

EXCAVATIONS IN CEOS

Excavations in the island of Ceos, begun in 1960 and 1961, were continued in a campaign lasting from the middle of May to the beginning of August, 1963, by an expedition representing the University of Cincinnati¹. As before, attention was focussed chiefly on the site of the settlement at Ayia Irini, near Vourkari. A search for tombs in the immediate vicinity was begun, and the excavation of a small cemetery at Kephala, some two kilometers to the north, was completed.

Kephala

The graves at Kephala were not rich, but interesting in view of their very early date. They occupied a natural cleft in the rock near the foot of the steep southern flank of the headland, below the area of the ancient village (P. I. 486 a). At the western end of this opening the rock had been trimmed on one side and a path or *dromos* (P. I. 486 c) had been cut in the bedding of compacted clay below it, leading down into the hollow, but the rather elaborate scheme that this appears to imply was evidently abandoned. The graves were built more or less at random, chiefly within the cleft, which was gradually filled with them. In many cases one lay above another, providing some evidence of the chronological sequence (P. I. 486 b).

1. Reports of the preceding campaigns appear in *Hesperia*, XXXI (1962) pp. 263 - 283, and *Archaeology*, 15 (1962) pp. 223 - 226; a note on the latest campaign in *Archaeology*, 16 (1963) 284 - 285. From the outset the enterprise has been sponsored in Greece by the American School of Classical Studies, and conducted in the usual manner under authorization of the Greek Archaeological Service, to whose members we would express warm thanks. It is financed by the Louise Semple Classics Fund of the University of Cincinnati. In 1963 J. L. Caskey served again as Field Director and the staff comprised Mrs. El. Caskey, Mr. and Mrs. W. Kittredge, Mrs. A. Bikaki, Miss E. T. Blackburn, Dr. John Overbeck, T. W. Jacobson, and L. E. Cotsen, Architect. C. Renfrew and Miss E. Harrison took part for shorter periods. The Ephor Mr. N. Zappeiropoulos and the Epimelete Mr. C. Doumas were present at intervals. D. Papaioannou was foreman and S. Maras vase mender. About 25 workmen were employed. The digging itself began on 3 June and was concluded on 24 July, the rest of the time being devoted to organization and study of the objects found.

Special thanks are owed to the Michalinos Company for permission to work freely on their land and to use their buildings. We are grateful also to many colleagues who visited the site during the season and gave valuable advice on archaeological and technical problems.

In all, 31 were discovered, and it is not likely that there were ever many more in this group, though a few may have been lost altogether by erosion of the hillside. They varied in shape from nearly circular to nearly rectangular, the walls being built of moderately small stones and usually inclining somewhat toward the interior. In a few the sides were made of slabs set on edge (P. I. 487 a - c). Long narrow cover slabs (P. I. 487 d), often three or four side by side, lay across them and above these, perhaps as an added protection to the dead or to the living, heavy rectangular platforms of solid masonry were sometimes constructed. In only one instance was there an indication of a small doorway in the side wall, and even this was not certain since the structure had been damaged (P. I. 487 e).

The graves were small, and the dead seem to have been buried in a contracted position, lying on one side. Generally the bones were found in confusion as a result of successive interments; one of the graves contained parts of nine skeletons. The bodies of infants were enclosed in jars that were deposited in single graves.

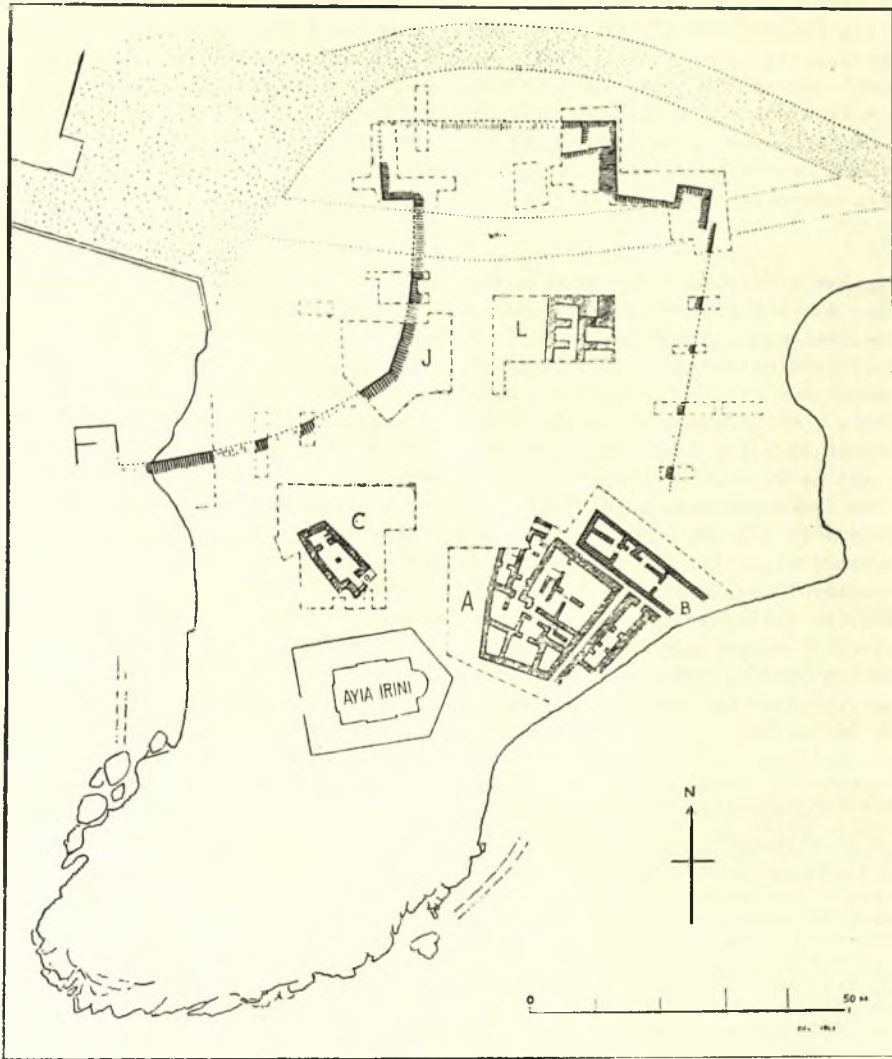
Offerings to the dead were not plentiful. Among the objects recovered were a small ithyphallic figurine of terra-cotta (P. I. 488 d), the torso of another (probably female), and the head of a third; this last was flattened and tilted backward, in the manner familiar among Cycladic marble «idols». The pottery of the cemetery, like that of the settlement above it, is largely coarse and friable. It is red-brown in color and some is decorated with plastic bands, incisions, and burnished patterns (P. I. 488 a). Jars (P. I. 488 c) with upright rims and small incurving bowls (P. I. 488 e) are represented in large numbers. A scooplke vessel (P. I. 488 b), opening to the side and having a broad handle and struts above the body, lay in one of the graves, and fragments of several like it have been found (e.g. Kph. 2, *Hesperia*, XXXI (1962), p. 265).

These and many of the other pieces are strongly reminiscent of Late Neolithic wares, and it appears not improbable that the village was established at Kephala before the end of the Stone Age. On the other hand, some of the pottery suggests relationships with the Early Bronze Age. Clearly this settlement is one of the most ancient yet known in the Cyclades.

Ayia Irini

Deep soundings in Areas A, C, and J this year furnished abundant evidence that the promontory had been occupied in the Early Bronze

tely northeast of the big building of the Late Bronze Age that had been excavated in 1961. The early walls were very nearly constructed of small flat stones. A well-made doorway, with threshold slabs and a pivot-stone to hold



Plan I. Promontory of Ayia Irini, Kea

Age. Immediately upon the native rock were strata containing sherds of sauceboats (P. I. 488 f) and small bowls or saucers, of types well known in Early Helladic II on the mainland. House walls were found in some places (P. I. 489 a), especially in Area C, where it was possible to open a relatively large space immedia-

the doorpost, came to light in Area C. On the clay floor inside the room was a large permanent pan-hearth of terra-cotta with a low flat rim, which is decorated with impressions of a round stamp-seal (P. I. 489 d).

Still more extensive are the evidences of habitation in the Middle Bronze Age. It is now

clear that this period was of long duration, with numerous successive phases of rebuilding and development. Characteristic ring-stemmed goblets and angular bowls with high ribbon-handles in Gray Minyan ware are not uncommon. Matt-painted ware of mainland and Aeginetan types is well represented, and a fragment of imported Middle Minoan Kamares ware shows that trade with Crete began at least this early (P l. 489 b). The nature of the transition between the Early and Middle Bronze Age settlements has not yet been determined. None of the painted pottery or other wares typical of Early Helladic III, as known for example in Lerna IV, has been found up to now at Ayia Irini; nearest to them, possibly, is an undecorated two-handled tankard that lay below the floor of the temple in Area B (cf. V. Milojević, *Samos*, I, pl. 15, 8).

The period of greatest prosperity for the town was in the early phases of the Late Bronze Age, corresponding with Late Helladic and Late Minoan I - II. From the beginning of this period there was a strong wall of defense on the landward side (P l a n 1), perhaps also along the shores. In 1963 additional parts of it were uncovered by excavation. Its inner face was revealed in some places, notably in Area J, where the thickness of the wall was about 2 m. Houses here were crowded close to the inner face.

In order to examine the northern parts of the fortifications we closed the passage that had been cut through the mound some 30 or 40 years ago and built a new road around the edge. Much damage had been done in this region (Area N) in modern times, but foundations of heavy walls and towers could be traced. In the northeastern sector, as in Area J, it was evident that the defenses had been altered and augmented on several occasions. Exploratory trenches on the eastern side (M) revealed a wall running southwestward toward the temple. The plan of the fortifications in this area is not yet clearly understood.

Pottery and other evidence for the date of these walls received only preliminary inspection during the excavating season. The sherds associated with the main structure seem not to be later than Late Helladic I.

Buildings of the main period of occupation were encountered in all the areas tested. Many small rooms appear in Area C. In the western

part of Area L there is a building of light construction, while next to it on this east a series of very heavy walls is found. Remains of raw plaster, objects fashioned of stucco, and brightly colored pigments recovered from the rooms suggest that these were industrial quarters. Large objects of terra-cotta seem to have been made here also.

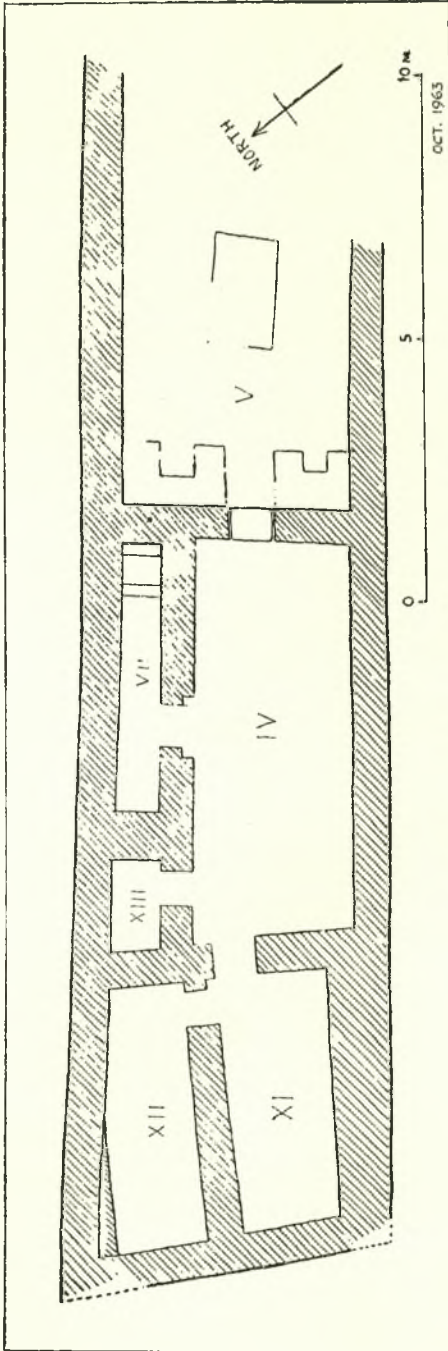
The most extensive and elaborate architectural complex uncovered so far is in Area A, near the church of Ayia Irini (P l a n 1). Excavation proceeded this year toward the north and northeast, to the narrow street beside the temple in Area B (cf. the plan in *Hesperia*, XXXI (1962), p. 269). All the rooms and corridors found are apparently elements of a single large establishment. The oblong space in the eastern corner may have been a court, within the building but open to the sky. In it was a big rectangular hearth. West of the court were found remains of a broad flight of steps leading upward. Further west, we seem to have part of an entranceway to the basement rooms, most of which communicate with each other (P l. 489 d - e, 491 a).

In Area A, as elsewhere, there was evidence of widespread destruction by earthquakes. The deep cellars were found full of debris which had fallen from above: bits of painted stucco from the walls of the upper apartments, a huge pithos that had stood in one of the upper rooms, and great quantities of pottery and utensils. Clearly this was a rich household. Much of the pottery is of coarse local manufacture, but among the vases are many very fine pieces imported from the mainland, other Cycladic islands, and, particularly, Crete. They are not all uniform, but include examples of shapes and styles assignable to L.M. Ia, L.M. Ib, L.H. I, and L.H. - L.M. II (the Palace Style) (P l. 490 b - e). It would be premature to draw conclusions at present about the chronological significance of the groupings but valuable information can be expected from this material.

Of special interest, among the sherds from the basement rooms, is a fragment of a jar in moderately coarse brown ware with a graffito that was scratched on the surface before it was fired (P l. 490 a). It is a monogram composed of two signs, one above the other, the upper of a form found only in Linear A script, the lower being common to Linear A and B and in the latter standing for WINE. The shape

and size of the jar cannot be determined from the sherd, nor is the fabric distinctive enough to indicate whether it is local or foreign.

Excavation of the temple in Area B proceed-



Plan 2. The Temple at Ayia Irini, Kea (1963)

ed this year. The building had been recognized and partly examined in 1961; now all the interior has been cleared and the plan has been determined (Plan 2). An important series of terra-cotta statues and many other objects of unusual interest came to light in 1963. The stratigraphical evidence makes it clear that the building had a very long history, beginning probably in the 15th century B.C. and continuing with little interruption down to Greco-Roman times.

A cross-wall at the inner end of Room IV proved to have a central doorway, which gave access to two narrow rooms, XI and XII, arranged side by side. The former of these was perhaps the most sacred place, the *adyton*; the purpose of latter, which contained destruction debris and also masses of earth and stones that had been placed there deliberately as a filling, could not be ascertained. A very small compartment, XIII, aligned with Corridor VII, was found off the northern corner of Room IV (Pl. 491 b, 492 a - b). At one stage in the use of the temple (not the earliest) there was a stone bench along the southwestern side of Room IV, like those found previously in Room V. Traces of at least one late structure could be seen above the ruins of Rooms XI and XII, near the present surface of the ground.

On the earliest floor of Room XI (just above walls and debris of Middle Bronze Age buildings) there were numerous pots (Pl. 492 c), chiefly coarse in fabric, and a few miscellaneous objects. Most of the fragmentary sculpture lay concentrated at the inner end of the room. It is clear that all the statues, 15 or more in number, and all the other objects in this space had been together when the destruction occurred (Pl. 493 a). We suppose that they were standing on the floor at that time, but they may possibly have fallen from a room immediately above. A preliminary examination indicated that none of the datable objects was later than L.H./L.M. II. Tentatively, therefore, one concludes that the temple was destroyed by the same earthquake that damaged the houses in other parts of the site, e.g., in Area A, and that the statues had been made before that time, not later than the end of the fifteenth century B.C.

Stratification in the other rooms, though less clear, tends to confirm this conclusion. The earliest floors in Room IV and Corridor VII -

XIII slope downward toward the southeast and are below the present level of the sea. Objects recovered from tests in the water and mud at that depth include pottery of L.H. I - II, the base of a stone vase, one end of a bronze boat (P l. 493 b), and other pieces of bronze and lead. The upper part of a solid bronze statuette of a youth saluting in the Minoan fashion, undoubtedly imported from Crete and assignable to L.M. I, was found just above sea-level (P l. 493 d).

A few bits of terra - cotta statues appeared scattered throughout these rooms, in this campaign as previously. They cannot be dated by internal stylistic evidence at present, since comparable sculpture has not yet been found at other sites, but we are inclined to believe that all or almost all the figures belong to the same phase as those in Room XI. A notable instance of the dispersal is seen in the case of the large head that was found two years ago in Room V at a relatively high level, where there was pottery of Mycenaean IIIc styles. In 1963 a fragment which joins this head was discovered in the principal group of broken sculpture in Room XI, where there was no late pottery. One must assume that the new fragment is in its proper context and that the head was somehow displaced and perhaps deliberately preserved until later times, as in another still more remarkable instance that will be mentioned below. How the scattering occurred is not yet known.

Although only a limited amount of mending has been done, we now have a clear idea of the form of the statues. All seem to be female, standing upright or bending forward very slightly. They wear bouffant or flaring skirts which reach the floor and are topped with heavy bands at the narrow waist. Some wear tight short - sleeved jackets, open in front and exposing the breasts, after the Minoan fashion. In others the torso is bare from the waist up and carries a thick garland around the neck. The arms are held not upward, as we had guessed earlier, but downward, clear of the body, with the elbows bent slightly. The hands, which are long and delicate, rest on the hips. Heads are held erect and surmounted with thick coils, the hair being gathered behind and descending in a long braid down the back. There is much variety and deftness in the rendering of the faces, some of which are gently smiling, some

grave (P l. 493 c, e, 494 a - b, 495 a, 498 a - c).

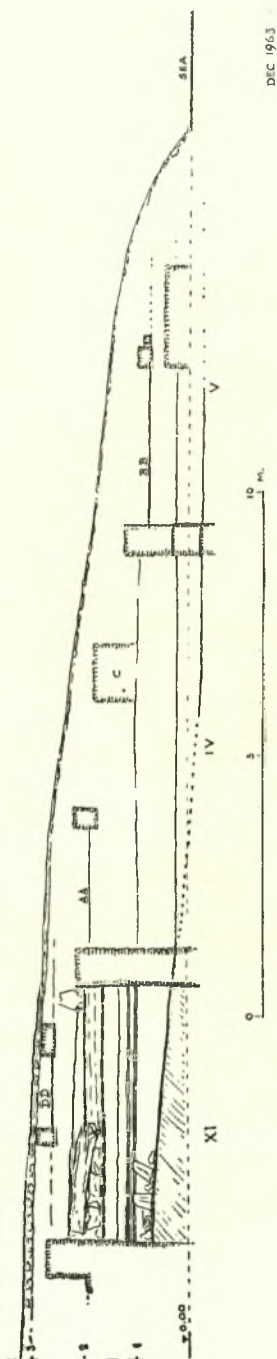
Several of the statues were about one meter tall; others were smaller, and at least a few considerably larger. They were fashioned by hand, of very coarse local clay, with internal wooden armatures for support before the firing. Traces of white stucco are preserved on some fragments, but in most cases all the surface of the clay itself has been lost. Many pieces seem to be missing entirely. In spite of their damaged condition, however, these figures create a vivid impression. Their style may be called provincial, since they were made here in this island, but the work is that of accomplished sculptors and craftsmen, not without tradition and experience.

The significance of the statues is not yet understood. We suppose that they were not all representations of a single goddess but perhaps rather her attendants and votaries. The posture may be that of a dance; a suggestion of the forms of the body under the skirt makes one think that the knees are bent slightly. There are distinct differences in the upper parts of the body, some having very full matronly bosoms, others the small firm breasts of a girl's figure. Most have artificially slim waists, but at least one of them is given quite natural proportions. When more of the pieces have been reassembled and studied the meaning of these differences may become intelligible.

After the first major destruction, which we assign provisionally to the period L.H./L.M. I - II, some parts of the temple continued to be used, for pottery of L.H. III A and IIIB styles is found. Among the sherds are parts of a small stirrup - jar with a representation of men, perhaps warriors, in procession (P l. 497 a). The third main stratum of debris, about one meter above sea - level, contains many vases and fragments that may be assigned to the Mycenaean IIIC class. Some of these were found in Room V in 1961; this year cups, bowls, and kraters came to light especially in Corridor VII (P l. 495 d). Clearly there was considerable use of the building at this time. Some of the walls were reconstructed, doorways were altered, and a stone bench was installed on the southwest side of Room IV.

Thereafter, the functions of the building were centered chiefly in Room XI. There a long series of successive floorlevels accumulated, some being of plain beaten earth, some paved with

flat stones (Pl. n 3). One stratum held Proto-geometric pottery (Pl. 497 b) of the tenth century. Later Geometric wares followed, though not in large quantities.



Plan 3. Ayia Irini, Kea. Section (diagrammatic) through the Temple

Around 1.70 m. above sea - level there was a stone pavement, on which was found pottery of the second half of the eighth century. In this period a terra - cotta head was set up in a specially - made collarlike base on a platform of stones at the northwestern end of the room (Pl. 496 a - b). It was found by us in position; huge blocks of rough stone, parts of some covering structure, had fallen just here in the early archaic Greek period without striking this fragile object. It is very badly eroded and much diminished from its original size. The broken surfaces of the neck are adequately preserved, however, and our vase - mender, S. Maras, discovered that it fitted securely upon one of the torsos which came from the earliest floor - level, fully a meter below (Pl. 498 a-b). Thus, astonishing though it may seem, this head, rediscovered somehow and perhaps handed down from generation to generation, was being treated with reverence some 700 years after the rest of the statue had been broken and buried.

The big stones that had fallen around the head were left lying in one end of the room for a century or more while the other end continued to be used as a shrine and was gradually filled. Ultimately the whole space was level again. During the sixth century another pavement was installed, and on this we found plentiful remains of votive offerings, chiefly cups of Attic and Corinthian types (Pl. 496 c). Among them was the base of a skyphos (Pl. 495 b), bearing on its lower surface a graffito in archaic letters and Cean spelling:

ΕΥΣΑΜΗΝΟΣ | ΑΝΘΙΠΠΟΣ|
 Η Ο ΙΟΛΙΕΤΗΣ | ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΙ|
 ΑΝΕΘΗΚΗΝ | ΤΗΝ ΚΥΛΙΚΑ | ΤΗΝ ΔΗ

Another inscription, scratched in small neat letters on the standing surface of the ring - base, is only partially preserved. One word may be *ΚΟΡΕΣΣΙΟΣ*, followed by *ΚΑΥΧΟΜΕΝΟΣ*. The sense suggests that there was a local rivalry, perhaps heightened at the moment by a drinking party of just the sort that is described in a fragmentary *skolion* or *paroinion* of Bacchylides (Jebb, fr. 16; Oxyrhynchus Papyrus 1361, fr. 1). Anthispos was a fellow - townsman and quite possibly a contemporary of the poet.

Worship of Dionysos was carried on in the shrine at least into the fourth century, as attested by another graffito, and probably later.

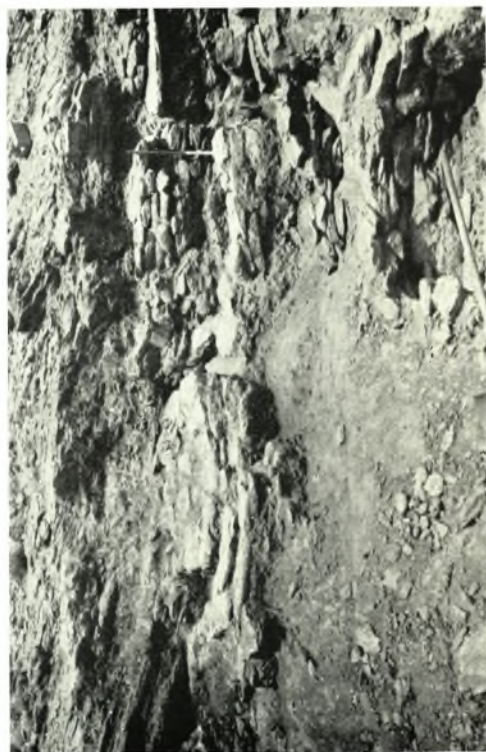
A wine jar with a non - Greek stamp on the handle was found near the present surface of the ground. A coin of Ptolemy (probably Soter), one of Antigonos (probably Gonatas), and one of Ceos itself were discovered in the topmost stratum, some three meters above sea - level. It is to be noted that very few post - Mycenaean objects have come to light anywhere else on the site at Ayia Irini.

A search for cemeteries was begun this year

on and just below the rocky slopes to the north of the promontory. One structure, roughly circular in shape and built with many large stones, was encountered near the foot of the hills but at a level where water prevented a thorough investigation. Further exploration in this area, as well as in the settlement, will be undertaken in the next campaign. A preliminary report on the work of the past season will appear in *Hesperia*.

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Kea. Kephala: a. General view, b. Dromos, c. Cemetery

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Κεα. Κεφαλα: a - c. Graves, d. Cover slabs from graves, e. Grave. Threshold of symbolical doorway

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Kea. Kephala: a. Red and brown wares with burnished patterns, b. Scooplike vessel from the Cemetery, c. Red-brown jar, d. Ithyphallic figurine of terra-cotta, e. Incurving bowl, f. Ayia Irini: Fragment of sauceboat (EH II)



Kea. Ayia Irini: a. Area C. House walls and doorway; Early Bronze Age, b. Sherd of Middle Minoan ware imported, c. Area C. Rim of hearth E.H. II, d. Area A. Part of staircase; courtyard at left, e. Part of Area A from North



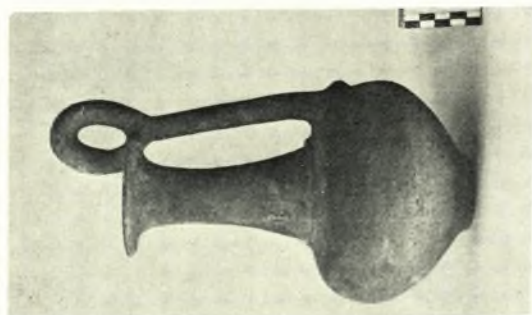
Kea, Ayia Irini: a. Area A. Room I. Graffito Linear A, b - e. Area A. Pottery from the cellars

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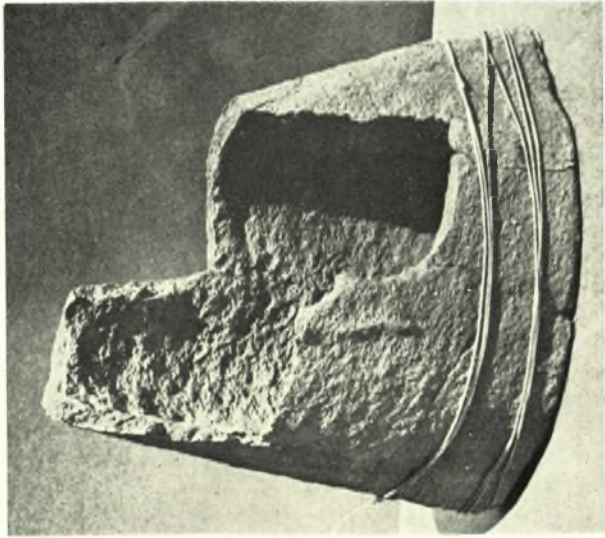
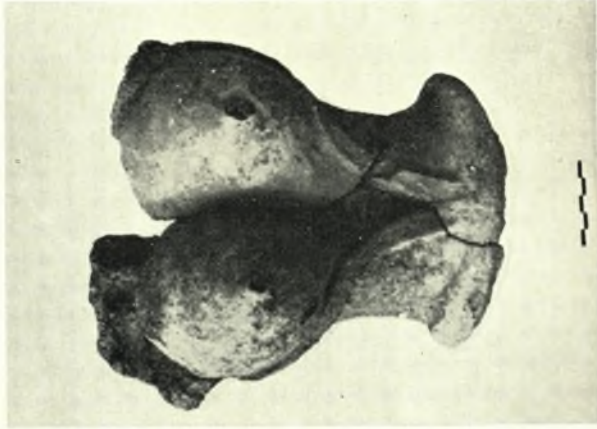


Kea. Ayia Irini: a. Area A. Basement Rooms. b. The Temple seen from Room V

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Κεα. Αγία Ιρίνη: α. Inner end of the Temple, b. Temple, Corridor VII. Amphora from Late Mycenaean level, L.H. IIIc, c. Temple, Room XI. From the floor with the terra - cotta statues, d. Temple, Room XI. Excavation of the broken terra - cotta sculpture. Traces of successive later floorlevels above the debris
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Kea. Aya Irimi: a. Temple. Room XI. Terra - cotta sculpture as found (seen from above), b. Part of bronze boat from the Temple, c. Temple. Room XI. Part of skirt of terra - cotta statue, d. Temple. Bronze statuette. LM I, e. Temple. Torso of terra - cotta statue

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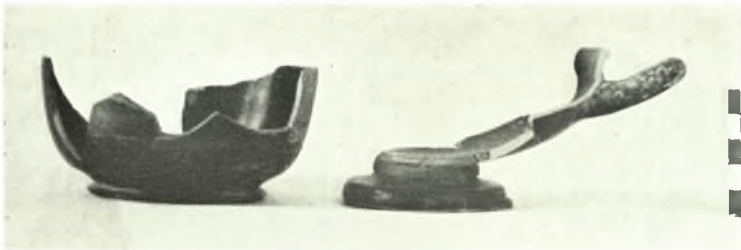
Kea, Ayia Irini: a - c. Temple. Room XI. Torsos of terra - cotta statues

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Kea. Ayia Irini: a. Terra - cotta Torso, b. Graffito on base of skyphos found in the shrine of Dionysos above Room XI of the Temple, c. From the Temple. Upper level in Corridor VII. Vessels

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Kea. Ayia Irini: a. Terra - cotta head as found at 8th century level above Room XI, b. The head with its base, c. From the shrine above Room XI of the Temple



Kea. Ayia Irini: a. Fragment of stirrup-jar from the Temple, b. Protogeometric skyphos from late floor in Room XI of the Temple

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Κεα. Αγία Ιρίνη: α - β. Terra - cotta statue, c. Head of terra - cotta statue

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