

hill. Several were of children, often without any grave goods; but one was buried with a complete figurine of Late Helladic III B and another with a quantity of paste beads (P. 148 b). One Middle Helladic pot was discovered in many fragments close to an adult burial. Over the head of another there was a pithos base containing a small dipper or ladle, of LH III B. A curious feature, which could not be fully investigated this year, was the finding of four skulls in a pit that had been cut through a hard earthen floor. Strewed over this floor were the remains of a pithos and a number of pot fragments from which it was possible to restore a handsome krater of the LH III B period (P. 149 a). There was frequent evidence of mud floors. In one case three different superimposed floors were noted and in another case three floors were associated with walls of three different building phases, all apparently of the IIIB period. In one trench what looks very much like a street paved with rough small stones has been uncovered.

In one sector, a depth of nearly three metres was reached. Several earth floors were cut through to reach this depth. Underneath the lower floors the sherds belonged to Late Helladic I and II with an admixture of Middle Helladic. At the lowest level a cobble floor was uncovered on which lay one Middle Helladic sherd. In a subsequent season it is hoped that it will be possible to penetrate into yet lower levels containing unadulterated Middle Helladic pottery.

Quite a variety of pottery was found in the Beta trenches including an almost complete stirrup-jar (LH III), two kylikes painted in black monochrome (LH I or II), a kylix of yellow Minyan (MH) and two coarse jars of elegant shape.

Trial Trenches. Several of these were put down in different parts of the site. In one of these a layer of small stones laid on the rock and ca. 3.5 m. in width was uncovered. They seem to be the foundations of a fortress wall, but large blocks or boulders are nowhere found on the site. Possible foundations of another, but much smaller, wall were found in this same trench a few metres higher up the slope. A quantity of Deep Bowl fragments (LH III B) were dis-

covered up against the foundations of the main wall on the inner (defensive) side.

W.D. TAYLOUR

*

KYTHERA: KASTRI - PALAIOPOLIS, 1963

The Minoan settlement at Kastri and Palaiopolis in the southeast of the island of Kythera was discovered by Miss Benton in 1931¹. In the summer of 1963 trial excavations sponsored by the British School were begun there under the direction of the writer in association with the Pennsylvania University Museum. A topographical survey was also carried out by J. Dimick and A. Trik.

Trial trenches dug at Kastri (P. 151a) under the supervision of R. Hope Simpson revealed walls and floors of the Minoan settlement under a thin Roman overlay. Much local and imported Minoan pottery was found, the earliest so far discovered being of the Middle Minoan II B "Kamares" type, of about 1750 B.C. The latest Minoan pottery is of the fifteenth century B.C. Towards the end of the Minoan settlement much Late Helladic pottery was also in use.

Road work at Kastri had broken open the chambers of at least three Minoan tombs in 1957, when they were partially cleared. A large chamber (Tomb A) has now been completely excavated, planned and photographed. In a second tomb in the road (Tomb C) were found a fine steatite bowl (P. 150 a) and many whole clay vases of MM III and LM I A type. Tomb D nearby, excavated by N. Coldstream, yielded 132 undisturbed Minoan vases.

On the Asprogas ridge north of Kastri, Tomb E was excavated by Dr. Trik. Six rooms led off a central chamber, in which most of the abundant pottery was found. The vases, of MM

1. On the topography and antiquities of the area, and the location here of the ancient Skandeia, see Helen Waterhouse and R. Hope Simpson in *BSA* 56, 149 and 152-156. The ancient Kythera, which was 10 stades from Skandeia, is identified with the archaic and classical remains on the mountain Palaiokastros, inland from Kastri.

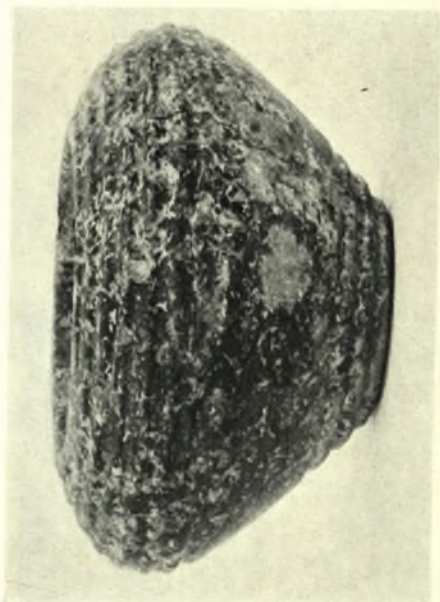
III B to LM I A date, had been broken and disturbed in antiquity, but many joins between sherds scattered through the tomb were made. Among the vases were a LM I A mug of Vapheio type with red decoration (P l. 150 b), a fragmentary vase decorated with double axes (P l. 150 c), two large shallow cups imitating metal, and three clay imitations of steatite "blossom" bowls. There were no metal objects in the tomb, but about 50 cm. above the Minoan deposits a skeleton was found with a dupondius near the

head, showing that the tomb had been reused in Roman times.

Trial trenches at Kastri also revealed some classical pottery of the fifth century B.C., but the centre of the archaic and classical settlement has yet to be found. Among the finds brought in from the area of Palaiopolis were a volute from an Ionic capital (P l. 151b), a metrical epitaph, probably of early Roman date, and a Roman marble table.

G.L. HUXLEY

*



Kythera, Kastri: a. Steatite bowl from Tomb C (MM III to LM IA), b. LM IA mug from Tomb E, c. LM IA vase from Tomb E

G. L. HUXLEY



Kythera: a. Kastri. The site of the Minoan Settlement, b. Palaiopolis. Ionic capital fragment
G. L. HUXLEY