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## STRATIGRAPHIC EXCAVATIONS AT AZORIA IN 2016 THE LATE MINOAN IIIC, PROTOARCHAIC, AND FINAL NEOLITHIC OCCUPATION

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Excavation at Azoria in 2016 continued to recover evidence of occupation prior to the establishment of the Archaic urban center. Our work confirms and refines our picture of the settlement history derived from the results of earlier work (Haggis and Mook 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015). The site was occupied in Late Minoan (LM) IIIC, with remains of a substantial settlement extending across the entire excavated area of the South Acropolis—buildings, habitation surfaces, and residual debris are recovered in stratigraphic soundings beneath Protoarchaic (late 8th and 7th c. B.C.) and Archaic (late 7th–early 5th c. B.C.) levels. While we cannot yet reconstruct the details of settlement structure, the ubiquity and preservation of the remains demonstrate that the 12th-century settlement was extensive. Moreover, the conditions of abandonment and patterns of later reoccupation show clearly that the Late Minoan IIIC settlement would have been an enduring and visible material presence in the landscape for some three centuries following its abandonment.

In 2006, the discovery of Protogeometric burials in the final use phase of a LM IIIC tholos tomb on the southwest slope initially suggested continuing use of the cemetery, but in recent excavations indications of contemporary or later Early Iron Age (EIA) reoccupation have not appeared in stratified contexts with architectural remains. It is not until the early Protoarchaic phase (late 8th and early 7th centuries) that there is solid evidence for new buildings on the site. In earlier publications we characterized this temporal and stratigraphic gap as a true or cumulative palimpsest (Bailey 2006): that is to say, EIA contexts were there originally, but they were subsequently disturbed or even obliterated in at least two phases of building in the 7th century. Our

view on this has changed since we reopened excavation in 2013. Recent work is revealing a pattern of sporadic construction in the late 8th to early 7th centuries, evidently remains of a long-term reoccupation of selected areas of the site, spanning the duration of the 7th century. The earliest of these Protoarchaic deposits do contain Late Geometric and earlier material, which could indicate residual debris from 8th century occupation; the foundation terminus ad quem date of the constructions; or a temporal palimpsest, that is, objects curated and contained in early 7th-century spaces.

An interesting pattern characterizing the Protoarchaic or pre-urban reoccupation phase at Azoria is the construction of buildings contiguous to still-standing and visible ruins of the earlier LM IIIC constructions (Haggis and Mook 2015). The observable habitation hiatus during a large part of the Early Iron Age thus remains an interesting taphonomic problem in reconstructing the settlement history of the Kavousi region and the phase transition that marks the establishment of the urban zone at the end of the 7th century.

### The Late Minoan IIIC Settlement

Late Minoan IIIC architectural remains have been exposed along the entire west slope from the area of the bench sanctuary in the north (Trench D600) to the southwest part of the slope where a large wall and associated occupation surfaces were exposed in Trenches B4800, B5000, and B5300 in the south (Haggis and Mook 2015). Excavation in 2016 now shows that the Protoarchaic and Archaic buildings were placed directly on top of these LM IIIC buildings, in some cases filling the exposed interior spaces of these earlier structures, and in others, obliterating much of the

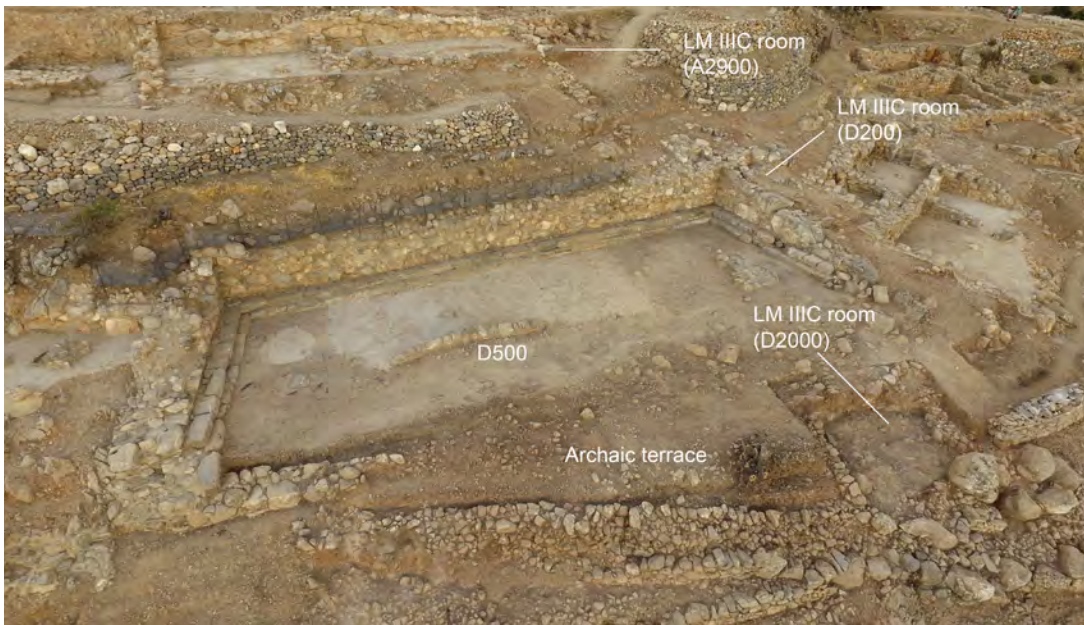


Figure 1. Aerial view of the Archaic Monumental Civic Building terrace, from the west, indicating LM III C remains in Trenches A2900, D200, and D2000. Photo D. Faulmann.



Figure 2. Aerial view of Trench D2000 and detail of LM III C room. Photo D. Faulmann.

standing architecture, though leaving residues of pottery or traces of occupation surfaces and segments of walls intact.

An excellent example of the condition of the LM III C settlement and its incorporation into the Archaic topography was recovered in the southwestern corner of the main hall (Trench D500) of the Archaic Monumental Civic Building (Fig. 1). Work in 2016 extended the excavation area to the west of the hall (D2000), exposing a complex series of terrace walls and stepped ramp leading from the north and culminating at the entrance to the Archaic building. Excavation within the fill of the uppermost terrace revealed an intact room of Late Minoan III C date (D2000).

The room has a cut-bedrock socle (0.90–1.10 m high) forming the east wall—indeed the projected line of the west wall of the main hall (D500) of the Monumental Civic Building reused

this same bedrock socle as its foundation (Figs. 1, 2). The north wall of the room was built of dolomite and *sideropetra* fieldstones, and it is preserved to 1.0 m at its highest point in the northeast corner where it is built against the bedrock socle. The north wall is extant to some 3.0 m in length (east–west), which is the approximate east–west dimensions of the space of the room: some 3.5–4.0 m wide and about 10.5 m square in area. The south wall is unfortunately not well preserved—it is some two courses high, and it is extant to about 1.5 m in length. The upper courses of the walls would have been leveled for the construction of the Archaic terrace, and a large boulder, presumably fallen from the southern part of the west wall of the main hall of the Monumental Civic Building, destroyed the east wall of the LM III C room.

The well-preserved floor (Fig. 2) was constructed of yellow and greenish-gray phyllite clay, and it contained fragments of cups, deep bowls, pithoi, and cooking pots (Figs. 3, 4). It is obvious that the building continued to the south through a doorway in the south wall. Excavations in this area—the adjacent trench D200 (Fig. 1)—revealed considerable amounts of LM III C pottery but no extant architecture or apparently in-situ deposits. Farther up the slope to the east, however, excavation in 2004 had exposed a number of segments of LM III C walls, indicating the continuation of the settlement along this slope.

Immediately to the east and upslope from the Monumental Civic Building, a sounding excavated in Trench A2900 (Fig. 1) revealed a dolomite boulder wall, extending for about two meters to the south where it forms a corner with a two-meter segment of an east–west wall defining the southern limits of another LM III C room. The actual dimensions of the room are not known. The LM III C pottery includes blob cups, deep bowls, and other characteristic shapes (Fig. 5). The Archaic room A3100 of the



Figure 3. Late Minoan IIIC cup (16-0064), deep bowl body (16-0065), and cooking dish (16-0063) from Locus D2008. Deep bowl base (16-0137) and krater base (16-0134) from Locus D2015. Photo Ch. Papanikolopoulos.

Communal Dining Building was bedded deeply into this terrace, with the foundations of its south wall (A3104) reaching the Late Minoan IIIC occupation level (Fig. 6). The LM IIIC floor surface confined by the surviving east and south walls is preserved only about 2.0 m to the west where the slope is extremely eroded. The south wall is preserved to two courses of dolomite boulders, with individual larger stones spanning the width of the wall—a style of building typical of LM IIIC constructions at the site. The east wall is poorly preserved, and one large boulder (ca. 1.0 x 0.75 m) forming a substantial part of the segment has tipped to the west.

The architectural remains—normally individual rooms are well preserved—indicate a series of houses extending from the peak and south slope of the South Acropolis in the east, across the west slope, and at least as far as the area later occupied by the Southwest Buildings. While architectural indications are plentiful, the data is as yet insufficient to begin forming a picture of the structure or pattern of the settlement—that is, the organization of space and the groupings of domestic units. It appears, however, that both the LM IIIC bench sanctuary and cemetery were situated to be contiguous to the zones of habitation.



Figure 4. Late Minoan IIIC pithos sherds: 16-0135 and 16-0136 from Locus D2015; 16-0138 from Locus D2013. Photo Ch. Papanikolopoulos.



Figure 5. Late Minoan IIIC blob cup rim (16-0147) and deep bowl base (16-0148) from Locus A2908. Photo Ch. Papanikolopoulos.

### Protoarchaic Structures in Trench A3200 and the Stratigraphic Transition and Transformations from Early Iron Age to Archaic Periods

Evidence for the pre-urban occupation, spanning the latter 8th and 7th centuries, comes primarily from two areas of the site. The first, in the southwest area, is the large Protoarchaic Building (“Early Iron Age–Orientalizing Building” in earlier reports), which had been substantially buried by the late 7th-century renovation and rebuilding of the site (Haggis and Mook 2011, 2013). The Protoarchaic Building forms a self-contained unit, consisting of a dining hall, store room, two food processing rooms, and a pottery kiln (Haggis and Mook 2013, 2014, 2015). What is more, the

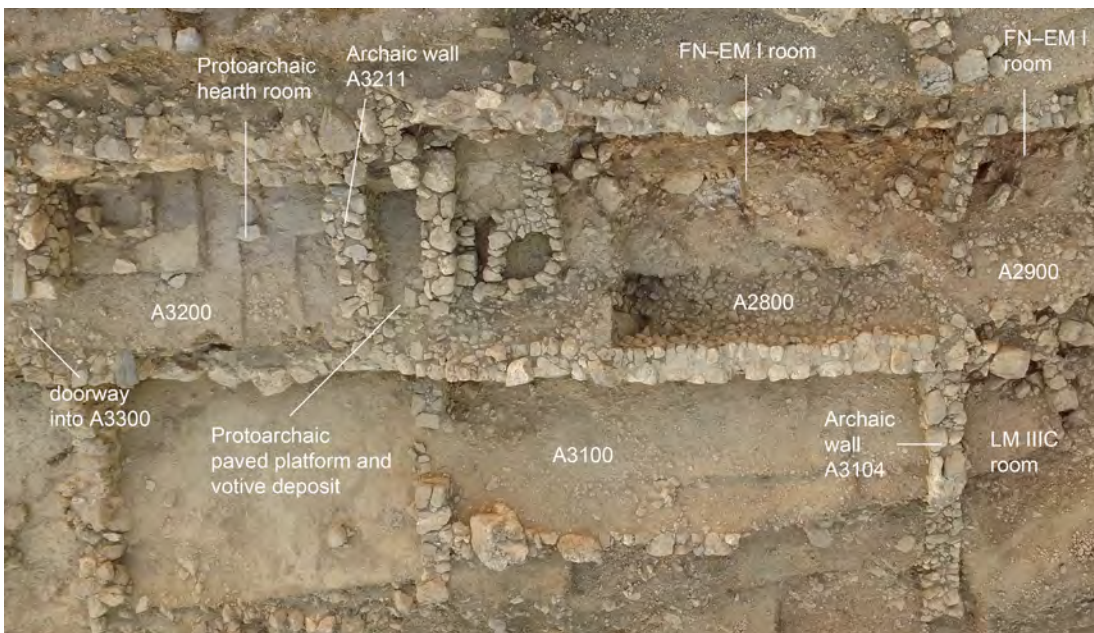


Figure 6. Aerial view from the west of the third terrace of the Communal Dining Building indicating: the Protoarchaic room in Trench A3200, the LM IIIC room in Trench A2900, and the FN-EM I room in Trench A2800. Photo D. Faulmann.

building incorporated LM IIIC remains into its construction—the LM IIIC to PG tholos tomb was architecturally integrated into the design of the Protoarchaic Building. The depositional assemblages from this building—especially the pyre deposit from Trench B3000 and the pottery from the hearth room (B4100) and the kiln room (B4000)—suggest not routine domestic activities, but communal feasting, including hearth-pyre sacrifices, and inferentially, commensal rituals associated with an ancestral tomb (Haggis and Mook 2011, 2015). The building not only incorporated the tholos tomb in its southeastern corner, but it also abuts a substantial LM IIIC building at its southern end (B5000, B5300).

In 2016, another locus of Protoarchaic activity, analogous in function, was uncovered on the upper west slope (A2800, A3200, A3300; Fig. 6). Underlying a suite of Archaic rooms used for storage and food processing within the Communal Dining Building, we recovered the remains of a four-room building of 7th century date, with a spatial organization and architectural form similar to that of the later Archaic structure—several of the walls of the earlier building were reused into the Archaic period on the terrace—but evidently of different function. The northernmost room, at the northern end of A3300, exposed in 2015, contained an assemblage of drinking wares, including a krater and deep cups (Haggis and Mook 2015, 20–21, figs. 8–11). It was a pantry or closet of sorts that had been abandoned, but left intact in the Archaic rebuilding.

The results of sondages conducted along this terrace in 2016 demonstrate that the pantry belongs to a much larger complex. The floor surface of the Protoarchaic room in A3300, south of the pantry, appears to have been reused into the 6th century, thus effectively obliterating evidence of its original function. The adjoining room to the south (A3200), however, had a series of

well-stratified surfaces. At the southern end of the room, excavation exposed the Protoarchaic clay floor, which has a series of six schist paving stones at its western edge extending out from under the Archaic wall (Fig. 6). The floor was well preserved across the space of the sondage, and it had an ash deposit on the surface at its eastern end—the full eastern extent of the floor could not be exposed because of the overhanging Archaic spine wall on the east. On the west side of the floor and a little to the north of the paved surface, there was a deposit of terracotta figurines, perhaps originally placed or displayed on the pavers, or perhaps on a structure built against the original south wall of the room, now obscured by the Archaic south wall.

The votive deposit consisted of nine terracotta animal figurine fragments (Fig. 7): three bull figurines nearly intact, two other quadruped body fragments, a bovine figurine head, a bull horn fragment, and two quadruped leg fragments. Since none of the fragments join with any of the whole or nearly complete bovine fragments, it is likely that there are at least seven, but probably eight different bull figurines represented, clustered on the surface and in the occupation debris above the floor and next to the pavers. Two of the figurines extended underneath the later Archaic wall A3211, suggesting the continuation of the deposit to the north, though no figurines were found at the 7th century level on the north side of the Archaic wall. The pottery associated with the figurine deposit and the ash in the east consists of fine drinking and pouring vessels.

In soundings excavated to the north of the Archaic wall, we recovered the continuation of the 7th-century floor, though neither the paving stones nor the votive deposit continued into the north area of the room (Fig. 6). While we have not excavated the full extent of the space of the Protoarchaic phase, having left

Figure 7. Bull figurines from Protoarchaic votive deposit in Trench A3200. Photo Ch. Papanikolopoulos.



the Archaic floor and oven in situ in the northeast quadrant, we were able to excavate into the center of the room, exposing a clay hearth. The hearth is a rough oval, without curbing stones, about 0.60 m wide and over 0.70 m long. It is composed of hard-packed phyllite clay, discolored red in parts, and with gray and blackish ashy soil around its south and west sides. Two schist pavers and a *sideropetra* block were constructed directly on top of the center of the hearth, rather precisely, in a subsequent 7th-century-phase resurfacing of the floor.

The Protoarchaic remains underlying the rooms on the third terrace of the Communal Dining Building originally formed a four-room complex. Although we cannot reconstruct the original systemic assemblages of Trench A3300, because of the height of the bedrock and continuous use of the floor surface, we do know that the northernmost room was a pantry or closet containing fine drinking wares including a krater and a number of deep cups. Connected by a doorway was Trench A3200 (Fig. 6), which had a central hearth, a votive deposit of bull figurines, an ash deposit, and a paved feature or platform at its southern end. The use of the adjoining room to the south (A2800) is yet uncertain because of preservation and a circular feature that occupied the surviving part of the room. The building's hearth and deposits suggest formal and communal ritualized functions, rather than activities normally associated with residential food storage, preparation, and consumption.

The pottery assemblages contemporary with the hearth and votive deposit consist principally of fine-ware drinking and pouring vessels. Furthermore, the pottery recovered from the floor surface across Trenches A2800 and A3200 is consistent with and comparable to the forms represented in the pantry in Trench A3300. While a few pithos and cooking pot fragments were recovered from Trench A3200, the majority of vessels represented belong to cups, skyphoi, kotylai, jugs, amphorae, kraters, kalathoi, lasanas, and lekane of early 7th-century date. There is also pottery of LM IIIC date (deep bowls) that might have been recycled for use in Protoarchaic contexts. The lasana—a stand for large cooking vessels and round-bottom chytras—is an interesting form, associated

with 7th- and 6th-century contexts on the site, but it is absent from Late Archaic kitchen deposits. It could be that such implements were used primarily in formal, communal and ceremonial contexts.

The combined commensal and votive activities in the building accord well with ritual contexts known from Early Iron Age contexts on Crete, which in general follow material patterns of cult buildings such as the so-called hearth temples or house temples, evidently in use from the Protogeometric to Protoarchaic periods. The discovery of this series of rooms underlying this third terrace of the Communal Dining Building is thus important; along with the Protoarchaic Building on the southwest slope, the evidence suggests a Protoarchaic phase of reoccupation at Azoria, centered on LM IIIC remains, and clearly demonstrates communal and ritual functions anticipating the expansion and elaboration of the civic complex in the Archaic period.

### The Final Neolithic II to Early Minoan I Building (Trenches A2800–A2900)

Another goal of work at Azoria has been to reconstruct the earlier prehistory of the settlement, principally occupation in the Final Neolithic (FN) period, which, like the LM IIIC, is widely distributed across the site. Early FN remains are well-stratified in deposits underlying the eastern and southern areas of the Archaic Service Building, especially rooms B700, B800, B1200, and B1700 (Haggis et al. 2007). In 2016, stratified Neolithic remains came to light in another area of the site, on the upper west slope of the South Acropolis. Here, in a sounding on the third terrace of the Communal Dining Building (A2800, A2900), FN remains were recovered beneath the cobble fill layer which formed the foundation of the Archaic surface (Figs. 6, 8, 9). The floor surface, made of hard-packed and well-consolidated yellowish phyllite clay, was preserved to a width of 2.3 m on the south, narrowing to about 0.90–1.00 m on the north (Fig. 8). The floor was unfortunately destroyed along the west side by the foundation trench for the west wall of the Archaic room.

The preserved FN floor surface and the extant north (A2851), south (A2919), and east (A2852) walls allow us to establish the full length of the room (6.30 m north–south) and a minimum width of 2.30 m, making it a substantial space, at least 14.50 m<sup>2</sup> in area (Fig. 8). The east wall was evidently built against the bedrock that ascends up the slope to the east. The north and south walls have two faces preserved, suggesting that there were originally rooms on either side of Trench A2800. Indeed, traces of a floor surface were also recovered on the south side of the south wall in Trench A2900 (Fig. 10 illustrates a selection of the FN–Early Minoan [EM] I pottery), suggesting the existence of a building complex—an agglomerative and rectilinear plan of multiple interconnected rooms along the terrace—rather than an open settlement plan that is characteristic not only of FN but also EM I sites such as Debla and Elenes (Haggis 1996, 658–659). Papadatos (2012, 76) has also commented on the appearance of

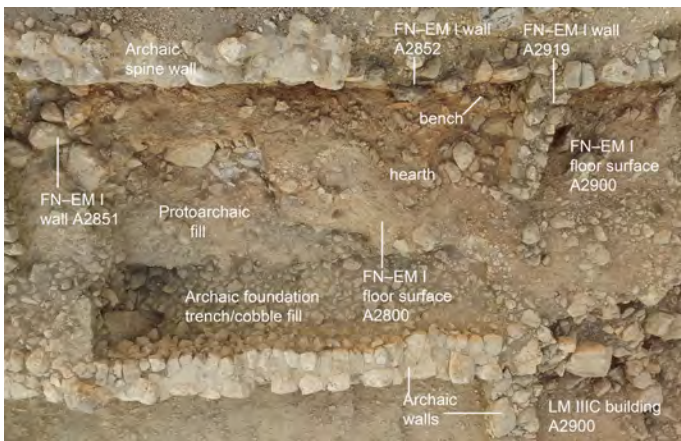


Figure 8. Final Neolithic to EM I building in Trench A2800. Photo D. Faulmann.



Figure 9. Detail of the FN-EM I building in Trench A2800. Photo D. Haggis.

complex agglomerative plans in EM IA, suggesting details of the organization and use of space in transitional settlements in FN-EM I.

The south wall (A2919) is the best preserved, standing to about 1.10 m in height; it is 0.50 m wide and 1.90 m long and ends in an upright slab that formed the east jamb for a doorway apparently connecting rooms in Trenches A2800 and A2900 (Figs. 8, 9). The wall consists of dolomite boulders and upright slabs in the foundations, with a superstructure of smaller dolomite fieldstones. Its southern face is preserved to three courses of medium-sized dolomite fieldstones, and the interstices were filled with small cobbles and gravel. The use of large stones at wall ends and for the faces, and rubble fill for the wall core, is typical of EM I architecture at Debla and Kalo Chorio and elsewhere (Haggis 1996, 659). The rough orthostatic or upright-slab construction is found in the EM IB oval building at Mesorachi in eastern Crete where slabs are used at the wall ends forming the entrance and also in a large bin (Sofianou and Brogan 2016).

The long well-preserved east wall (A2852) is visible in the scarp underneath the line of the later Archaic spine wall, and it uses the same orthostatic construction technique, consisting entirely of large slab-like dolomite boulders (Fig. 9). Where the dimensions and shapes of the stones are visible, the wall appears to have been constructed with eight large upright stones, about 0.70–0.80 m in height, that were turned so a flat and fairly even facet of the boulder forms the wall face. Smaller stones were then fitted to regularize the uneven tops of the dolomite boulders, presumably in order to accommodate regular upper courses of the wall. This kind of slab or rough-orthostatic construction for the foundations is distinctive, with elements apparent also in the north face of the south wall as mentioned above. The mode of construction and indeed the thickness (0.50 m) of the north and south walls are characteristic of EM I architecture.

There is a small, roughly built, dolomite stone bench in the southeast corner of the room that measures just under one meter long, 0.30 high, and 0.36 m deep. Located about 0.70 m from the east wall in the south half of the room is a circular hearth bedded with yellowish-brown phyllite clay and curbed with 16 cobble-sized fieldstones (Figs. 8, 9). The irregular circle is about 80 cm in diameter with an opening (40 cm wide) to the southwest, evidently for cleaning. Traces of carbon and reddish discoloration of the phyllite silt (indicating contact with heat) were found within and around the area of the hearth. Although the area of the preserved surface was intensively sampled for soil, we recovered only tiny fragments of wood charcoal, evidently residues of fuel used in the room, but no seed remains.



Figure 10. Final Neolithic to EM I pottery: bowl rim (16-0101) from Locus A2918, cheese pot rim (16-0103) from Locus A2917, strap handle (16-0102) from A2918, and two fragments of bluish-gray ware including a chalice or bowl rim (16-0104) and handle attachment (unnumbered) from Locus A2918. Photo Ch. Papanikolopoulos.

The pottery from the floor dates to late Final Neolithic (Fig. 11; Nowicki 2002; 2014, 8–9, 67–70; Tomkins 2007, 41–44). The vessels have thick walls and a thick dark reddish-brown slip that is wiped, lightly burnished, or roughly smoothed. The shapes include everted-rim and S-shaped bowls and collared and S-shaped jars, often with rounded bottoms (Figs. 12, 13). There are also fragments of “cheese pot” (Figs. 14, 15) vessels with a row of holes piercing the wall, often parallel with and below the rim—some rims have depressions or incomplete perforations (Tomkins 2007, 44; Papadatos 2008, 265, 268, 270; Nowicki 2014, 291–292). One example has an internal ledge or slab handle (no. 16-0094; Figs. 14, 15). While there are significant differences in the range of shapes and fabrics constituting the assemblages of the early FN from the Service Building and this A2800 deposit, it is perhaps important to emphasize the absence of cheese pots in the former (Haggis et al. 2007, 707). In general, this late FN pottery is characterized by fabrics that are harder, with more rock inclusions (especially phyllite-quartzite) and less organic material, than the fabrics of pottery from the earlier FN remains at Azoria. Moreover, the presence of bluish-gray calcareous ware sherds (Figs. 10, 16), a gray ware chalice or bowl rim (Fig. 10), a granodiorite tripod cooking pot (Fig. 17), and a pinkish-buff jar with a horizontal rib



Figure 11. Matina Tzari mending late FN pottery from the floor of Trench A2800 (she is holding 16-0091). Photo M. Mook.

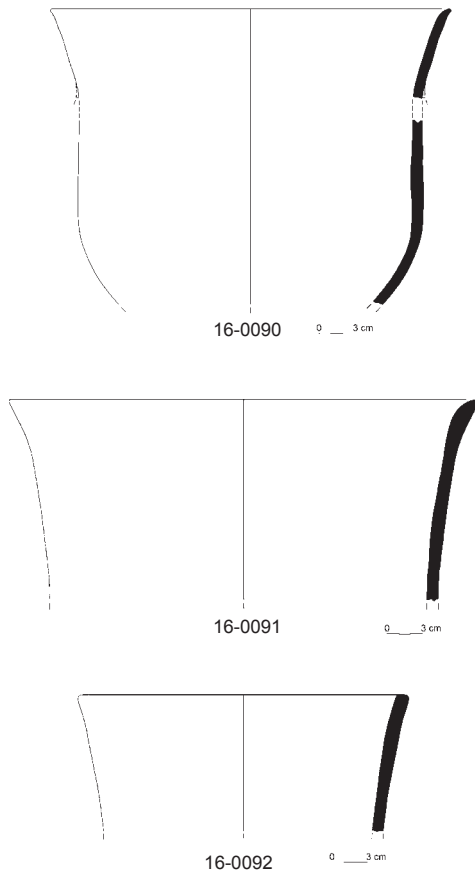


Figure 12. Late FN pottery from Locus A2815. Drawing D. Faulmann.



Figure 13. Late FN pottery from Locus A2815; exterior on left and interior on right. Photo Ch. Papanikolopoulos.

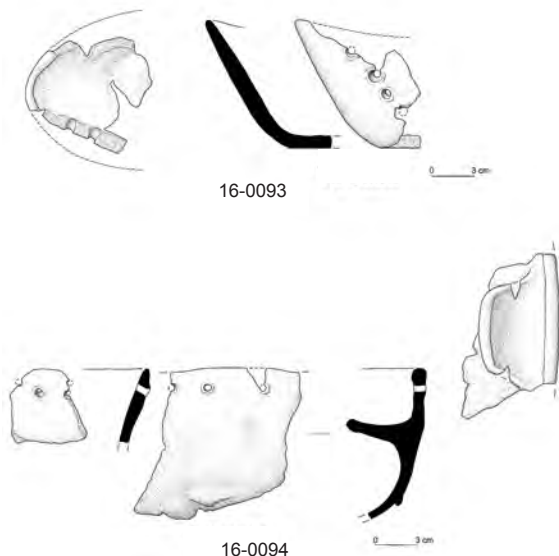


Figure 14. Late FN cheese pots from Locus A2815. Drawing D. Faulmann.

(Fig. 16) indicate an EM IA or transitional FN–EM IA date for the deposit. The distinctive jar fragment (Fig. 16:16-0121) has the orangish-pink phyllite-quartzite fabric and buff slip characteristic of dark-on-light wares of EM I (Haggis 1996, 663, 668, fig. 19; Betancourt 2008, 51). The application of plastic ribs on jars, pyxides, and pithoi is found in EM I (Haggis 1996, 674; Betancourt 2008, 82). The tripod cooking pot (Fig. 17), with round-section feet and incurving rim, is a type more at home in EM IB–II (cf. Warren 1972, 123–125, 178–179; Betancourt 2008, 70–71; Haggis 2012, 143); the example from Azoria might allow us to push the date of these distinctly Minoan vessels earlier than evidence from published contexts would suggest. While there are clear indications of EM I in the assemblage, there are no examples of dark-gray burnished wares and pattern burnished or black burnished wares.

Four chipped stone artifacts were found on the northern part of the floor (A2815): two pieces of black chert (a notched flake [no. 16-1084] and a blade-like flake [no. 16-1230]), a notched flake of a fine-grained brown chert (Fig. 18:16-1056), and a blade of obsidian measuring 3.7 cm in length (Fig. 18:16-1057). All four implements had traces of use-wear. The chert is likely local, the black medium-quality resource being the dominant raw material from the previously published early FN I assemblages (Haggis et al. 2007), while the obsidian is almost certainly Melian based on its visual characteristics. Obsidian, generally found in FN and early EM I on Crete, is absent in the early FN stone assemblages recovered so far from Azoria (Haggis et al. 2007, 682, 689–693, 706). The presence of obsidian in Trench A2800 is thus significant, suggesting the community’s engagement with supra-regional exchange networks, likely articulated

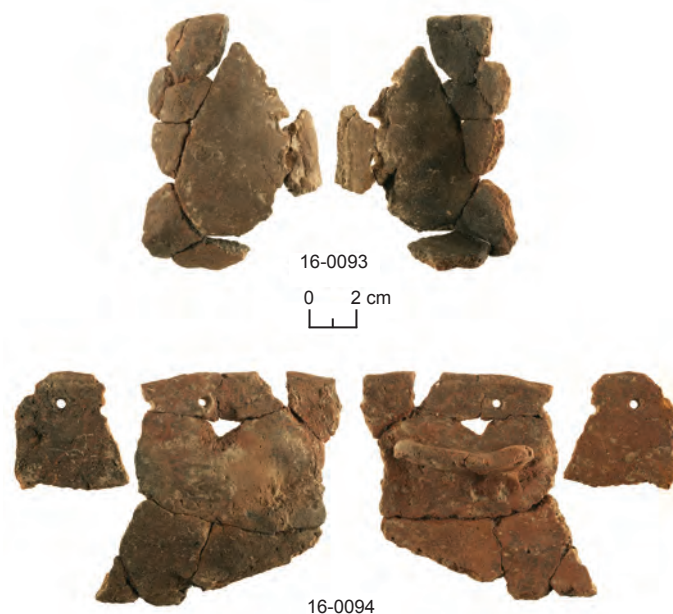


Figure 15. Late FN cheese pots from Locus A2815; exterior on left and interior on right. Photo Ch. Papanikolopoulos.

through coastal populations, such as Kephala-Petras, whose lithic assemblage was obsidian-rich (Papadatos 2008, 270–271; 2012, 76). Technologically, it is difficult to tell whether the obsidian blade is an example of good quality percussion knapping, a mode of production we associate with the LN and FN I in Crete, or pressure-flaking, a technique that seems to have been introduced to Crete in FN II (cf. Papadatos 2008, 270). Handfuls of obsidian blades and exhausted cores that clearly derive from a pressure tradition are now documented from Azoria (2013–2016 seasons), material that may well be associated with residual Bronze Age activity on the site.

As we have reported elsewhere, Final Neolithic pottery is found in a number of samples from excavated areas across the site, with early FN remains appearing concentrated (or most visible stratigraphically and architecturally) underneath the south end of the Service Building (B700, B800, B1200, B1700) and farther down the slope in Trenches B4700 and B4800. The pottery, chipped stone, and architectural forms in Trench A2800 are however distinctly different from those of these evidently earlier FN structures. The new finds from the building in Trenches A2800 and A2900 and an occupation surface recovered within D200 suggest the establishment of a new settlement extending across the upper west slope of the peak in the transition from FN to early EM I. A goal of continuing excavation at Azoria in 2017 is to explore the chronological and cultural relationship between these FN I and FN II–EM IA settlement phases.

### Acknowledgments

Fieldwork at Azoria in 2016 was supported by grants from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; the Institute for Aegean



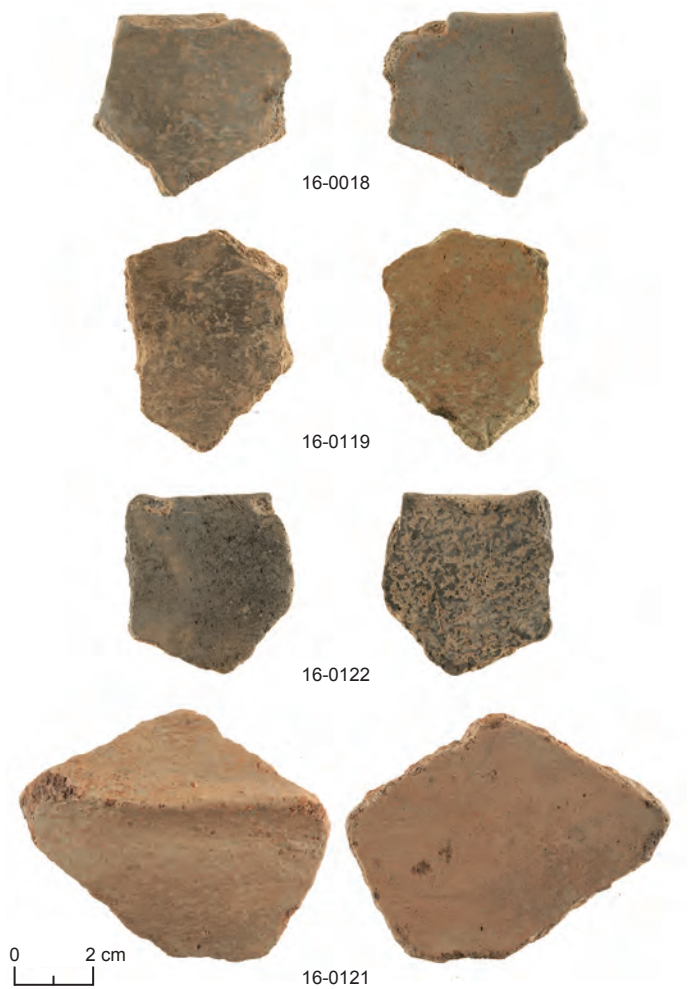


Figure 16. Late FN-EM IA pottery: 16-0118 and 16-0119 from Locus A2813; 16-0122 and 16-0121 from Locus A2850; exterior on left and interior on right. Photo Ch. Papanikolopoulos.

Prehistory; and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: the Department of Classics, the College of Arts and Sciences, the James Penrose Harland Fund, and the Azoria Project Fund.

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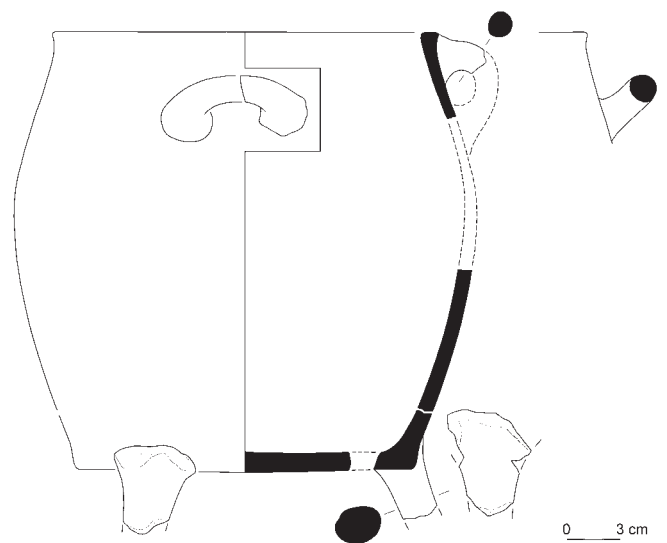


Figure 17. EM tripod cooking pot (16-0047) from Locus A2814. Drawing D. Faulmann.

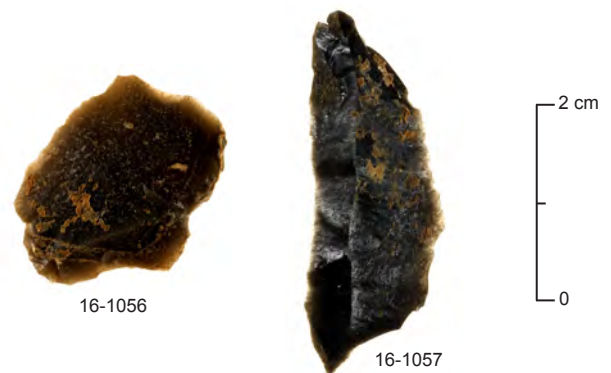


Figure 18. Notched chert flake (left) and obsidian blade (right). Photo Ch. Papanikolopoulos.

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## TEN YEARS OF KENNESAW OSTEOLOGY AT THE KENTRO

*Susan Kirkpatrick Smith*

The Osteological Field School held every season at the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete saw its largest number of students to date in May 2016. I was able to bring a total of seven current students from Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia, to gain experience in the analysis of human remains from an archaeological context (Fig. 1). The students were joined by Chelsey Schrock, a recent KSU anthropology program graduate who returned to the Kentro for a second year with the field school to serve as the assistant field school director and to begin looking for a project for her MA degree, which she will begin to pursue this fall at the University of Sheffield.

The project we are currently researching during the field school is different from most other projects at the INSTAP Study Center, both for the nature of our material, human remains, and the time period from which they came. Since 2013 the field school has been working on the analysis of remains from a large Roman cemetery in Ierapetra. The cemetery was excavated by Vili Apostolakou, the director of the 24th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities at the time. We are fortunate to have this project supported by INSTAP-SCEC, and my students have gained invaluable experience from their time in Crete.

The overarching goal of this project is to explore and explain how life for people living in Crete changed as the Roman Empire controlled the island. The tombs date to the 1st–3rd centuries A.D., well after Crete’s entry into the empire in the 1st century B.C. To date, there has been no study of a large scale Roman cemetery from Crete. This project will provide a great deal of new information



Figure 1. Susan Kirkpatrick Smith (far left) and some of the 2016 field school students working on the human skeletal remains from the Roman cemetery in Ierapetra. From left to right: Chelsey Schrock (assistant field school director), Eden Ryan, Jesi Montoya, Nacerima Brannon, Caitlin Olsen, and Desiree Smith-Plourd. Photo E. Huffman.

about an important part of the island’s history that has not been documented as well as the renowned prehistoric Minoan period.

Previous field school students have given professional presentations at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, the Georgia Academy of Science, and the Kennesaw State University Symposium of Student Scholars on dental pathologies, sex estimation using long bone dimensions, and osteobiographies of specific individuals. More research will be presented in the