen face down and was at least two layers thick, the outer surfaces of both layers painted a solid red against the white plaster backing. Whatever surface it covered on the upper floor had been replastered at least once. A large portion that was reassembled displayed a single straight edge, suggesting that the plaster once lined a wall against a door jamb or window frame. A carbonized timber, which probably once supported the upper floor, and a sandstone libation table (S 88) were found at the bottom of the upper-story collapse. The libation table has an inverted, stepped base and was still standing upright, although a piece was broken from its rim (Pl. 95:d).¹⁴ The first ground-floor level was found at an elevation of +4.89–4.69 m. Two pithoi (P 129, 130) lay across the floor badly smashed from the collapse of the floor above. The top half of a piriform jar with four vertical handles (P 185) stood upright and intact in the southeast corner of the trench; it had been neatly cut horizontally just below the handles in antiquity and so sat on the floor without a base.

Room 4 shows many signs of being a later construction added to the southeast corner of the house in the LM IB period. Its north wall abuts the original east wall of the house and extends much deeper on the south than on the north, where it lies well above the base of the original east wall, alongside an open space at the top of the alley that borders the house on this side. Its west wall, which is still partly buried in the north baulk of Trench 3900, appears to abut the north wall of House C.2. In order to enclose the room at its southwest, the original southeast corner of the house was extended farther to the south.

Because the LM III occupation was sunk much deeper here than in the rest of the house, no remains of upper-story collapse survived. Two LM IB floor levels were uncovered, however. The uppermost lay at an elevation of +5.43–5.25 m. At this time Room 4 consisted of a single room, measuring *ca.* 2.50 m. east–west, and contained a bench in the northwest corner, running along the north wall of the room.¹⁵ A spur wall belonging to the first phase of the room's use lay just beneath this floor. It divided the room in half, leaving a doorway along the east end. An earlier LM IB floor was found on either side of this wall at an elevation of +5.25–4.89 m. Most of the finds in the room came from this lower floor. They include conical cups (P 287, 292, 315, 359, 406, 431, 506, 526), the head of an animal, perhaps a baboon, painted black (C 65), and numerous LM IB sherds.

¹⁴ Cf. Warren 1969, Type 26.3, p. 65. These tables often have incised Linear A signs. The closest parallels among the examples cited by Warren come from Pseira and the Psychro Cave. See also Muhly 1981.

¹⁵ Dimensions of bench *ca.* 1.40 × 0.50 × 0.30 m.

Block B (Fig. 4)

During the excavation of House C.3 in 1990, large ashlar blocks were found in Trench 5700. Some of these had fallen into the upper-story collapse of Room 3, and others filled the open space along the south outer façade of this room extending all the way into the southwest corner of Trench 4800 on the line of the east–west road that seems to have run between C.2 and C.3. These blocks are calcareous sandstone, cut in the quarry that lies opposite the island, and are of the same type as those used in the palace at Gournia.¹⁶ They were fallen from the area of Block B lying to the west of Room 3, some of them with such force that they crashed through the western wall of C.3 or were thrown far into the adjacent street.

Building B.2 (Area E3, Trenches 5500, 5600, 6600, 7500, 7600, 7700, 8600, 8700, 9600, 9700; Figs. 4, 8, 9)

In the 1991 season twelve trenches were opened above Seager's Block B, to the west of House C.3, in order to find the source of the fallen ashlar blocks (Pl. 96:a). The road separating Blocks B and C was found to continue, veering somewhat to the northeast from its previously excavated line, and it too was choked with ashlar blocks. The building from which these blocks fell lay along the west side of the road and at the northwest corner of what appears to have been an intersection, where the east–west road running along the south side of C.3 met the street separating Blocks B and C. Blocks from this building choked the intersection and had actually fallen down into a section of the north–south street exposed by Seager, *ca.* 4.00 m. to the south of the building itself.¹⁷ They extended *ca.* 8.20 m. to the east along the south façade of House C.3, where they had been thrown with tremendous force and lay buried up to 1.25 m. deep, at least 9.55 m. to the west along the south façade of the ashlar building and 8.25 m. to the north along its east façade, where they were fallen from the adjacent wall (Pl. 96:b, c).

Parts of the east and south façades of the building were uncovered at its southeast corner, and more ashlar blocks should be found as excavations continue farther to the north and west. Three courses lie still *in situ* along the east façade of the building. The largest blocks are located in the bottom course, including the block at the southeast corner, which measures 2.72 × 0.60 × 0.52 m. The largest block in the third course, which measures 2.70 × 0.65 × 0.39 m., is about the same length and width but is 0.13 m. less in height, and the upper courses of the wall were narrower. There are no traces of plaster on the blocks or in their interstices. At one point, 3.35 m. from the southeast corner of the building, two upper courses end at the south in a straight vertical line; a square mortise hole is located in the course beneath, at the base of the vertical face, and there is another hole 1.37 m. to the south along the outer face of the wall. These holes were used to hold in place the wooden frame of a window (Pl. 96:d), about 1.37 m. wide and at least the height of the two ashlar blocks (0.82 m.), which opened onto the street at ground-floor level. An indentation that is partly

¹⁶ See Soles 1983, pp. 33–46 and Soles 1991, pp. 17–78.

¹⁷ Measurements are taken from the southeast corner of the building.

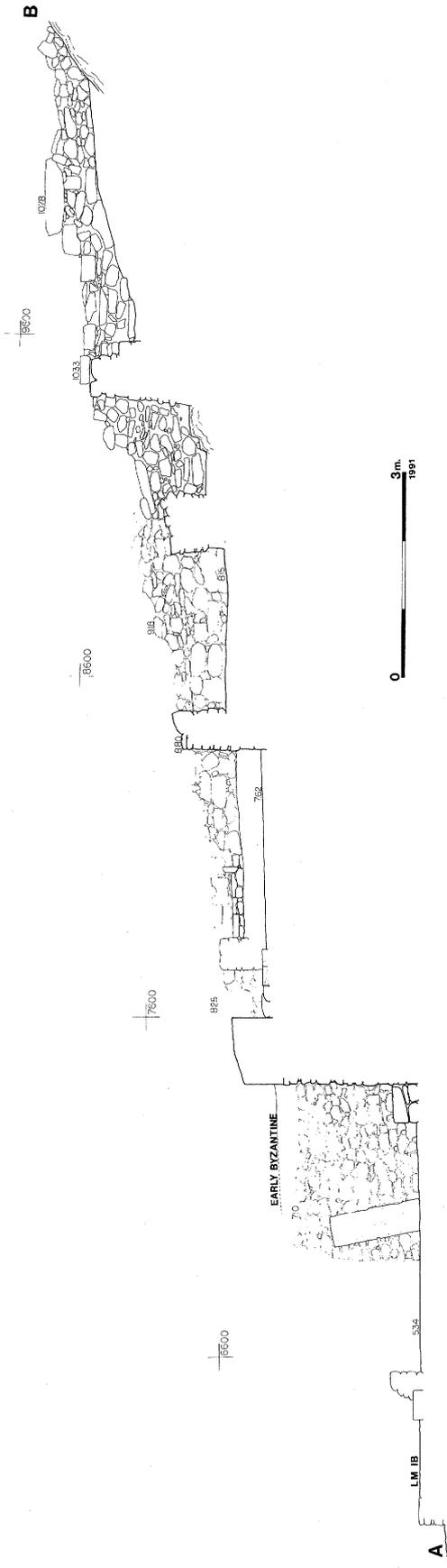


FIG. 9. North-south section through Building B.2

cut and partly built into the ashlar wall lies to the north of this window; 1.71 m. long and 0.06 m. deep, it marks the location of a second window in the upper story of the east façade.¹⁸

The south façade of the building is less well preserved. Here the bottom course of the wall was built in roughly squared blocks of limestone, three courses of which are preserved towards the west, and the ashlar blocks sat on top of these courses and not on other ashlar blocks as in the east façade. All the ashlar blocks have fallen from this wall, and none still lies *in situ*.

These walls belong to the southeast corner of a large building that was terraced up the south slope of the island. It was at least three stories high, and because of its terraced construction, the north side of each story is still preserved. Parts of three rooms, one on each floor, were uncovered along the east side of the building in 1991. These include a pillar room on the ground floor (1.1), a room paved with schist plaques on the second floor, which formed the northern part of a Minoan hall (2.1),¹⁹ and a room on the third floor (3.1) that was excavated by Seager in 1908. A large Byzantine building, Building B, sat on top of the two lower rooms. In one room its floor rested at an elevation of +7.59–7.94 m., 0.04–0.36 m. above the schist slabs of the second floor (Pl. 97:a). The upper-story collapse above this floor was removed by the Byzantine occupants, but the schist floor itself was intact except for one missing column base, probably also removed by the Byzantines. In the room above the pillar room, the Byzantine floor rested at an elevation of +7.28–7.59 m., and here the south wall of the Byzantine building rested directly on top of the Minoan pillar. Some of the Minoan roof and wall collapse in this room appears to have been disturbed by the Byzantine builders, but its upper-story collapse was still lying untouched at an elevation of +6.16–5.41 m., and some important finds were made in it (Fig. 10). These include the head of a female figurine (C 98), half of a clay boat (C 41),²⁰ parts of two large strainers (P 815, 823), elaborately painted with added red and white in a LM IB style, the bottom half of a pear-shaped rhyton (P 729), a curious stone object resembling a phallus (S 17),²¹ and a number of loomweights (C 32, 125, 133, 136, 151, S 20). All these objects had fallen from a room that stood above the pillar room and which was provided with a central column, probably of wood, that rested on the pillar. Green schist plaques and numerous small pieces of red plaster from the collapse of the room indicate that its floor was paved and its walls were decorated. It was an important room in the upper floor and formed the southern half of a Minoan hall; its finds suggest that it served as a shrine, as so many other upper columned rooms seem to have done.²²

The floor of the pillar room was reached at an elevation of +5.41–5.34 m. (Pl. 96:d). Time did not permit the complete excavation of this floor in 1991, and it goes somewhat

¹⁸ Graham 1960, pp. 330–331; Graham 1962, pp. 162–164. Graham believed that these recesses were located only in the palaces, where they range from 2.25 to 6.00 m. in width. But see also the window restored by Joseph Shaw at Agia Triada (Shaw 1971, pp. 175–183, fig. 205:b).

¹⁹ For Minoan halls, see Driessen 1982, pp. 27–92 and Graham 1962, pp. 94–99.

²⁰ P.L. 0.09 m., W. 0.049 m. For other Bronze Age ship models, see Davaras 1986, pp. 59–63, where 45 examples are catalogued.

²¹ H. 0.197 m. It does not appear to have been used as a tool. For other Minoan phalli, see those from Koumasa and Platanos, which are similar in size and shape (Xanthoudides 1924, pp. 41–42, 97); another example found in Quartier Mu at Mallia (Detournay, Poursat, and Vandenabeele 1980, pp. 108–109, fig. 148); and those from the peak sanctuary at Atsipades Korakies (Peatfield 1990, pp. 117–131).

²² See those catalogued in Gesell 1985, pp. 33, 69, 74, 75, 85–87, 90, 92–94, 96, 97, 99, 100.

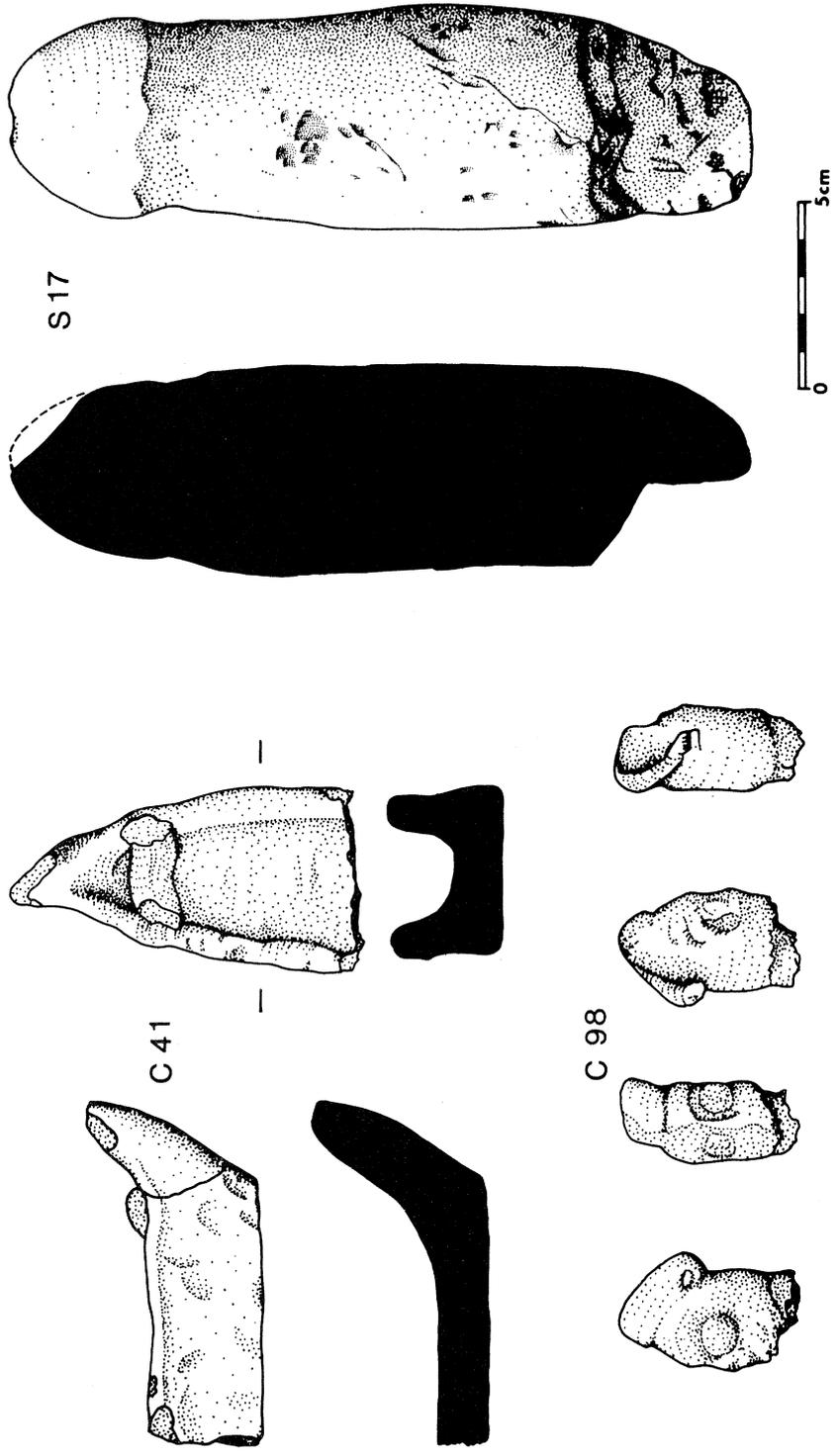


FIG. 10. Finds from Building B.2, room above the pillar room (M. Reid)

deeper, but it was clear that it contained a number of smashed pithoi, including one that had fallen upside down onto the floor from a bench located in the northwest corner of the room.²³ The room itself (1.1) measures *ca.* 4.10 × 4.74 m. The pillar, located near the center, had broken across near its base and slid off its base onto the floor; it still stood upright but at a slight angle.²⁴ Two rectangular dowel holes are located in its top. The north wall of the room is preserved to its original height, and a socket for a wooden beam that ran north–south across the room in line with the pillar is located here, *ca.* 1.65 m. above the floor. The west wall of the room, which is not quite so well preserved, does not preserve any trace of another socket. The room was lit by the broad window in the east façade of the building, and if it was left open, passersby could look through into the room as they walked in the street outside.

A staircase is located at the northeast corner of the room (Pl. 97:b), and the rhyton P 729 was actually found at the base of this staircase, as if it had tumbled down the steps from above. The east corner of the north wall, where the staircase is located, is faced with ashlar quoins, and thirteen perfectly preserved steps lead up towards the north to a landing on the upper floor. A fourteenth step is located on the west side of the landing; it leads up through a doorway provided with ashlar jamb bases into the north half of the hall located on the second floor. A cutting in the north jamb may belong to a pivot hole for a door. Two other doorways, also provided with ashlar jamb bases, are located across from this doorway on the west side of the room (Pl. 97:a), and one or two, now destroyed, must have led into the columned room to the south. No exterior entrance to this floor or any other floor has been found yet. The room itself (2.1) measures *ca.* 3.57 m. east–west; its northern side has not been completely excavated, and its southern side still lies beneath the north baulks of Trenches 6600 and 6700. It is paved with green schist slabs that lie at an elevation of +7.58 m. Two column bases are located towards the middle of the room, one of which is missing, probably robbed out by the Byzantine occupants whose own floor came down to the Minoan floor level in places. A triangular slab of purple schist is located between the column bases and is marked with an irregular circle of seven hollows, forming a kernos (Fig. 8). The room shows signs of two phases of use. In the later phase, white plaster *ca.* 0.02–0.05 m. thick was laid over the schist slabs, and a circular stone of green schist, which rests on top of the earlier floor slabs, was placed in line with the column base still extant, as if to provide a base for another column to support a sagging roof beam.²⁵

Located to the northwest of this room in the northwest part of Trench 8600, a long narrow room, *ca.* 0.75 m. wide, may have formed the well of another staircase that led from the second story to the third. Ashlar jamb bases for a doorway are located at its top, and jamb

²³ Dimensions of bench *ca.* 2.49 × 0.48–0.55 × 0.35 m.

²⁴ Est. H. of pillar 1.40 m.; 0.45 × 0.50 m. in section.

²⁵ Many of these features can be seen in Plate 97:a: the meter stick rests on the plaster floor, which was only partly removed when this photograph was taken; the round stone to the right of the meter stick belongs to this second phase, with the plaster floor; the round column base to the left of the meter stick belongs to the original floor but continued to be used after the floor was plastered. The ashlar jamb bases of the two doorways on the west side of the room are located in the foreground.

bases for another doorway leading west are located at right angles immediately beyond. The stone threshold of this second doorway is still intact at 10.28 m. above sea level and provides an elevation for the upper third-story level of the building, 2.70 m. above the second-story level. This room on the third floor (3.1) was excavated by Seager, and while it was possible to define its rear northern wall and its western wall, its eastern wall was not found. The room appears to have been large, however, measuring *ca.* 4.63 m. north–south. Its floor was removed by Seager, who dug close to bedrock here, but a deposit of obsidian blades and cores (CS 58) was found in 1991 *ca.* 0.55 m. below floor level in a rectangular cist with its own paved floor at the southwest corner of the room, between the two doorways.²⁶ The north wall of this room continues to the east and west, where Seager excavated further, and the third floor of the building clearly extended in both directions.

Block D (Fig. 2)²⁷

In 1990 two trenches were opened along the western edge of Block D, in the area of House D.4, the badly destroyed house largely excavated by Seager and rediscovered in 1989. Both trenches lay alongside Seager's great trench, and the objective of the 1990 excavation was to learn if any Minoan level survived the Byzantine reoccupation and how much of the architecture of House D.4 belonged to the original Minoan structure. Trench 2500 was opened immediately to the north of a previously exposed section of the Minoan street that ran along the west façade of the house; both the street and the façade continued into this new trench (Pl. 97:c). The street has now been traced a good nine meters; the part in this trench is more smoothly paved and is stepped at three levels as it begins to ascend the hill. Because the façade of the house on the west of the street runs at an angle towards the northeast, the street, which is over two meters wide at the south, narrows sharply at the north to a width of only one meter, and it seems possible that it is soon going to come to a dead end.

House D.4 (Area E4, Trenches 2500, 2600)

The original entrance to House D.4 was discovered in its west façade, which is preserved at a higher level in Trench 2500 than in the trench to its south. Four steps lead up from the street to the stone threshold of the doorway, which forms a fifth step *ca.* 0.96 m. above street level, and the whole entrance resembles some of those in the houses at neighboring Gournia. The doorway provides access to a room, located in Trench 2600, that apparently served as the vestibule for the house. The LM I floor of the room was located at an elevation of +4.06–3.91 m.; it was plastered, but most of its contents seem to have been pilfered by the later Byzantine occupants, whose floor lay just above. Terraced above the adjacent room to the south, the room measures *ca.* 2.60 × 4.00 m. and was provided with a platform at its northwest corner and a large limestone slab towards the southeast, which may have provided a working surface. The excavation was not able to learn how it was related to the adjacent rooms dug by Seager.

²⁶ Dimensions of cist *ca.* 0.50 × 0.70 × 0.55 m.

²⁷ Soles and Davaras 1992, pp. 439–441, fig. 15.

MOCHLOS COAST

THE MODERN VILLAGE

In his 1909 report, Seager wrote: “On the opposite shore, where lie the warehouses of the modern port, are the remains of many house walls, which would show that, whether connected or not, the town lay on both the island and the opposite shore.”²⁸ This area on the coast opposite the island, where Seager pitched his tents while excavating in 1908,²⁹ is built up today: a small fishing village has been expanding rapidly in the last few years as a result of a boom in tourism. Two of the warehouses mentioned by Seager, including the “customs house”, are still standing on either side of the main harbor, but most have been replaced by private homes, tavernas, small hotels, and a tourist shop. Oddly enough, the ancient “house walls” seen by Seager in this area have never been reported since, and the modern buildings and paved streets that cover the area make it impossible to see any remains today. A number of walls, however, are still visible in the road running out of the village to the southwest towards Limenaria. These lie at ground level and are easily spotted in the dirt road, stretching along the coast for a distance of about fifty meters (Pl. 98:a). Minoan pottery is visible in the scarp alongside the road at the water’s edge and in the vacant field lying to the south of the road.

Four trenches were opened in the road in 1990 (Trenches 100–400), and fifteen more were opened in 1991 (Trenches 500–1800), only eleven of which contained finds (Fig. 11). Their orientation and size were determined by their location in the road; they followed the line of the road and took up one half of its width at a time in order to allow traffic to pass through the other half. After excavation, the trenches were backfilled with earth so that the road would remain unobstructed. Parts of two buildings were uncovered.

Building A (Trenches 100, 200, 700, 800; Fig. 12)

At one point, just at the edge of the village, a wall was exposed along the outer, northern side of the road, where the coast is badly eroded by heavy wave action. Two trenches, 100 and 200, were opened here in 1990, and two more, 700 and 800, were opened south of them in 1991.³⁰ Five complete rooms and parts of three or four more, belonging to a large industrial establishment, were uncovered just below the surface of the road (Pls. 98:b, 99:a). The tops of the walls in these rooms are preserved at the modern surface level, or only a few centimeters beneath, and must have been leveled when the road was originally graded; the floors in the rooms lay *ca.* 0.60 to 1.00 m. below this surface. In every room, a layer of schist slabs was found scattered beneath fallen wall debris. These were identified as roofing slabs that had collapsed when the building was originally destroyed, and because they lay

²⁸ Seager 1909, p. 274.

²⁹ Seager 1909, fig. 1; 1912, fig. 2.

³⁰ Initially, Trenches 100 and 200 measured 4.50 × 5.00 m. with a 1.00 m. baulk between, which was later removed; as work proceeded, Trench 200 was expanded another 1.25 m. to the west. Trenches 700 and 800, measuring 4 meters (north–south) by 5 meters (east–west), were dug with 0.50 m. baulks on the east, which were later removed, but without any baulk on the north, where they actually overlapped the south sides of Trenches 100 and 200 by 0.20 m. The southern half of 700 was later expanded 3.50 m. to the east alongside a modern house, where a new water pipe was being laid beneath the asphalt pavement of the street.

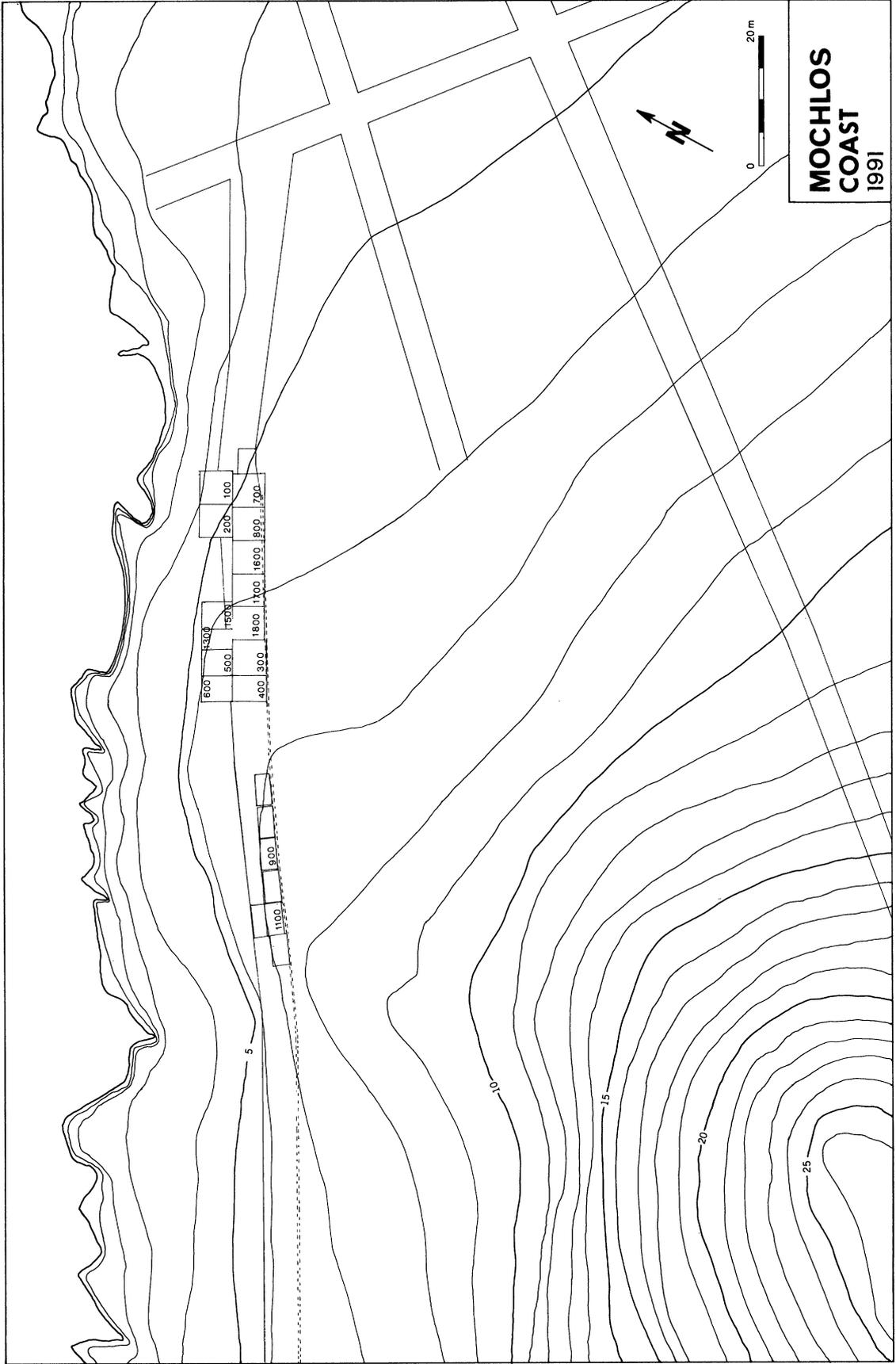


Fig. 11. Mochlos Coast: Trenches on the road to Limenaria

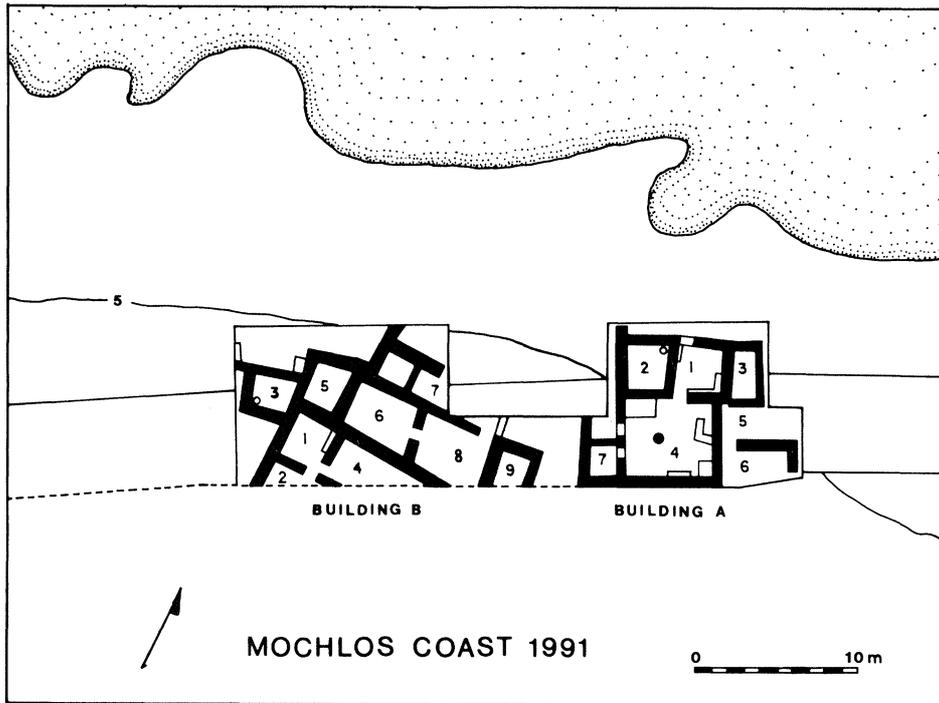


FIG. 12. Mochlos Coast: Buildings A and B

directly above the floor deposits, the rooms appear to belong to a structure that was only a single story high. There are also no traces of staircases to indicate an upper story. The walls, as preserved, are constructed of standard Minoan rubble, but in Room 4, where there were many signs of burning, fragments of mud brick were preserved, including one brick that was half intact;³¹ mud brick was apparently used for the upper wall courses. Only a single floor deposit was found in any of the rooms, without any earlier material beneath, and the rooms apparently belong to a single phase of occupation that dates to the LM IB period.

Although the northern side of the building along the coast is destroyed by erosion and the rooms to the east and south are not yet fully excavated, the west façade of the building was exposed. The main entrance to the building appears to have been from this side. An open, unpaved space, located in the area along the west side of the building (Pl. 99:b), formed a passage between Building A and Building B, which lies a short distance to the west; a room located midway behind the west façade of Building A, at the northwest corner of Trench 800, may have formed a vestibule that opened onto this space (Pl. 99:a, lower left). The northern side of this room has not been excavated yet; the room, however, provides access through a doorway in its east wall, over a stone threshold, to Room 4, which was one of the main activity rooms and the largest room in the complex. It measures *ca.* 3.74 × 5.71 m. and

³¹ W. 0.25 m., Th. 0.09 m. For mud bricks elsewhere, see Guest-Papamanoli 1978, pp. 3–24.

was provided with a wooden column that stood near the center on an irregular stone slab. A fragment of carbonized wood found near this slab may even have been the remains of this column. Two stone platforms, both stepped in two levels, stand opposite each other, one in the northwest corner and the other in the southeast corner. A large round pit, *ca.* 0.96 to 1.26 m. in diameter and 0.50 m. deep, is located along the northwest side of the southeastern platform, and a low bench is located just to its west against the south wall. A stone bin with an opening to the north is located against the east wall.

The remains of five storage vessels were found in Room 4: a large jar (P 498), still intact, had fallen from the southeastern platform and was wedged in the narrow space between the platform and the bench along the south wall; fragments of four pithoi (P 768, 774, 776, 777), smashed by roof collapse, were scattered around the column on the north and west sides of the room. Other finds in the room included numerous stone tools (GS 315, 385, 487, 501, 505); four loomweights (C 26, 27, 61, 63); a small jug (P 584), found alongside the pithos P 777 in the southwest part of the room; a lead weight (Pb 6), found inside the bin against the east wall; three fossil asteroids of the echinodermata family, one found in the pit at the south side of the room (S 25) and two on the floor towards the north (S 37, 49); a flat stone table with four short feet (S 47); and a tripod cooking pot (P 95). Numerous small pieces of bronze, which appear to be runoff or spillage from bronze casting, were also found scattered across the floor. The greatest concentration of finds came from the pit in the southeast corner; it held six stone tools (GS 326, 328–332) in addition to the asteroid fossil, scores of small pumice balls, including a much abraded example (GS 676) that had been used as a tool, a stone vase fragment (S 32), a clay slab (C 99), broken pottery, including fragmentary conical cups, and numerous carbonized olive pits. The array and density of material suggest that the pit served as a refuse pit for material discarded by workers in the room.

Room 4 also provided access to other rooms in the complex. A second doorway in its west wall led over a stone threshold to a small square room, Room 7, at the southwest corner of the complex, where the remains of a large painted storage jar (P 94) were found.

Another doorway, located in the north wall of Room 4, provided access, via a step down, to Room 1, which was another of the principal activity rooms in the complex (Pl. 99:c). It is provided with two low benches, one against the west wall and an L-shaped bench against the south and east walls. A low flat stone stands in front of each bench and provided a working surface for anyone who sat there. A doorway at the northwest corner of the room led down over another step to still another activity room that lay along the north side of the building. This outermost room has been almost completely destroyed by coastal erosion; only a narrow strip of its floor still survived along what was once the south side of the room, including a landing of hard earth and small flat stones preserved just outside the doorway and part of a plaster floor running along the outer side of the north wall of Room 1. Although little of the floor was preserved to the west, the room appears to have extended in this direction alongside Room 2 as well, and important finds were made here in one of two small stone-lined pits placed against the base of the northern wall of Room 2. These consisted of two bronze bowls (CA 18, 19), placed one inside the other, as well as casting debris and copper ingot fragments (CA 20, 21; Pl. 100:a) placed inside the outer bowl. Although it was possible to reconstruct most of the outer bowl (Pl. 100:c), both were broken and incomplete;

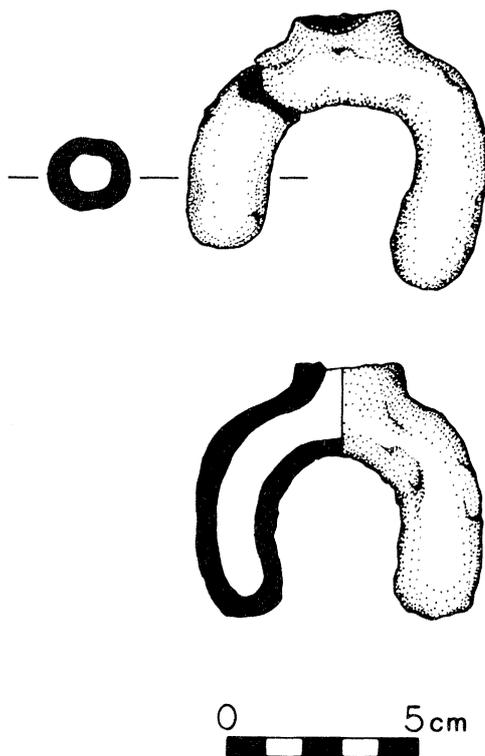


FIG. 13. Molds C 94, 95 from Building A, Room 1 (M. Reid)

the whole deposit appeared to be a small foundry hoard that was being stored for melting in order to manufacture new objects.

The finds made in these rooms and in Room 4 indicate that one of the main activities carried out in the building was metalworking. Among the objects appropriate for this purpose are two clay molds, found near the western bench, that were probably used for casting a pair of handles for a large bronze bowl like that found in House C.4 on the island (C 94, 95; Fig. 13, Pl. 100:b) and part of a small stone mold that may have been used for casting a pin (S 44). Unlike the stone mold, an open mold which may have had another half that sat on top of it, the clay molds are closed with pouring holes at the top. The molten metal was poured into these molds, allowed to set, and then the mold itself was broken; they could be used only once and then had to be thrown away. The molds are semicircular or horseshoe-shaped, a maximum of 0.076 m. wide, and round in section, *ca.* 0.023 m. in diameter; each has a circular channel *ca.* 0.01 m. in diameter on the interior. The ends of the handles cast in these molds would have been hammered flat after casting and then attached to the rim of the bowl with rivets.³² The fragment of a copper ingot (CA 82) and more pieces of runoff or spillage from the casting process were also found in the room. Among the objects used for working

³² For other examples, in addition to CA 25 from House C.4, see Matthäus 1980, nos. 46, 56, 59, 60, 65–68, all from central or eastern Crete.

stone and probably for making stone vases was a large piece of serpentine with a cylindrical hole drilled out of one side (GS 272; Pl. 100:d, left); it is thought to have been used as a guide or wedge to hold a drill in place. A cylindrical core of identical stone (GS 526; Pl. 100:d, center), perhaps coming from this same piece, was also found in the room and represents the residue of the manufacturing process. The lid of one stone vase (S 3) and a fragment of another (S 32), both found in the room, may have been products of this workshop. Finally, a number of stone tools (GS 506, 507) found in the room may have been used as tools for both stone and metalworking.

Several vases were also found alongside and probably fallen from the bench along the western side of the room. They include two pithoid jars with four handles on the shoulders, one with a straight rim above its shoulder (P 461; Pl. 101:a), the other with a low neck and sloping rim (P 511); both are painted with a light buff slip. P 511 was marked with a Linear A inscription, incised on its shoulder before firing. It consists of a branch, sign AB 04, with two lines at its base (Fig. 14, Pl. 101:b).³³ The branch apparently served as an ideogram, perhaps indicating the contents of the vase; it is tempting to identify the two lines as a numerical notation that may have indicated its capacity.³⁴ Among the other vases were two one-handed jugs with their spouts missing, one with characteristic LM IB decoration with horizontal bands on the body, a running spiral around the shoulder, and a row of large dots on the neck (P 416; Pl. 101:c), and the other unslipped and undecorated (P 270); a strainer with horizontal bands of decoration (P 272); a lid with a horizontal handle on top which could fit nicely on top of the strainer, although it is made of a coarser, undecorated fabric (P 417); and a fragment of another strainer decorated with horizontal rows of small dots in a characteristic LM IB style (P 251). Among these rather ordinary vases was a tall alabastron, which is a masterpiece of the LM IB style (P 271; Fig. 15, Pl. 101:d).³⁵ It is decorated on its shoulder with pairs of diagonal lines flanked by rows of dots and alternating with short, diagonal running spirals. White lines, which have all but disappeared, were added around the rim, on top of the diagonal lines on the shoulder, and on the broad horizontal bands beneath. Another tall alabastron (P 463), which has a close parallel among the pottery found by Seager on Pseira, was found here.³⁶ Less well preserved than P 271, it is also less carefully decorated, with horizontal bands on the lower body, three pendent festoons on the shoulder, and much added white paint.

Room 2, isolated to the west of Room 1 and northwest of Room 4 (Pl. 102:a), does not appear to have had any entrance from ground level and may have been used primarily for storage, including the cold storage of foodstuffs, large numbers of cups, and perhaps some of the objects manufactured in the adjacent workrooms. A large stone mortar, *ca.* 0.35 m. high and *ca.* 0.50 m. in diameter, with a channel cut from the bowl through the top of one side (GS 446; Pl. 102:b), stood in the northeast corner of the room. A large number of olive pits were preserved, in patches of earth riddled with holes, lying around this mortar and also

³³ GORILA 5, pp. XXII, XXVIII, 149–151; the same sign appears on a pithos from Knossos, KN zb 34, and at the end of inscriptions on pithoi from Phaistos, PH zb 4 (GORILA 4, pp. 79, 93), and Palaikastro (Driessen 1991, pp. 146–147).

³⁴ See Palmer 1990, who discusses the use of the wine ideogram, which was shared with Linear B, on pithoi.

³⁵ H. 0.146 m.

³⁶ Betancourt 1983, no. 63, pp. 31–32.

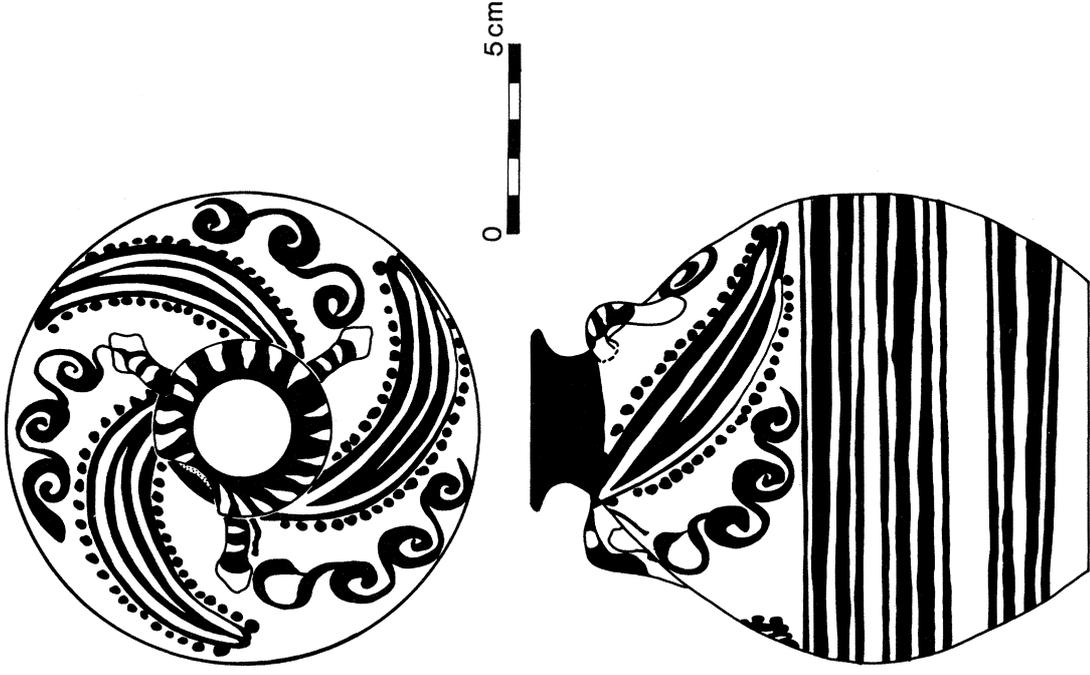


FIG. 15. Alabastron P 271 from Building A, Room 1 (M. Reid)

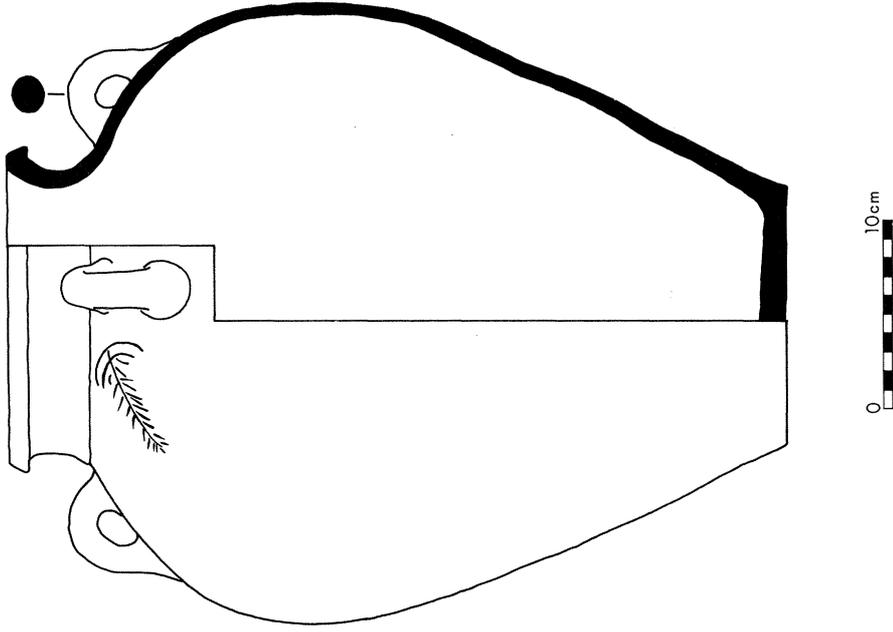


FIG. 14. Jar P 511 with Linear A inscription from Building A, Room 1 (D. Faulmann)

along the north wall and in the northwest corner of the room (Pl. 102:c). While many of the olive pits were still intact, some were broken, and it is possible that olives were crushed in the nearby mortar. Numerous stone tools that could have been used for this purpose were found here and elsewhere in the room. Pottery found along the north side of the room included a small, undecorated jug (P 501) that would have been appropriate for storing oil, a tall alabastron decorated with dot-filled panels (P 252), and part of a one-handed semiglobular cup decorated with isolated spirals in a LM IB style (P 500). Animal bones were also concentrated along this side of the room; they included the remains of as many as five sheep or goats, which had been butchered and burnt, and one pig. Various bird and fish bones, one marine crab, and 50 marine shells, including many belonging to species known to have been used as food, were also found here.

To the south, where the bedrock floor of the room rose *ca.* 0.20 m. above its level to the north, there was a great concentration of conical and handleless semiglobular cups. Nearly fifty were counted and inventoried.³⁷ The cups were found in layers in this half of the trench, and it seems likely that they were originally stacked on wooden shelves that stood along the south wall of the room.

Finally, more evidence for bronzeworking was found throughout the room. This consisted of numerous bits and pieces of bronze waste or spillage, like those found in Rooms 1 and 4, and an assortment of artifacts, including a fish hook (CA 24), a ring (CA 27), an awl (CA 23), one blade from a pair of tweezers (CA 38), a pin (CA 97), and two flat pieces of bronze, each pierced with a hole (CA 5, 96). The varied nature of these finds, and the associated waste material, suggest that they were actually made in the workshop, although probably not in this room. In addition, numerous small pumice balls were found with these objects. Like some in Room 4, a few of these (e.g. S 112) also showed traces of having been worked, being either worn flat on one side or actually pierced with a point or straight-edged object; they were probably used to polish the bronze surfaces after the casting process.

Three more rooms, 3, 5, and 6, lie along the eastern side of the building. Each of these is partly overlaid by the modern town, and it was therefore not possible to excavate any in its entirety. More pieces of bronze spillage or runoff, found in Room 5, and a large piece of copper ingot (CA 123), found in wall tumble *ca.* 0.35 m. above floor level in Room 6, suggest that metalworking was carried out here, too. An ivory roundel (B 2) from the floor in Room 5 suggests still another activity. A clay foot (C 129; Fig. 16), 0.114 m. long, was found on the floor of Room 6, located just underneath the concrete foundation of the modern house that lies along the south side of the room. Because of its size and pointed, upturned toe, it should be identified as a votive foot, very similar to those from the shrine at Mallia and not like those identified by Hawes at Gournia as shoemaker's lasts.³⁸ It is not unlikely that a

³⁷ P 156, 164, 167, 168, 171, 173, 174, 177, 181, 190, 201, 206, 215, 217, 220, 221, 223, 224, 226, 227, 229–234, 236–248, 464, 466, 469, 471, 472.

³⁸ Chapouthier and Demargne 1962, pp. 9–13, 50–54, fig. 3; Hawes 1908, p. 32, pl. III:11. The Mochlos foot resembles the Mallia examples very closely both in size and in its upturned toes. It is also solid terracotta, unlike the Gournia lasts, which are pierced with a hole through the top and side for a cord to pull the last out of the shoe. See also the feet from Anemospelia, which are thought to have supported a cult statue (Sakellarakis and Sakellarakis 1981, p. 368, pl. 180:b), and for other examples and bibliography, see Tsipopoulou 1992, p. 147.

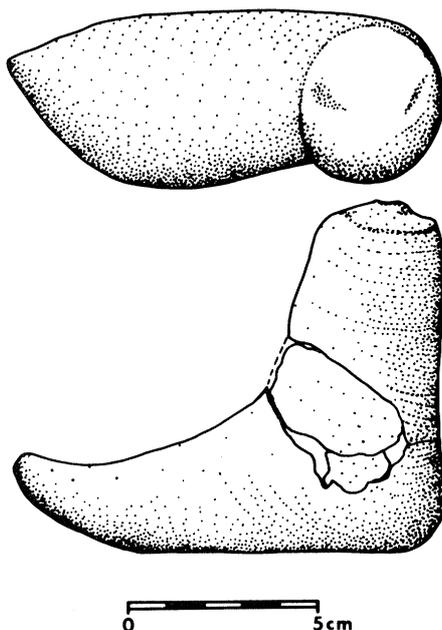


FIG. 16. Votive foot C 129 from Building A, Room 6 (M. Reid)

shrine would be located in the midst of an industrial quarter, as the finds from Building B, described below, suggest.³⁹

Building B (Trenches 300–600, 1300, 1500, 1600–1800; Figs. 11, 12)

Nine trenches have been opened in the road just to the west of Building A, and a second building, Building B, was uncovered here. Most of the northern façade has been destroyed by coastal erosion, and most of its southern side lies in the unexcavated field to the south of the road, but parts of its eastern and western façades have been exposed in Trench 1600 and in Trenches 400 and 600. Two of the trenches, 300 and 400, were excavated in 1990 (Pl. 103:a), the other seven in 1991.⁴⁰

An open area lies between Buildings A and B. *Ca.* 2.25 m. wide, it probably formed part of a road that ran north–south towards the coast in one direction and into the field

³⁹ For shrines associated with workshops in Cyprus, see Karageorghis 1973, pp. 105–109; Karageorghis 1976, pp. 72–76; and Stech 1982, pp. 108–109.

⁴⁰ The trenches varied in size because of the configuration of the road and the need to keep it open to traffic during the excavation. Trenches 300, 600, 500, and 1200 were each laid out with a 0.50 m. baulk on the east, which was left standing until the trenches were excavated, then drawn and removed. 300 and 400 each measured 4 by 5 meters, including baulk. 500 and 600 also measured 4 by 5 meters, including baulks, but were then extended 1.70 m. to the south in order to overlap 300 and 400, making them each 5.00 × 6.70 m. 1300 was slightly trapezoidal, measuring 3.00 m. in width (east–west), 5.60 m. on the west, but only 4.40 m. on the east. 1500 measured 4.40 m. on the west and was 5.75 m. wide; most of its north side lay outside the road, however, and consisted of rocky coastline, and the resulting area was triangular in shape. 1600, 1700, and 1800 were each 5 meters square including a 1-meter baulk along the north, which was not excavated.

south of the modern road in the other (Pl. 99:b). No paving stones are preserved, and flat bedrock alone served as its surface. At one point, a shallow pit, *ca.* 0.78 m. wide, was cut into the bedrock alongside the western wall of Building A, and a pithos (P 760) containing the remains of an infant burial, together with the bones of animals and other vertebrates, was placed here. Two loomweights (C 130, 317) were also found in this space; other finds, including more bits and pieces of bronze residue and three stone vase fragments (S 59, 60, 63), may have come from the adjacent buildings.

The entrance to Building B is located at its northeast corner (Pl. 103:b). Set back in the east façade of the building, which extends to the south, it is approached by a wide, roughly paved landing that leads up from the road to a large stone threshold in the doorway. The stones of this step are bedded on a layer of Santorini tephra, *ca.* 0.10 m. thick. The tephra was not found elsewhere either inside or outside the building and was compact, unlike the powdery tephra found on the island; it seems possible, therefore, that it was laid in place to form a foundation for the step, in which case it would be a good illustration of the use of Santorini tephra as a building material.⁴¹ Whether the remnant of an airborne deposit or laid artificially, it provides additional evidence for the stratigraphic location of Santorini tephra at Mochlos. Four different deposits of volcanic ash have now been found, and in each case the ash is located directly beneath LM IB deposits, without any intervening LM IA material.⁴²

The doorway leads into Room 7, only a small portion of which was excavated. It appears to have been partitioned by a narrow wall of stones just inside the doorway; the part in front of the partition alongside the threshold showed signs of two phases of use, a white plaster floor overlying an earlier floor paved with slabs.

A doorway in the wall to the left leads into a large rectangular room, Room 8, which measures *ca.* 3.66 × 4.60 m.; the room is furnished with doorways at its northeast and near the center of its west wall and so provided access to other parts of the building, but it also served as an important activity room. Broken schist slabs from the roof were uncovered just below the surface, as they were in Building A, and the remains of several pieces of carbonized timber, which probably once supported these slabs, were found with them near the center of the room. Pithos fragments were also found with these slabs, although the pithoi themselves stood on the rock floor that lay 0.50–0.70 m. below. The remains of five storage vessels were found here: one just inside the doorway (P 102), three in the southeast corner of the room (P 93, 101, 767), and one in the southwest corner (P 100). A potter's wheel (C 227; Fig. 17), its top still preserving much of the raw clay that once held the bat in place and

⁴¹ The tephra layer is visible in Plate 103:b to the left of the meter stick, which sits on the threshold of the building, and of the paving stones located in front of the threshold; it extended 0.40–0.50 m. in front of these stones. Its compact state could also have been produced by modern traffic on the road above.

For the use of tephra as a building material, see Stamatopoulos and Kotzias 1990, pp. 491–501. Professor Floyd McCoy of the University of Hawaii was present at the site during the excavation of this ash layer and suggested that it may have been manmade, while the deposit beneath House C.1 on the island, which he also examined, was clearly airborne.

⁴² This deposit provides the best evidence yet against a posteruption LM IA phase; in the other cases one might argue that the LM IA floors had been swept out by the later LM IB occupants, but here there is no sign of any LM IA occupation anywhere in the vicinity. For the major deposit on Mochlos, see Soles and Davaras 1990; 1992, pp. 436–438; and Soles, Taylor, and Vitaliano forthcoming.

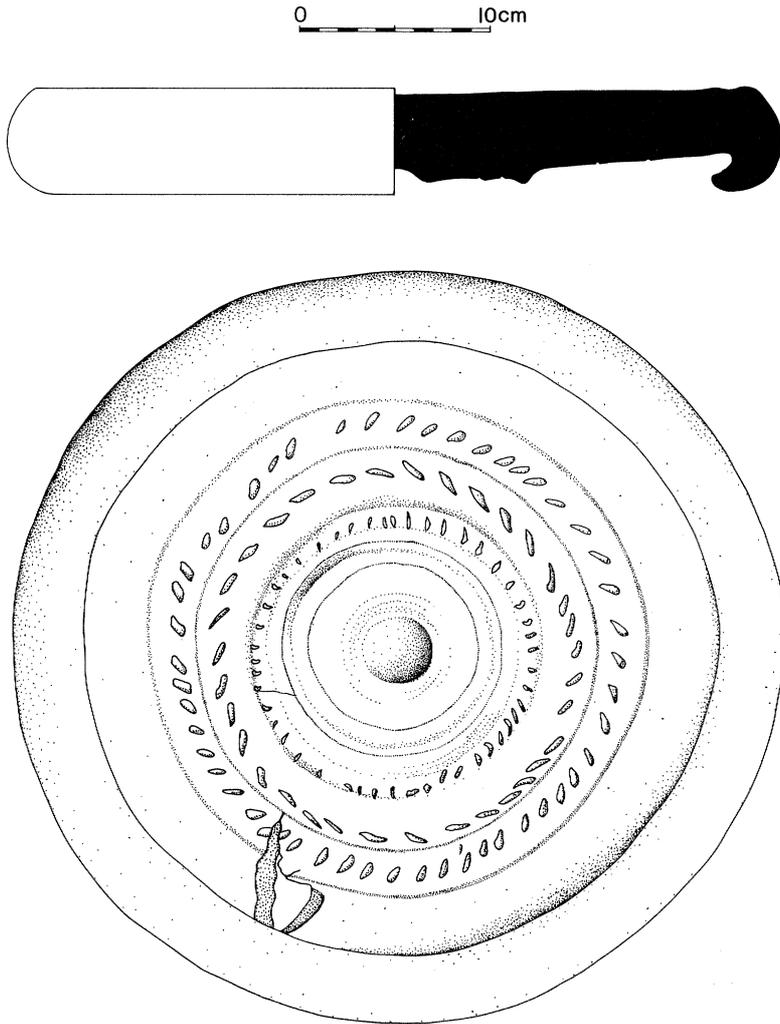


FIG. 17. Potter's wheel C 227 from Building B, Room 8 (M. Reid)

its underside marked with concentric grooves,⁴³ lay in the northwest corner of the room, and the pithoi may once have held clay for making pottery. Twenty-five additional objects were catalogued from the room, including six conical cups (P 573, 709, 1191–1193, 1210), two jugs (P 644, 1194), and one miniature alabastron (P 660), all of which may have been products of this workshop. Other objects that might have been used for pot-making include

⁴³ Diam. 0.398 m., Th. 0.057 m. A shallow socket, 0.036 m. wide and 0.006 m. deep (too small to support the axle), is located in the center of the wheel, and the actual axle support must have been constructed in wood and held in place by extending it beneath the wheel to the hanging edge around the circumference. See Evely 1988, pp. 83–126, fig. 109, where, however, there is no exact parallel.

a stone tripod mortar (GS 620), which shows traces of wear,⁴⁴ and five stone tools (GS 540, 564, 620, 646, 647). Four loomweights (C 182, 183, 213, 318) were also found in the room.

Room 9, which lies immediately to the east of Room 8, also seems to have served as a workroom (Pl. 103:b). Its south wall was not completely exposed, and it is not clear how the room was entered, but like other rooms in the interior of the building, it might have been approached through a doorway at the southeast corner of Room 8, an area that lies underneath the adjacent field. A layer of collapsed roofing material, 0.20 m. thick, lay on top of the room just beneath the surface, while the bedrock floor lay 0.40–0.50 m. below grade. The room was full of carbon and carbonized seeds and provided further evidence for the fire that destroyed the building. The room measures *ca.* 2.00 m. east–west; a small niche was located in its north wall, and a large stone mortar (GS 707) sat against the south baulk.⁴⁵ Among the vessels found in the room were several conical cups (P 482, 533, 550, 555, 576), including one with a hole in its base, which may have served as a rhyton. Many fragments of clay industrial slabs were also found here.

Only the western part of Room 4 could be excavated, but like Room 9, this room might also have been reached from the southeast corner of Room 8. It is *ca.* 2.80 m. wide, and an irregular platform, *ca.* 0.10 m. high, is located at its far western end; a stone mortar (GS 513) was found upside down, built into the platform, along with a stone pestle (GS 514). Few other finds were made in the room, and its function is unclear. It provided access to Room 1 through a doorway at its southwest corner.

Room 1 was one of the most important rooms in the building (Pl. 103:c). Its floor lay only 0.40 m. below grade, and perhaps because so much of the surface soil was removed by the modern road, only a single floor deposit was found in the room, with no evidence for roofing preserved above it. The room is rectangular, measuring *ca.* 2.80 × 3.15 m., and has a level bedrock floor. It was entered by two doorways, one on either side of its southeast corner; a break in the wall at the northwest corner, *ca.* 0.38 m. wide, appears to be too narrow to have served as a doorway and was probably caused by the root of a modern tamarisk tree, which snakes along the bedrock floor of the room. A low bench, *ca.* 1.65 m. long, 0.40–0.67 m. wide, and 0.10 m. high, runs along the east side of the room. Several finds located near the middle, perhaps fallen from the bench to the east, identify the room as a bench sanctuary.⁴⁶ They include two nearly identical clay pedestals with low flaring bowls (P 255, 256; Fig. 18, Pl. 104:a). Wheelmade of undecorated, unslipped phyllite ware, each is *ca.* 0.11 m. tall; the pedestal itself is hollow but is closed at the base and pierced with a firing hole. The bowls measure *ca.* 0.10 m. in diameter, and one has a low boss at the bottom. Both were found unbroken, except for minor chips from the rim of one. Vases of similar design, but provided with spouts for wicks and serving as lamps, have been found at Zakros,⁴⁷ but

⁴⁴ According to Helène Whittaker, the mortar is trachyte and belongs to the same type as those from Gournia identified as Syro-Palestinian by Buchholz. She also suggests that it may have been used for grinding phyllite for use as temper in pottery production. See Hawes 1908, p. 32, pl. III:64; Buchholz 1963; and Warren 1969, p. 116. Harriet Blitzer believes these tripod mortars are imported from the Cyclades (personal communication); if they came by sea they would have made good ballast.

⁴⁵ Dimensions of mortar 0.53 × 0.19 × 0.24 m.; depth of bowl 0.12 m.

⁴⁶ For parallels, see the examples cited by Gesell (1985, pp. 19–22).

⁴⁷ Siteia Museum, inv. nos. 1089, 1099.

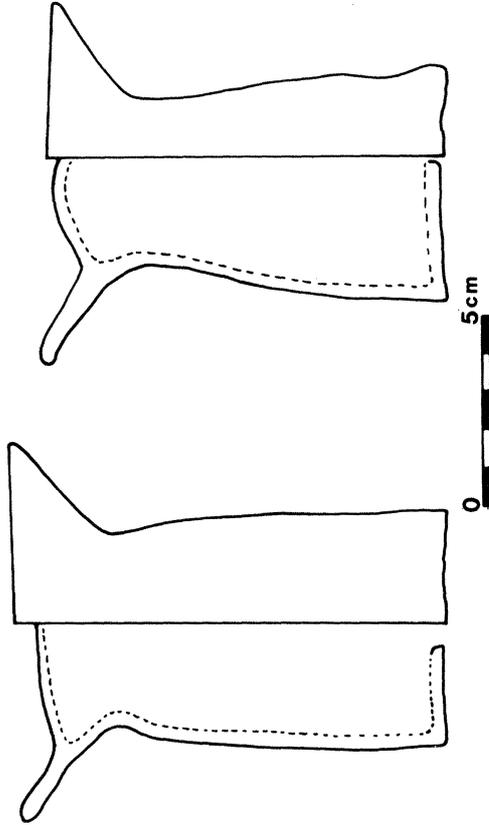
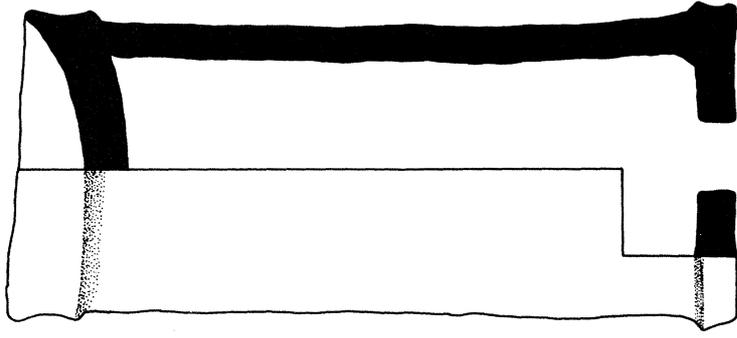


Fig. 18. Pedestals P 255, 256 from Building B, Room 1 (M. Reid)

Fig. 19. Tube P 257 from Building B, Room 1 (D. Faulmann)

these pedestaled bowls show no trace of burning and are likely to have served as stands for small offerings. A badly broken cylindrical tube was found with them (P 257; Fig. 19, Pl. 104:a, center). It was nearly complete when mended, however, and measures *ca.* 0.19 m. in height and 0.085 m. at its base diameter. It is wheelmade of the same undecorated clay but was slipped and burnished. It also supports a low bowl or cup at its top, but its cup, unlike the bowls of P 255 and 256, was made separately and inserted in the tube; it was then sealed in place with an offset, concave rim at the top of the tube. The rim of the cup is broken off along one side and badly worn along the other, but it flared slightly above and beyond the molded rim of the tube. It shows traces of burning on one side. The tube itself is hollow and is also offset at its base, which is closed and pierced with a firing hole. Although the tube has no handles along its sides and no cutout openings, it might nevertheless be identified as a prototype of the later “snake-tube”, which had the same function, namely, to serve as a support for a conical cup.⁴⁸ The traces of burning on its rim also suggest that it may have served as a lamp or incense burner.

Two other objects, essentially votive in nature, were found in the shrine: a one-handed miniature jug with trefoil spout (P 253), painted with a dark slip,⁴⁹ and a miniature bronze chisel (CA 17) with a solid shaft, 0.041 m. long in its entirety, which shows no signs of wear. An unworked piece of rock crystal (S 35), *ca.* 0.05 m. long, was also found here.

Only a small part of the room to the south of the bench shrine, Room 2, could be excavated, since most of it lies outside the area of the modern road in the adjacent field. The doorway at the southeast corner of the shrine, which opens into this room, and the finds made in the northwest corner suggest that the room was an important adjunct to the shrine. Finds included a large piriform jar with a lily incised on its shoulder (P 376; Pl. 104:b), a fragment of a LM IB Vapheio cup painted with horizontal bands at its base (P 377), an intact triton shell (Sh 3), a serpentine stone with a semicircular core removed from one side, which may have served as the guide for a stone-vase drill (GS 668; Pl. 100:d, right), and an obsidian core (CS 55). Because these finds were concentrated in such a small area, one corner of a much larger room, it is tempting to identify the room as an annex or treasury, where material used in the shrine or objects once placed there as offerings were stored. Further excavation in the adjacent field is needed, however, to identify the function of the room with certainty.

Room 3, which does not appear to have had direct access to the shrine, lay to its northwest; it measures *ca.* 2.60 × 3.65 m. Although no evidence for roofing was found in Rooms 1, 2, or 4, some roofing material was found in this room. It consisted of schist plaques, badly disturbed and crushed, probably in the grading of the modern road, but nevertheless preserved, because they lay at a lower level than the roofing material in the rooms to the south. The bedrock floor of Room 3 is level with that of the shrine along the south side of the room but slopes downwards towards the north. Most of the finds in the room were located along the south wall. A large sandstone mortar (GS 581), measuring *ca.* 0.40 × 0.40 × 0.50 m. and provided with a channel running from the bowl to its edge, was located in the southwest corner of the room. It resembles the one in Room 2 of Building A, and like that mortar, it was surrounded by a number of conical and semiglobular cups

⁴⁸ Shaw 1977, pp. 227–331; Gesell 1976, pp. 247–259.

⁴⁹ H. 0.069 m.

(P 391, 401, 505, 546, 713, 963). Other finds from the room included two one-handled tripod saucers (P 390, 497), a tripod tray with two rim handles, decorated with a pale buff slip and a black circle around the interior circumference, with a black cross in the center (P 254), and numerous fragments of tripod cooking pots.

Room 5, which lies adjacent to this room immediately north of the shrine, also appears to have been entered from above. It is an unusual room, for it consists of a deep circular pit in the bedrock that may have been partly manmade, surrounded by walls on four sides. It was difficult to identify any floor extending across the entire room. At the base of its walls, where a floor would be expected, the room measured *ca.* 2.50 × 2.86 m.; the pit descends nearly a meter below this level. Roof debris was found *ca.* 0.25–0.50 m. below grade. *Ca.* 0.20 m. beneath this, the remains of an infant burial were found inside a large two-handled jar standing upright at the base of the walls in the southwest corner of the room. The jar, decorated in dark-on-light LM IB style (P 658), also contained various animal bones. A handleless, semiglobular cup (P 436) stood alongside the base of the jar. The greatest concentration of pottery occurred *ca.* 0.60–1.00 m. beneath this point, at the bottom of the pit where it appears to have been dumped.

Parts of two or three more rooms, including Rooms 6 and 7, were excavated to the east of Room 5. In each case, floors were located directly beneath roof debris. Room 6, of which only the northwest corner was excavated, was paved with schist slabs, which were later covered with a layer of white plaster. Room 7, the western part of which was uncovered, appears to have been divided by an internal partition wall, the western part of the room lying *ca.* 0.30 m. below the eastern part; a stone mortar (GS 718) was found in its northwest corner. Room 10, which lay along the edge of the shore north of Room 7 and was largely destroyed by coastal erosion, also appears to have been an interior space, since the western wall of Room 7 continues along the western side of the space and pottery was found in the southwest corner of the area.

The north façade of the building was exposed in Trenches 600, 500, and 1300, along the north sides of Rooms 3 and 5, and some interesting finds were made in the northern part of these trenches in the area outside the building, which extends a distance of *ca.* 9.57 m. east–west. The north wall of Room 3 rests on a bedrock ledge that has been cut down along its northern face to create a level area outside the room, and two low benches were located here against the wall. A large number of pithos fragments were scattered along the base of this wall, mixed with fragments of plaster that once may have adhered to the face of the wall; a pumice tool was found near the western bench (GS 378). One tripod cooking pot (P 1043) was found midway between the two benches in the fill *ca.* 0.40 m. above the floor of this area, and another was found against the outer north wall of Room 5. It contained the remains of a hare and an unbroken lens of rock crystal (S 16). The lens, with a diameter of 0.013 m. and a thickness of 0.004 m., is plano-convex with a useful magnification of about 2.5X; it is identical to several that have been found at Knossos and in the Idaean Cave and may have been used for lighting a fire.⁵⁰ Such lenses could also have been used in carving designs on seals. A core of rock crystal (CS 56) and part of a stone vase (S 40) were found at the eastern end of this area, outside Room 7.

⁵⁰ Sines and Sakellarakis 1989.

PALIA VARDIA

In 1990 the excavation spent two mornings clearing the site of Palia Vardia and uncovering a small round structure on the hilltop, which commands a spectacular view over the coastal plain towards the island of Mochlos (Fig. 1). Nicholas Platon had reported a “M.M. house” here, where the road turns as it ascends the hill on the way to Myrsine,⁵¹ and we had ourselves identified some Minoan pottery in the vicinity in the earlier survey of the area. The building located on the hilltop appeared to have been excavated at some earlier point and required little additional cleaning. It forms an irregular circle, with its rubble walls standing to a height of *ca.* 1.00 m. A doorway on the east opens into a small room, *ca.* 1.90 m. in diameter, with an earth floor. Nothing was found inside the building or in the area around it, but the building appears to be a modern structure, certainly not the Minoan house reported by Platon. The workers who uncovered it, all from neighboring villages, compared it to the watchtowers or outposts that were built in the countryside by the Turks in the last century. It could also be a modern shepherd’s hut. During its cleaning a concentration of Minoan pottery was found in the narrow area within the hairpin curve of the road, and in all likelihood the building Platon reported was destroyed when the road was constructed in the 1950’s.

CHALINOMOURI

In 1991 the excavation began work at the site of Chalinomouri at the far eastern end of the Mochlos coastal plain, where Platon had also reported a “M.M. house”.⁵² Here the excavation enjoyed better luck; it did not find the “M.M.” building reported by Platon, but it did begin to uncover a Minoan building of LM IB date.

A high promontory, now badly eroded at its north end, once projected out into the sea here at the eastern end of the plain (Fig. 1, Pl. 105:a). Overlooking a rocky horseshoe-shaped harbor, it is flanked on the east by the steep cliffs that bound this end of the plain, rising to a height of 450 m. above sea level, and on the west by a ravine that opens onto the harbor along the coast. This ravine is one of the few places along the coast where a freshwater stream still flows even in the arid summer months, and there is evidence that a great deal of fresh water once flowed here. A short distance to the south, where the stream originated in the cliffs at the southeast corner of the plain, the water wore the rock smooth as it twisted through its narrow bed and then cascaded down the side of the cliff into a small lake, only the contours of which survive, outlined by the surrounding terrain. The stream flows through this lake bed today and enters from its north the ravine that runs along the west side of the site. It is unclear how long ago the water ceased to flow in great abundance, but at one time an earth dam appears to have been constructed across the ravine to hold the water in the lake, and excavation might reveal another dam of the sort constructed by the LM settlers on Pseira.⁵³

Five trenches were opened on this promontory, one at its northern edge, which proved unproductive, and four a short distance to the south where remains of walls were visible on the surface.

⁵¹ Platon 1959, p. 388.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ Betancourt, Davaras, Simpson, and McEnroe 1990.

Building A (Ch, Trenches 1100, 1200, 2100, 2200)⁵⁴

Two rooms were uncovered in Trenches 1100, 1200, 2100, 2200, at the north end of a long rectangular building (Pl. 105:b). This building sits right alongside the edge of the ravine, and parts of its western façade have collapsed into it. The floors were found *ca.* 0.75–1.25 m. below the modern surface. Only part, perhaps one-fourth, of the building was excavated, and no exterior doorways were found.

Room 1 is located at the northeast corner of the building. It is a rectangular room measuring *ca.* 2.95 × 3.50 m. and has a doorway, provided with a stone threshold, which leads into an interior room. LM III potsherds and fragments of a cup of Cypriot white-slip ware (P 98), the first to be identified at Mochlos, were found in the wall tumble above the floor of the room, and the house had apparently been used in the LM III period. When the floor of the room was found beneath this collapsed wall debris, however, at an elevation of +28.33 m., several LM IB objects were found lying on it. These included the broken remains of two pithoi (P 1195, 1196), a one-handled tripod saucer (P 496), a small round lid with pawn-shaped handle (P 1209), a cylindrical stand (P 595), and a circular clay disk with a hole through the center and two rim handles (C 184), the function of which is unknown. An intact triton shell (Sh 13), a stone quern and pestle (GS 715, 716), and a cylindrical core of serpentine (GS 717) from the manufacture of a stone vase were also found in the room.

Room 2, located at the northwest corner of the building, is entered through a doorway at its southeast corner. Its western wall is destroyed, but the room was probably only a little smaller than Room 1, with north–south dimensions of *ca.* 2.45 m. Its floor was found beneath collapsed wall debris at an elevation of +28.36 m. A lead weight (Pb 16) and another drill wedge of serpentine (GS 636) were found on the floor together with scattered LM IB potsherds and a broken bridge-spouted jar (P 758). A number of stone slabs lay on the floor along the east and west sides of the room; when some of these were lifted, they were found to cover the mouths of large jars and pithoi that had been buried beneath floor level (Pl. 106:a). Five of these, including one that was covered with the base of a broken pithos (P 113), were located in the northeast corner of the room (Pl. 106:b) and included four piriform jars (P 475, with an incised lily on its shoulder [Pl. 106:c], and P 476, 491, 1010) and one large amphora (P 97), which still retained traces of wine resin on its interior. Three pithoi (P 750, 751, 757), which could not be removed before the end of the 1991 season, were buried as a group along the destroyed western wall of the room. A cup (P 645) was found inside P 491, but otherwise the jars, which retained their stone lids in place, were quite empty; the jars and the pithoi that were no longer protected by stone lids were full of earth. All eight vessels were once used for storage, and their burial beneath floor level was probably designed to keep their contents cool.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ A separate grid was laid out here on either side of a north–south axis; each trench measured from this line is 5 meters square.

⁵⁵ A good parallel for this practice is found in the contemporary villa at Makrygialos, where pithoi were also buried beneath floor level. See Davaras 1973, p. 590, pl. 558:6.

MOCHLOS ISLAND

MYCENAEAN PERIOD

The roughly cobbled road, dating to the LM III reoccupation of the site and discovered in 1989, was followed to its end in 1990. The southern end of the road, where it began towards the coast, is incompletely preserved; it is supported by a retaining wall, running east–west, and appears to have run up from the coast along the south side of the partly destroyed and partly reoccupied Neopalatial House D.1 (cf. Fig. 2). It then turned at right angles and continued to the north in the space between Houses D.1 and D.4 (both excavated by Seager), where it is supported partly on fill placed between the two house walls and partly on the west wall of House D.1. From the point where it begins between the two earlier houses, 3.80 m. above sea level, it continues up the south slope of the island a distance of *ca.* 14.75 m., where it ends at an elevation of +6.82 m. in front of the entrance to a large house. The road was clearly designed to lead to this house, but it appears to have been built slightly after the house itself.

House A (Area E4, Trenches 4700, 4800, 4900, 5800, 5900; Fig. 20)

These trenches were laid out at the top of the LM III road in a space between two areas that were dug by Seager, Houses D.2 and D.4 lying to the south and “the scanty remains of small L.M. I houses” lying in a long rectangular trench or “cutting” just to the north.⁵⁶ The southern part of a LM III house was uncovered in these trenches. Seager reported an “isolated house” of this period: “In L.M. III there was no resettlement of the town, although at one point, judging from the parts of several vases found, there may have been an isolated house of that period. On the rest of the site there are no traces of L.M. III. . . .”⁵⁷ Although he gives no description or location, this house may be the one he reports, since part of its south wall above Houses D.1 and D.2 had already been exposed, large amounts of LM I potsherds lay on top of it, and very little was found on its floor. It is also the most substantial structure of this period to have been found on the island so far (Pl. 107:a).

The house underwent three different building stages. In the first, the main façades of the house on the west, south, and east were constructed. The south façade extends *ca.* 11.18 m. and is impressively built with large stones laid in roughly horizontal courses, rising three courses above the slope to a height of *ca.* 1.22 m. At this time the house was probably entered through a doorway in the western wall at the level of the natural slope; its interior arrangement is not yet clear. Excavation to date has reached the original floor level only in the southwest corner of the house, in Trench 4700, where a LM IIIA:2 ovoid flask decorated with concentric circles in reddish slip (P 516; Fig. 21) was uncovered with other pottery that

⁵⁶ Seager 1909, p. 303.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 275.

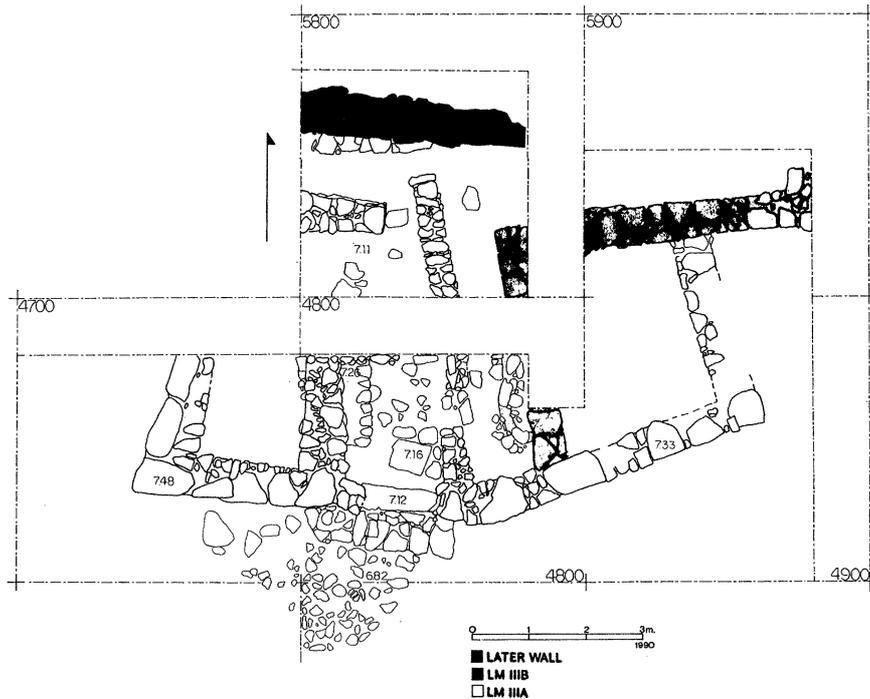


FIG. 20. Mycenaean House A (Area E4, Trenches 4700, 4800, 4900, 5800, 5900)

provides a date for the original construction of the house.⁵⁸ This flask lay about 0.30 m. below the level of a later floor.

In the second stage of construction, which occurred still in the LM IIIA:2 phase, the floor level throughout the house was raised 0.25–0.35 m. with an earth fill that contained a good number of LM I potsherds. The outer walls continued in use, but the road leading up to the house from the south was constructed, and a new entrance from this road was opened in the south façade, using one of the original wall stones for its threshold. The new entrance lay about a meter above the base of the south wall, the original ground level, and enjoyed an unobstructed view over the road and the straits of Mochlos beyond. A stoop or landing, consisting of two steps with flanking stones and measuring *ca.* 1.77 m. across, was constructed here in front of the entrance at the top of the road. Its base lies *ca.* 0.20 m. above the base of the south façade, and it is clearly a later construction than this façade. A stone bin, measuring *ca.* 0.35 × 0.56 m. on its inside and perhaps designed for feeding animals, was built against the west side of the stoop, 0.40–0.50 m. above the base of the south façade; a large pithos (P 121), only the top half preserved, stood against the east side.

This new entrance provided access to a newly designed interior. It led into a small rectangular vestibule, measuring *ca.* 1.64 × 2.11 m., which was paved and provided with

⁵⁸ H. 0.28 m., Diam. at rim 0.059 m. For a discussion of these flasks, see Tzedhakis 1971, pp. 363–368 and Kanta 1980, p. 60. Because of their rarity, Tzedhakis has suggested that they were offerings to “persons of high importance”.

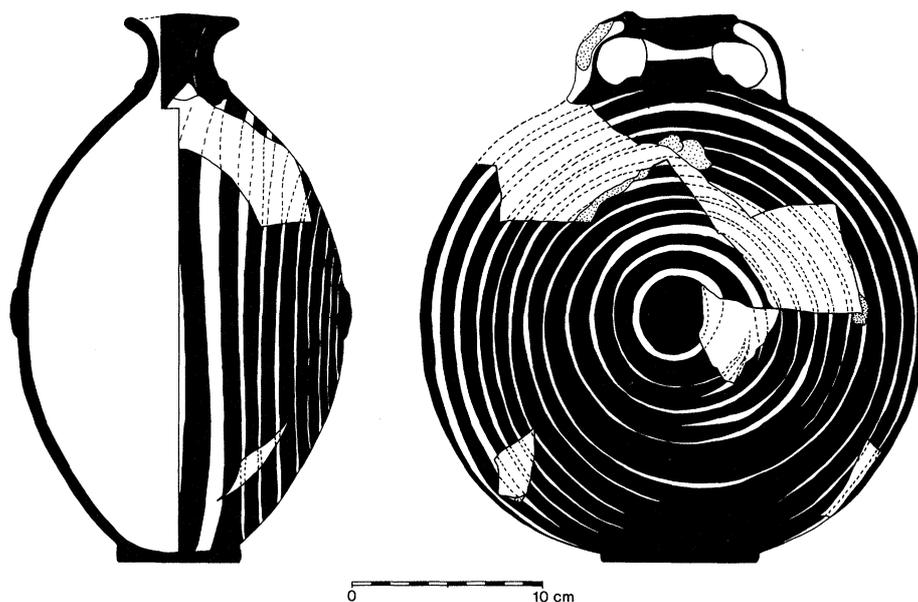


FIG. 21. Flask P 516 from House A, Room 2 (M. Reid)

a low plastered bench along the western side of the room.⁵⁹ No finds were made in this room. A doorway at the northeast and another in the east wall led into interior rooms; no finds were made here either. A shallow drain, however, dug in the floor and covered with flat stones, ran through the eastern room and emptied through a hole in the south façade of the house.

In still a third phase of construction, this LM IIIA:2 house was remodeled, and a new structure was built to its east. Only one room has been identified, but it showed that the floor was again raised by some 0.30 m. The single room exposed lay at the southeast corner of the earlier house and reused part of its south façade. New walls were built on the west, where the entrance of the room was located; on the north; on the south, where the house extended beyond the southeast corner of the original house; and on the east, in the as yet unexcavated baulks of Trenches 4900 and 5900. The upper half of a large pithos with a collared rim (P 512) was strewn across the floor of this room, and two small stirrup jars (P 513, 514) decorated with concentric circles on top and bottom and a deep bowl (P 515) with a reddish slip inside and out were found here. All three vases belong to the LM IIIB period and provide a date for the final phase of occupation.

EARLY BYZANTINE PERIOD

On the island, a settlement of the Early Byzantine period, with some later reoccupation, has been found to overlie part of the Neopalatial settlement, sometimes with walls of the 7th century after Christ resting directly on top of walls of the 16th century B.C. Parts of

⁵⁹ L. of bench *ca.* 1.42 m., W. 0.40–0.50 m., H. *ca.* 0.10 m.

six Byzantine buildings, including two partly excavated by Seager, have now been located on the south slope. They are scattered over the site and indicate that the Early Byzantine occupation was nearly as extensive as the LM I occupation. It was not nearly so dense, however, and its buildings appear to have been haphazardly located over the south slope of the island without any clear pattern of streets or indeed any sense of town planning of the sort exhibited by the Minoan site. It may be significant, however, that many house walls of this period, at least those that did not rest directly upon earlier Minoan walls, were oriented towards polar north.

Byzantine remains were found in Area E4, Trenches 2500 and 2600 (Fig. 2), the area of the LM I house D.4 where Seager reported major "Roman" destruction. Ashlar blocks were found in the LM I street there, as they were in 1989 in its extension to the south in Trench 1500; they do not seem to have belonged to the Minoan rubble walls running on either side of the street, which are preserved 1.26–1.78 m. high, since no ashlar is preserved in these walls, and Minoan builders in Crete did not usually place ashlar blocks atop high rubble walls. The blocks lay at the level of the Minoan street but in roughly parallel rows quite unlike the helter-skelter arrangement of blocks fallen around the Minoan building B.2. If the Minoans did not use these blocks, the Byzantine settlers may have; when they reused the remains of House D.4, they may have rebuilt its façade, placing these ashlar blocks on top of the Minoan façade, at the same time that they rebuilt much of the interior, or they may have laid them in rows in the old Minoan street in order to raise ground level to the new Byzantine level. The Byzantine occupants also reused the old Minoan entrance but set a large green stone threshold slab over the original Minoan threshold to raise the entry level to the new floor level. In the room inside, set *ca.* 0.32 m. above the old Minoan floor level, a Minoan column base was reused for a new ceiling support; roof tiles fallen in the room suggest that the house itself was now provided with a gabled roof. Three fireplaces were found on the floor of the room along with pieces of iron and bronze slag and nail fragments, which suggest metalworking activity.

Part of another Byzantine house was exposed in Area E4, Trenches 6600, 6700, and 7700, but work ceased here before reaching any floor levels in order to concentrate elsewhere on two large Byzantine buildings: one, a house partly exposed in 1989 in Areas E3 and F3, and the other, an industrial establishment located above the ashlar building discovered in 1990.

Byzantine Building 1 (Area E3, Trench 1000; Area F3, Trench 10,000)

In 1990 a new trench, Trench 1000, was opened in Area E3 immediately to the north of Area F3, Trench 10,000 (Fig. 2), in order to clarify the Byzantine activity discovered there in 1989. The south façade and the main entrance of a large house, whose westernmost rooms were excavated in adjacent trenches in 1989,⁶⁰ was located. The eastern part of this façade sits right on top of a Neopalatial wall belonging to House C.5, and the doorway of the Byzantine house reuses the upper course of the Minoan wall for its threshold. Parts of the north, west, and south walls of the house, including its original northwest and southwest

⁶⁰ I.e., Trenches 900, 1900, 2900; see Soles and Davaras 1992, p. 443.

corners, have been exposed. It is also possible to locate the southeast corner of the house lying just at the surface and so to estimate the dimensions of a large rectangular structure, measuring *ca.* 10.70 × 11.00 m. Additions were made along the north wall and at the southwest corner, enlarging it further. Parts of six rooms, including two enclosed by these additions, have been uncovered to date.

In the Byzantine era, ground level in front of the house sloped down towards the coast to the south, and an irregular ramp, partly paved with green schist slabs, led around from the west, where it rested on the east façade of House C.1, to the front of the house where it was supported by a retaining wall on the south. This ramp provided access to the main entrance of the house, a doorway *ca.* 1.22 m. wide, constructed with jambs of upright slabs in a manner characteristic of other Byzantine doorways on the site. It opened into a spacious room, Room 5, measuring *ca.* 4.26 m. wide (east–west), whose floor, paved with huge stone slabs, lay at an elevation of +2.54–2.45 m. A low bench lay against the west wall of the room, and a stone-lined drain, built on top of the paved floor, ran from the north baulk just in front of the bench to a hole in the slab floor. The northern part of the room, which lies outside the trench, has not been excavated yet, and the type of installation that fed into the drain is therefore unknown. A doorway at the southwest corner of the room leads over a stone threshold, the top of a buried LM I wall, into a second room. A large open hearth was located to one side of this room, and a deposit of Early Byzantine pottery, including another amphora (P 99) like those found in the house in 1989, lay along its south wall. Still another doorway at the southwest corner of this room leads into Room 2, which was excavated in 1989. Provided with a floor of white plaster and a plastered bench along its north wall, it was tentatively identified as the main living room of the house.⁶¹

Byzantine Building 2 (Area E3, Trenches 6500, 6600, 6700, 7600, 7700)

Five trenches were opened in 1991 to the northwest of House C.3 in order to discover the source of the ashlar tumble that was found in 1990 (Fig. 2). The southeast corner, east façade, and parts of five rooms belonging to an extensive building were uncovered just below surface. The walls of this building, predominantly rubble, reuse ashlar blocks in key locations, but the building itself is Early Byzantine in date. It differs in plan and function from Building 1, however, and also uses a different system of roof tiles. Three of its rooms, 1, 2, and 3, lie side by side along the east façade of the building, each a rectangular unit with its own external doorway; two others, 4 and 5, lie on the west side of Rooms 1 and 2 with their entrances opening to the west. None of the five communicates directly with any other. Unlike the simple flat and curving tiles of Building 1, the building used flat ridge tiles with narrow covering tiles finished like small roof gables over the joints.

Room 1, which lies in the center of the east side, was provided with an earth floor that sloped from +7.94 to +7.59 m. from west to east. A beam press, one of the earliest known examples, was located in the southwest corner (Pl. 107:b). Its beam rested in a semicircular socket cut in a reused ashlar block in the west wall; it was located *ca.* 0.20 m. above a rectangular paved area, edged with upright stones, which lay at floor level. The beam was

⁶¹ Soles and Davaras 1992, p. 443.

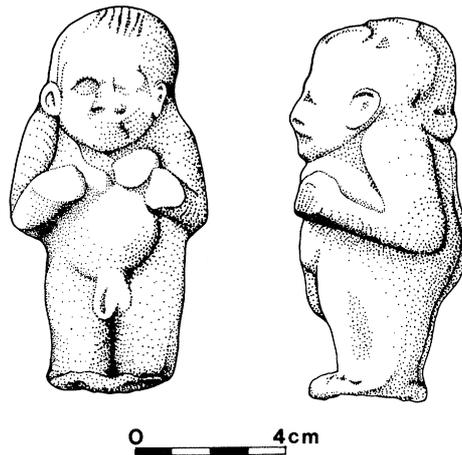


FIG. 22. Doll C 132 from Byzantine Building 2, outside Room 1 (M. Reid)

raised and lowered over this pavement, presumably with a stone weight attached to it, and an opening in the upright stones at the opposite side of the pavement allowed liquids to flow out towards the doorway of the room. Loomweights were found scattered over this stone pavement (C 76, 78–82), suggesting that textile production was one activity that had taken place in the room, and Harriet Blitzer, who visited the site in 1992, suggested that the press may have been used for the manufacture of felt, an important industry in the Byzantine age.

Finds in the other rooms were less instructive. Just outside Room 1, however, a small terracotta doll was found (C 132; Fig. 22), where perhaps a child played while her mother worked within.

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Prepalatial house and street, with stairs and threshold of Late Minoan I House C.1 in foreground, from west

House C.2

a. South façade of eastern wing, from south



b. Rooms 3, 4, and 5, from west



c. Room 6, uppermost ground-floor level, from west





a. Stone seat and mortar, House C.2, Room 6, from south



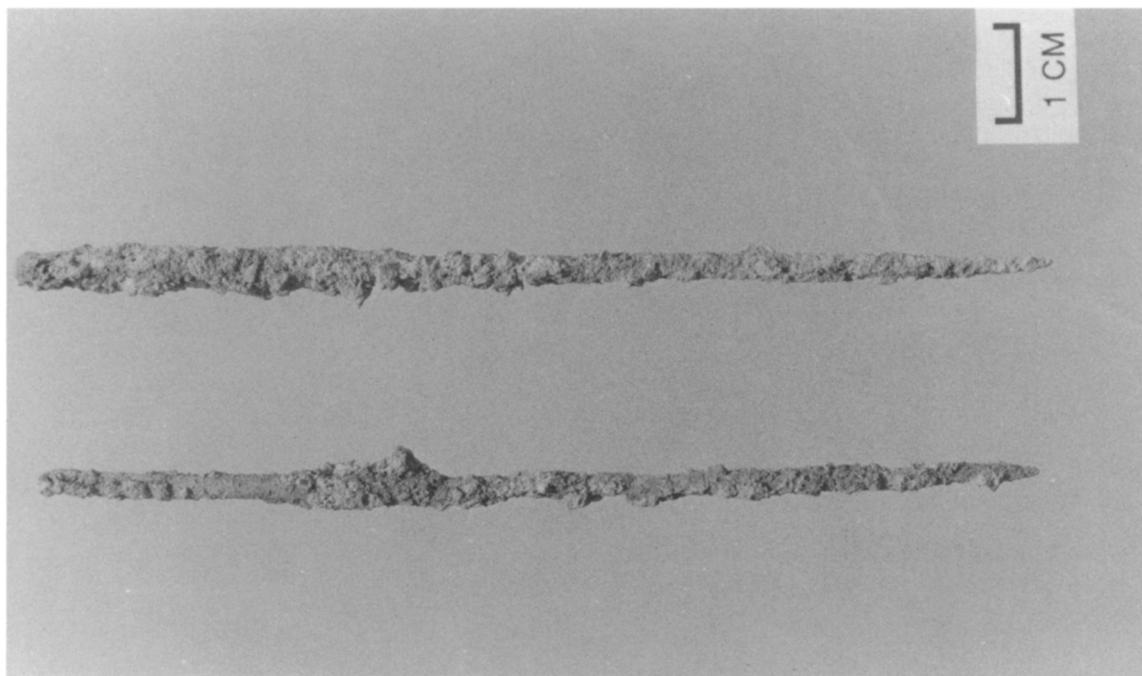
b. Alley between Houses C.2 (right) and C.4 (left), from north



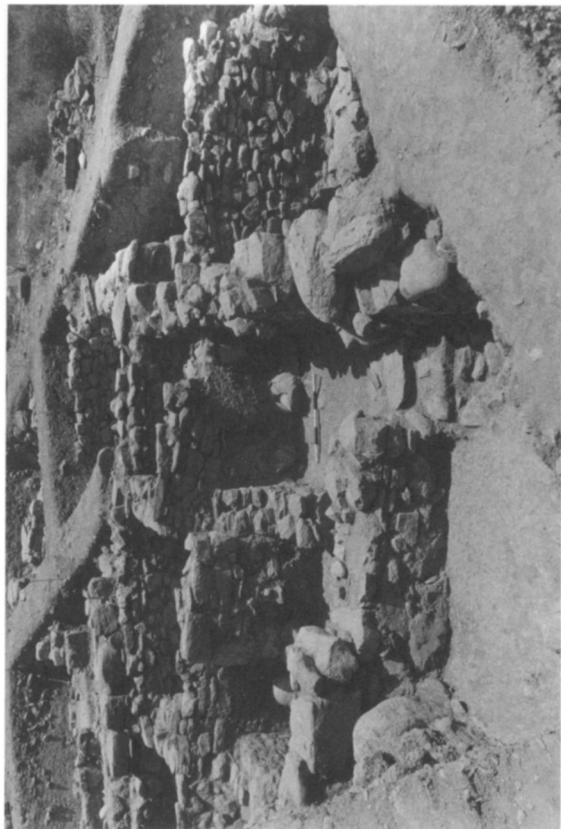
b. Bronze bowl (CA 25) from House C.4



c. Pedestal lamp (S 5) from House C.4



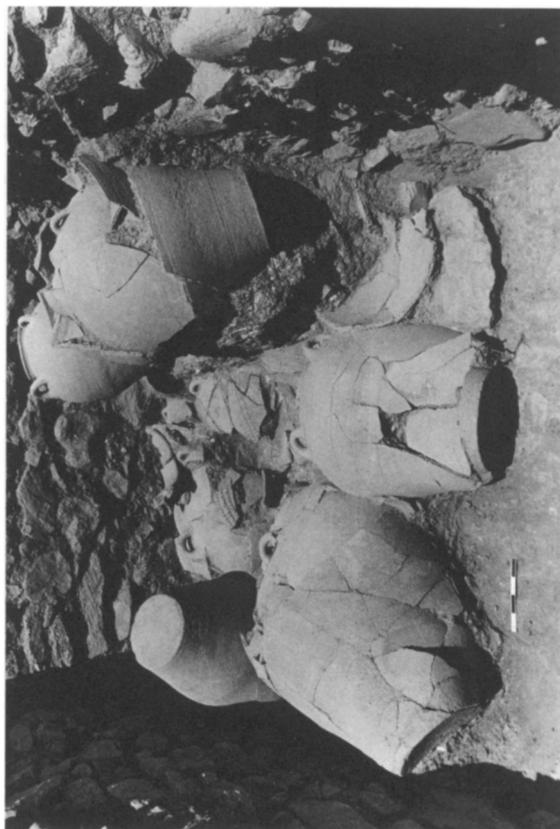
a. Bronze needles (CA 15, 16) from House C.2, Room 6



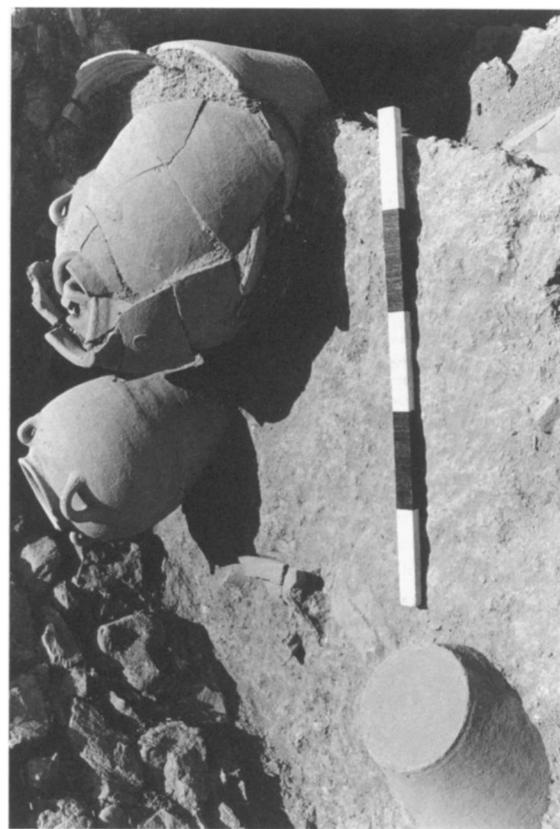
a. View from south



b. Room 1, pithoi on ground floor found in 1990, from south



c. Room 1, with some pithoi on floor, others to left and right fallen from upper floor, from south



d. Room 1, pithoi fallen from upper floor, from above at west

House C.3

JEFFREY S. SOLES AND COSTIS DAVARAS: EXCAVATIONS AT MOCHLOS, 1990-1991

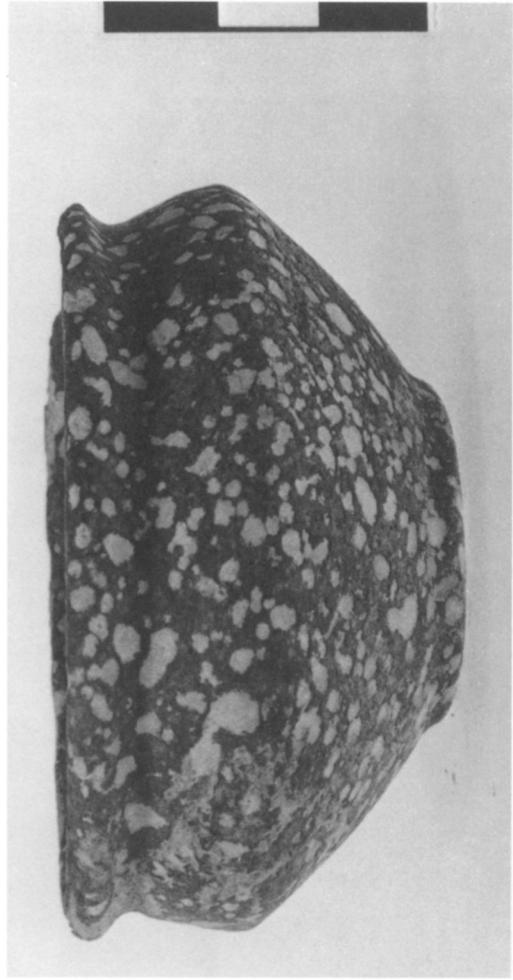
House C.3, Room 1



a. LM IB Hydria (P 119)



b. Miniature bridge-spouted jar (P 269)



c. Stone vase (S 12)

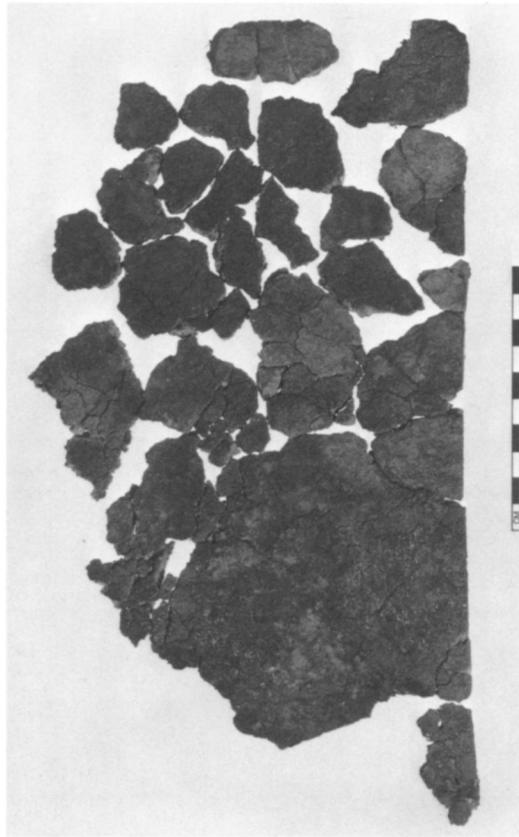
House C.3



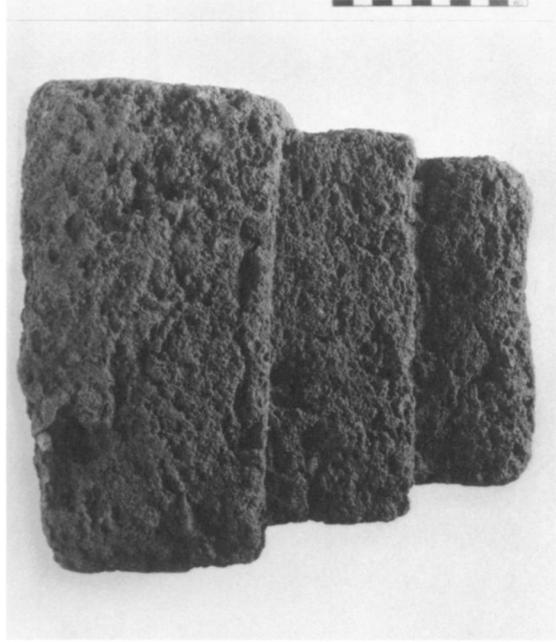
a. Room 2, pithoi (P 127, 139), from north



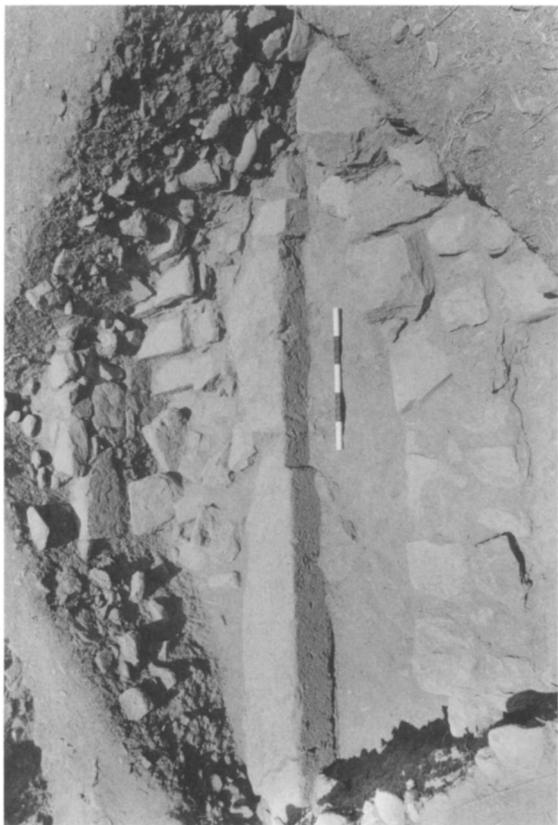
b. Stone vase (S 89) from upper floor, Room 3



c. Red wall plaster (Pl 2) from upper floor, Room 3



d. Stone libation table (S 88) from upper floor, Room 3



a. Area E3, Trench 6700, with ashlar façade of Building B.2 beginning to emerge, from southeast



b. Ashlar blocks fallen from east façade of Building B.2 filling street between B.2 and House C.3, from south



c. Same as b, from north



d. Building B.2, pillar room, with window to right, from south



a. Building B.2, second-floor room, with Early Byzantine wall to left, from northwest



b. Building B.2, staircase leading from pillar room to second floor, from south



c. Area E4, Trench 2500, street with entrance to House D.4, from south



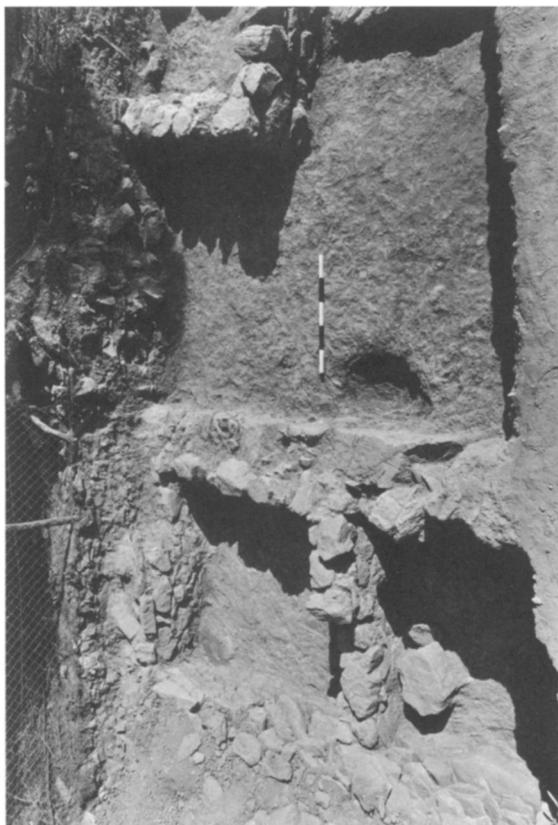
a. Modern road to Limenaria, from east



b. Building A, Rooms 1, 2, and 4, from west

Mochlos Coast

JEFFREY S. SOLES AND COSTIS DAVARAS: EXCAVATIONS AT MOCHLOS, 1990–1991



b. Passage between Buildings A (left) and B (right), from north



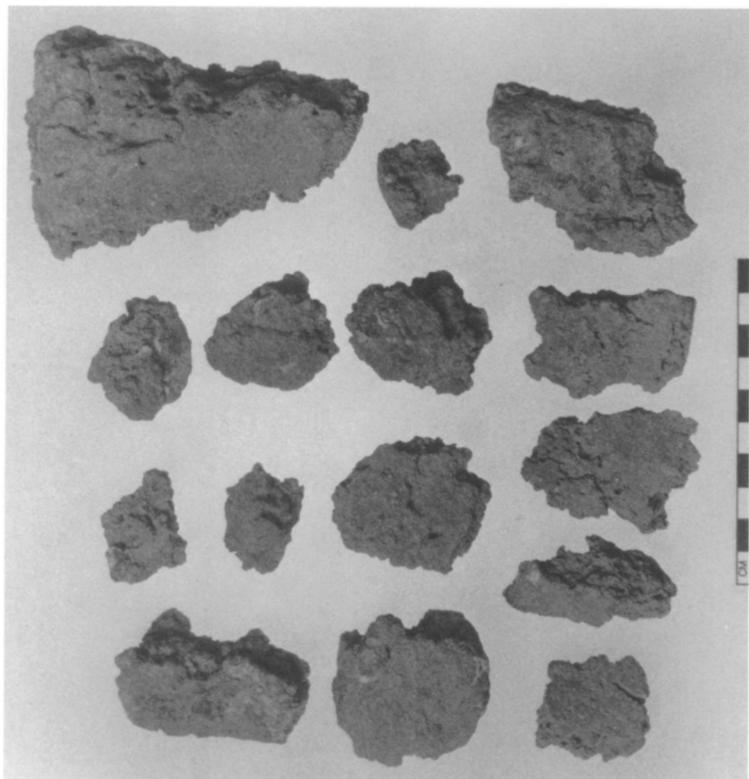
c. Building A, Room 1, from north



a. Building A, Rooms 4, 6, and 7, from west

Mochlos Coast

JEFFREY S. SOLES AND COSTIS DAVARAS: EXCAVATIONS AT MOCHLOS, 1990-1991



a. Fragments of copper ingot from Building A, destroyed outer room



b. Clay molds (C 94, 95) for bronzecasting from Building A, Room 1



c. Bronze bowl (CA 19) from Building A, destroyed outer room



d. Stone guides (GS 272, 668) and core (GS 526) from stone vasesmaking, from Building A, Room 1, and Building B, Room 2

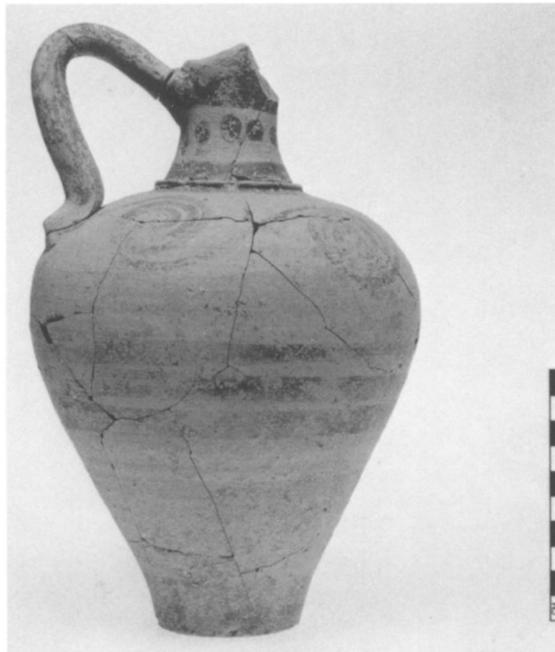
Mochlos Coast



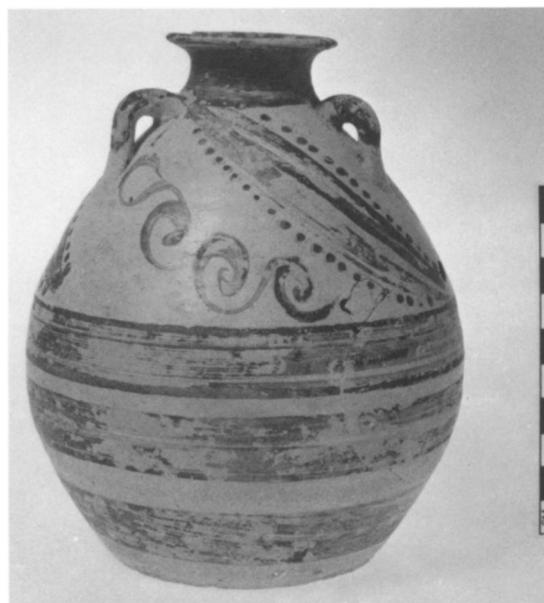
a. Jar (P 461)



b. Linear A inscription on shoulder of P 511



c. Jug (P 416)



d. Alabastron (P 271)

Mochlos Coast
Building A, Room 1

JEFFREY S. SOLES AND COSTIS DAVARAS: EXCAVATIONS AT MOCHLOS, 1990-1991

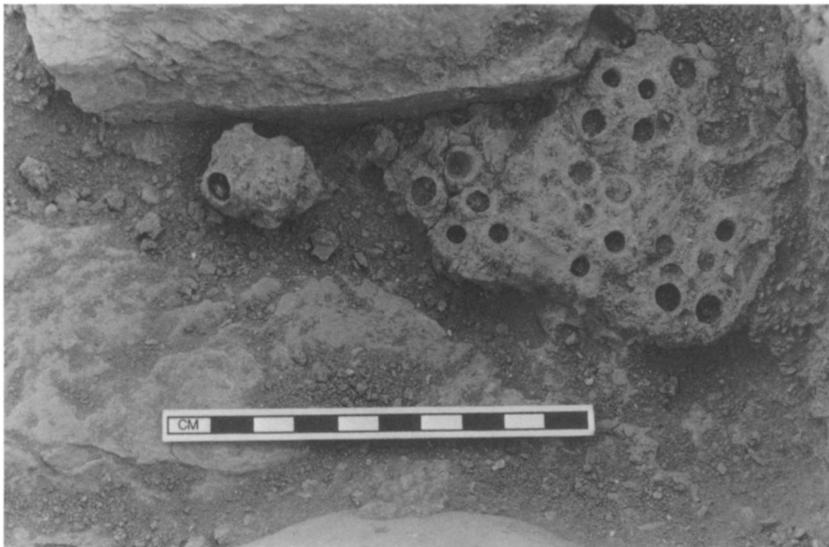
Mochlos Coast
Building A, Room 2



a. View from north



b. Mortar (GS 446)



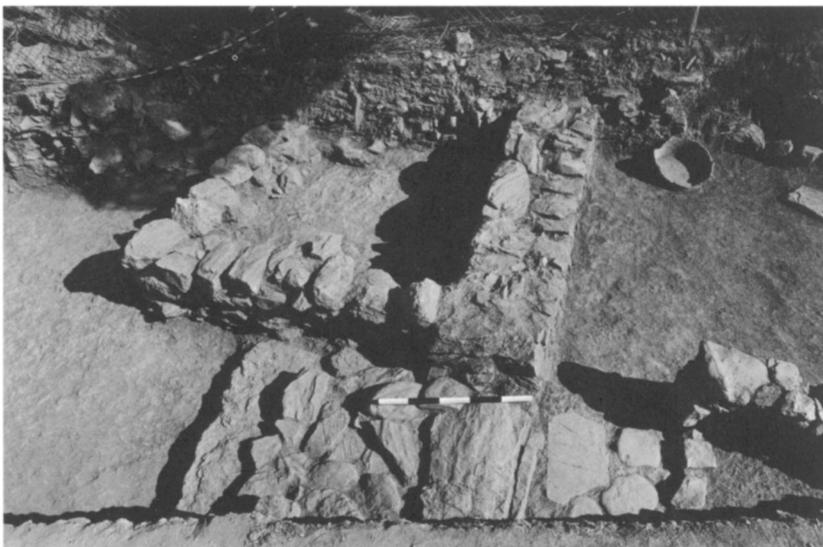
c. Holes with olive pits

Mochlos Coast
Building B

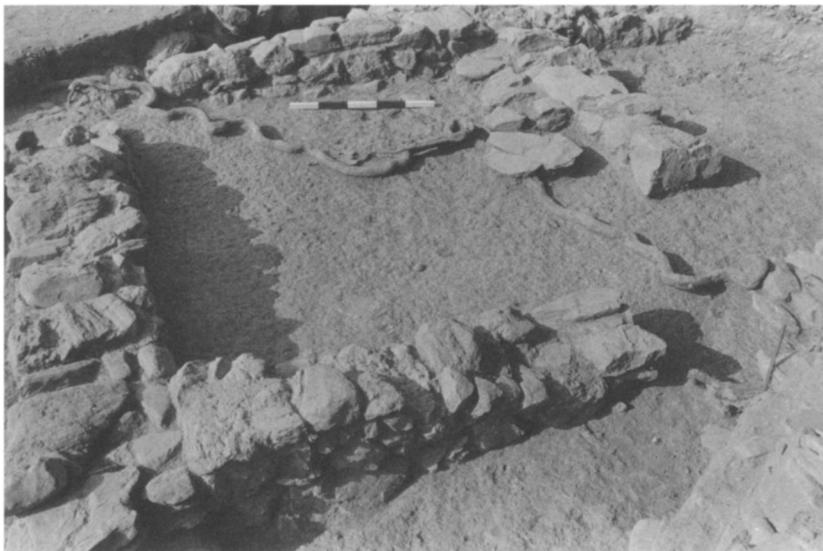
a. Rooms 1, 2, and 4 in Trenches 300, 400,
from east



b. Entrance with Rooms 8 and 9 in rear, from
south



c. Room 1, from south





a. Pedestals (P 255, 256) and tube (P 257) from Room 1



Mochlos Coast
Building B

b. Jar with incised lily (P 376) from Room 2



a. View from southwest



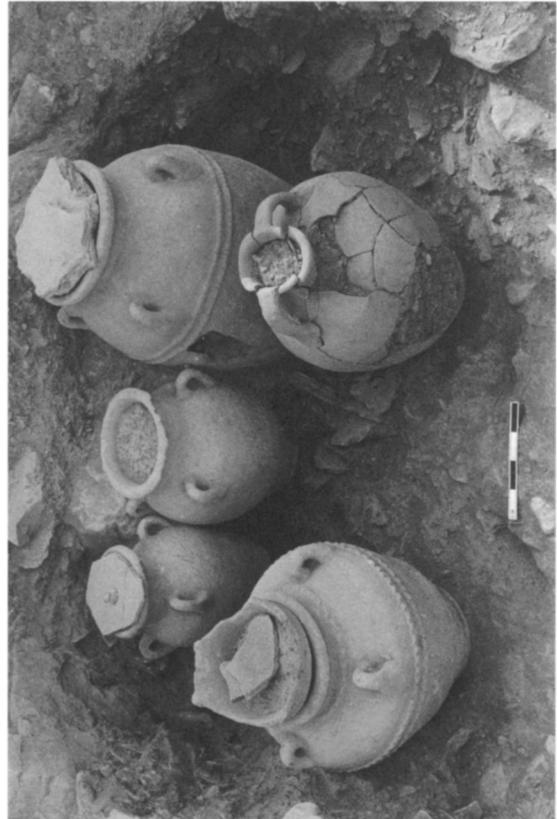
b. Building A, Room 1 to left, Room 2 to right, from north

Chalinomouri

JEFFREY S. SOLES AND COSTIS DAVARAS: EXCAVATIONS AT MOCHLOS, 1990-1991



a. View from west



b. Pithoi at eastern end



c. Pithos with incised lily (P 475)

Chalinomouri
Building A, Room 2



a. Mycenaean House A, from south



b. Beam press in Byzantine Building 2, Room 1, from east. Socket for beam at top right