

RDAC 1997

## KALAVASOS-AYIOS DHIMITRIOS 1992-1996\*

(PLATES XV-XIX)

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### INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the last five seasons of excavation and study (1992-1996) by the Vasilikos Valley Project at the Late Bronze Age settlement and cemetery site of Kalavasos-Ayios Dhimitrios.<sup>1</sup> Following the earlier seasons (1979-82) devoted mainly to emergency excavation in the line of the new Nicosia-Limassol highway (South 1980, 1982, 1983), for several years excavation has been confined to the North-East Area where a large ashlar administrative building, Building X, was located (Fig. 1). This building was fully excavated down to the Late Cypriot IIC floors by 1987 (South 1983, 1984, overall summary 1988). Thereafter attention turned mainly to expanding the excavated area to reveal more of the architectural context of Building X. The 1990 and 1991 seasons (South 1991, 1992) revealed parts of the street west of B.X,<sup>2</sup> the badly robbed ashlar B.XII to the south, the domestic(?) B.XIII

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The staff of the 1992 season were: I. Todd, A. South, W. Andreas, G. Boekschoten, E. Casey, C. Deans-Barrett, S. Draper, T. Fenn, S. Fox Leonard, S. Lupack, J. Jalutkewicz, M. Morden, M. Parani, A. Swinton, and J. Van der Post, with Field School students P. Low and J. Taylor. A major contribution to the work was made by the Brock University Archaeological Practicum group of 11 students with Instructors W. Rowboth-

am and J. Critchley, who participated for one month. G. Hennings, A. Garrod and B. Liddell of the W.S.B.A. Archaeological Society assisted for part of the season. S. Hadjicharalambous, L. Hulin, J. Leonard, S. Manning and R. Rowbotham participated for short periods.

The staff in 1993 were: I. Todd, A. South, W. Andreas, E. Baboula, B. Creevey, C. Deans-Barrett, C. Doerfel, C. Fugalli, S. Hadjicharalambous, A. Koukouraki, J. Rodin, D. Sewell, A. Smolin and L. Steel, with Field School students P. Armstrong, M. Bembridge, K. Dunwoody, M. Guay and J. Joy. G. Hennings, I. Lewis, S. Monks and G. Nakou assisted for short periods.

The staff in 1994 were: I. Todd, A. South, K. Aitchison, K. Allen, W. Andreas, J. Brogan, T. Constantinides, C. Deans-Barrett, K. Dunwoody, J. Hansen, I. Mitchell, C.J. Moyer, L. Steel, D. Stump, D. Walker and H. Wellman, assisted by volunteers K. Barkin, I. Boegner, B. Heinrichs, F. McOran-Campbell and M. Williams. G. Hennings, A. Garrod, P. Croft and B. Liddell of the W.S.B.A. Archaeological Society participated during part of the season. S. Fox Leonard, S. Hadjiandona, L. Hulin and J. Leonard assisted for short periods. An Antichita Research Team of 14 students with Instructors J. Critchley and C. Schoenfelder joined the project for three weeks.

The staff in 1995 were: I. Todd, A. South, W. Andreas, C. Deans-Barrett, S. Edwards, B. Heinrichs, D. Leigh, D. Patrick, P. Scott-Clark and L. Steel, assisted by volunteers K. Drummond, E. Nelis, E. Phyrillas and S. Westall. L. Hulin and P. Keswani assisted for short periods. A. Garrod, P. Croft and M. Henssler of the W.S.B.A. Archaeological Society, together with S. Hadjicharalambous, provided valuable assistance during the excavation of Tomb 18.

The staff in 1996 were: I. Todd, A. South, W. Andreas, C. Deans-Barrett, B. Heinrichs, N. Hirschfeld, P. Keswani, M. Morden, L. Steel and C.J. Moyer. S. Hadjicharalambous and L. and J. Hulin also assisted for short periods.

1. The site, of about 10ha. in extent, is located halfway between Larnaca and Limassol, adjacent to the Vasilikos River, near the coast and the Kalavasos copper mines. In addition to the North-east Area which is the subject of this report, various other parts of the site have previously been excavated (see preliminary reports in South 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1988, 1991, 1992; final report on material in South *et al.* 1989; summary articles e.g. South 1989, 1995, 1996). Other aspects of the research program of the Vasilikos Valley Project, directed by Ian Todd, include a field survey of the Vasilikos Valley, and excavation of Aceramic Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Middle Bronze Age sites. A Late Bronze Age White Slip ware manufacturing site has been excavated at Sanidha ca. 12 km. NW of Ayios Dhimitrios (Todd 1990, Todd and Hadjicosti 1991, Todd *et al.* 1992, Todd and Pilides 1993).
2. B. = Building, A. = Area (architectural unit e.g. room, courtyard, corridor, street), S. = Structure (wall, pillar, bench, etc.).

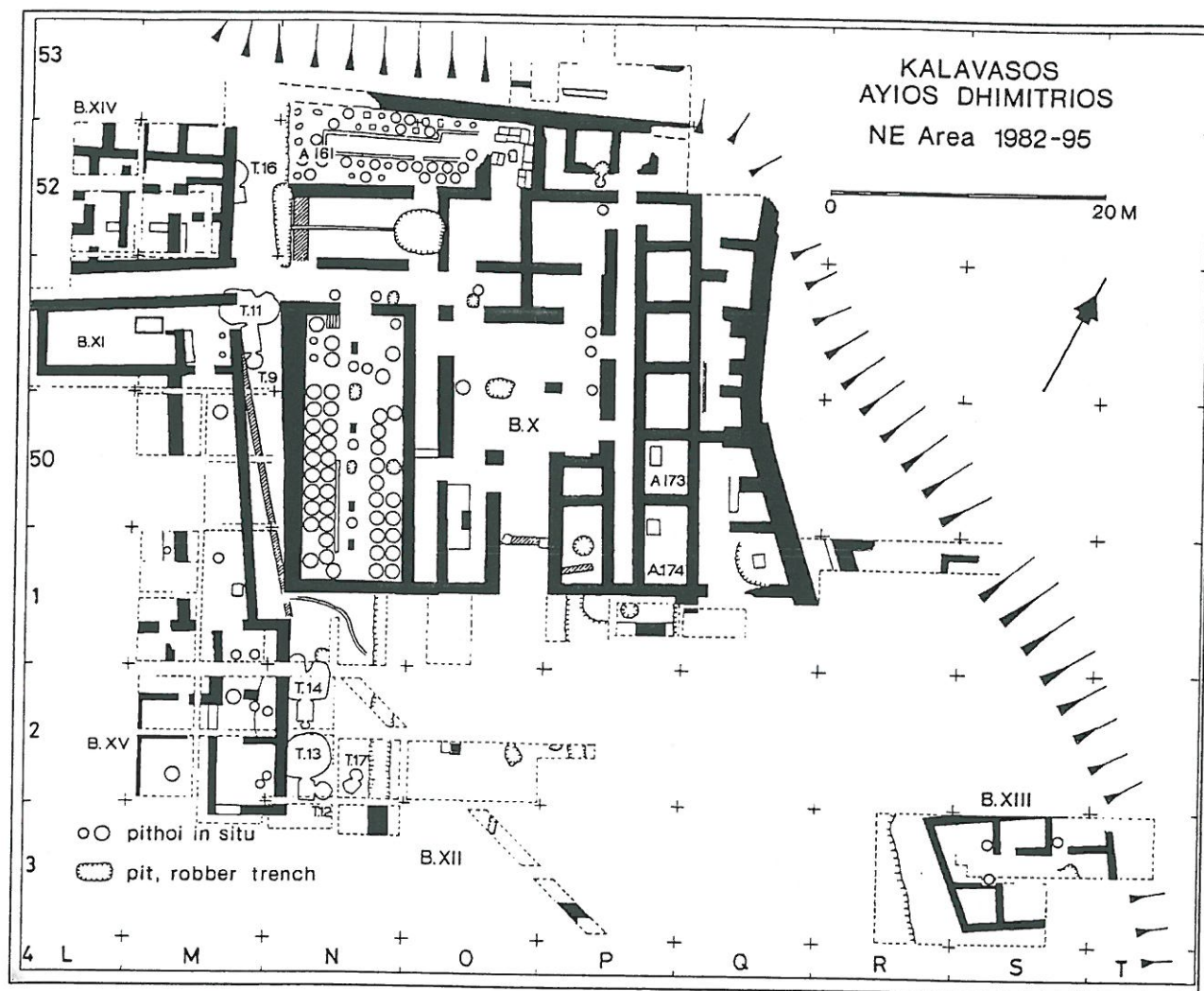


Fig. 1. Schematic plan of North-east Area at Kalavassos-Ayios Dhimitrios (1982-95).

to the SE and part of B.XI to the west, with large-scale installations used for processing olive oil. From 1992, evidence began to emerge that the stratigraphic sequence was more complicated than previously realized, with substantial traces of pre-LC IIC phases surviving in certain areas. The subsequent seasons were devoted to small-scale excavation to clarify these earlier phases, at the same time as study of material in preparation for the final publication of the NE Area. The 1992-6 seasons also revealed several tombs, some containing rich material, mostly in the street west of B.X (Tombs 12-17), also a burial complex with tombs of a type new to the site which was accidentally discovered *ca.* 150m. to the west of B.X (Tombs 18-20).

#### BUILDING X (Pl. XV)

During the earlier excavation of B.X, a small number of trials below the floors were excavated, and by chance none of these revealed clear evidence of significantly earlier phases. It was found that some rooms had two successive floors, but many parts of the building seemed to have only one floor level, and material below the floor(s) often consisted of deliberate fill of mixed debris, often containing interesting ceramic material, some of pre-LC IIC types, but without any features *in situ*. After excavation of the lower levels of the street west of B.X and the NW corner of the building revealed a more complicated history, further small tests have been carried out to clarify the sequence within B.X as far as possible; it is un-

Fig. 2. Plan of Building XV (1993-94 excavations).

likely that large areas will be cleared down to bedrock as it is desirable to preserve substantial parts of the LC IIC floors intact for the benefit of future visitors to the site.

The first of the recent trials was in the west part of Area 176, the pebble-floored area, subdivided by a low plaster partition, in the NW corner of B.X (previously considered to be a "yard": South 1988, 225). Beneath the pebble floor is a floor of neatly laid small flat stones (Christou 1994, fig. 50). The two floors were separated by a layer consisting of mudbrick-like material, divided into rectangular sections of about 50×65 cm. with pebbles between, presumably a deliberate levelling fill (such square brick-like features have been found in similar uses in various other locations in and around B.X). In a small hole in the lower floor where one of the paving stones was missing, sealed below the upper floor, were fragments of a Mycenaean style (WPWM III) shallow bowl (K-AD 1851, Fig. 3) which suggests that the later floor dates to the latter half of the LC IIC period. The earlier floor abutted the footing of a N-S wall 84 cm. wide which formed the outer wall of B.X at this point and was located further to the east than the wall belonging to the upper floor, which was represented only by a robbers' trench; the later floor ran over the footing of the earlier wall, completely covering it. The north wall of A.176 as known from the later phase was built entirely of ashlar on both faces, with the later pebble floor abutting the lowest course of ashlar blocks in the usual fashion; immediately below the ashlar, the wall is much narrower, and the earlier floor abuts this earlier, non-ashlar phase of the wall. Thus, it is clear that this corner of the building was reconstructed in ashlar in LC IIC, on the same lines as in its earlier form except that the west wall was moved a little further to the west. This corresponds to the situation further south along the west side of B.X (see discussion of street below), and to the re-flooring of the North Pithos Magazine immediately north of A.176 (cf. South 1991, 132; *eadem* 1992, 133-5).

Following the discovery of the very large stone tank used for olive oil processing in Building XI (see below), it has been possible to reassess the function of A.176. We had long been

puzzled by the presence in the centre of the east end of the area of a huge, deep robbers' pit, which is not only extensive (*ca.* 3.4×3.6 m. wide) but also attains a depth of 1.4m. below the pebble floor; architecturally this seemed an unlikely place for a large pillar or any other ashlar or massive stone feature which could have tempted robbers to burrow so deep. In the light of the arrangement of A.185 in B.XI, where the pebble floor, subdivided longitudinally by a low ridge, sloped gently towards the stone tank, we can postulate the original presence of a similar stone basin in A.176, where the floor has a similar slope and is divided by a low plaster partition. A small probe adjacent to the SW side of the large robbers' pit demonstrated the existence of a huge pit sealed below the floor (i.e. cut for the installation of such a stone tank) and many small pieces of "Tokhni stone"<sup>3</sup> from trimming of ashlar or well-cut large stone item(s) were included in the fill below the floor.

A number of other small trials within B.X will be surveyed very briefly here. The "Pithos Hall" (Area 152), the largest room in the building, is particularly encumbered by features on the floor which should preferably be left intact. In 1992 a complete pithos (*ca.* 1.8m. high) sunk below the floor in grid square N50B in the centre of the room was excavated, and a clear earlier floor and traces of several other floors or perhaps construction-related surfaces were seen in the sides of the pit, which had been cut for the installation of the pithos at the time when the LC IIC floor was laid. In 1994 a small trial in the SW corner of the room also showed the presence of earlier surfaces, and part of a stone wall or pillar construction, sealed below the floor.

A.151, a small room to the west of the main entrance in the south side of B.X, was one of the areas where two clear floors were found in the original 1982 excavations (South 1983, 97); in 1994 the excavation of the east half of the room (previously excavated only down to the LC IIC

3. "Tokhni stone" refers to the grey-brown calcareous sandstone which is used for almost all the ashlar masonry at the site. It appears identical to the building stone which has been quarried in recent times at Tokhni village *ca.* 3km. NE of Ayios Dhimitrios.

floor) was completed, providing further material for study of the ceramic chronology (cf. discussion below). In the adjacent A.154, the "vestibule" leading from the main entrance to the central courtyard, excavation had ceased in 1983 with tests below the LC IIC floor incomplete (South 1984, 20-1, pl. III: 5). In 1995-96 the south part of the area was fully excavated down to bedrock. Beneath the two large ashlar blocks set flush with the upper floor partway along the sides of the vestibule is an earlier E-W wall, which was reused as a supporting foundation for the two ash-lars. Several earlier floor surfaces and pits were found, some contemporary with the E-W wall, with one floor which predates it. However, a short stretch of "early" wall on a different orientation from that of B.X, which was previously found beneath the adjacent A.155 to the west of A.154 (S.295, shown in South 1984, fig. 2), did not prove to continue into A. 154. In the pebble-floored central courtyard (A.157) in 1984 a trial trench 1m wide was excavated down to bedrock from the large stone pillar base to the east wall; absolutely no trace of any earlier floor was found, and the considerable depth (up to 1.5m.) from the floor level down to the natural rock was occupied by stoney fill presumably placed there to level the area. In 1995 this trial was extended to the west to provide a complete E-W section across the courtyard, and again no earlier floor could be detected; beneath the robbers' pit where the westernmost of two large pillar bases is assumed to have been removed, was a circular pit, smaller than the presumed pillar base, which may possibly indicate the existence of a wooden column which preceded the stone pillar of the last phase. In A.168, a small room north of the NE corner of the courtyard, a tree-stump was removed and the central part of the room excavated down to bedrock; no earlier floors were found, only a fill of debris (mudbrick fragments etc.) and some small pits or postholes in the bedrock. Another, more informative small trial was located in the NE corner of the adjacent room to the north, A.164, extending into the N-S corridor (A.158); details of foundation trenches, floors of the corridor etc. were revealed.

Little new work has been done recently in the eastern parts of B.X. In 1994 deeper excavation was carried out in the north half of A.174, the

southernmost of the row of rooms which form the east side of the building; previous work had stopped at a probable floor level, with a roughly rectangular pillar-like construction of partly shaped Tokhni stones in the middle of the north part of the room. The new excavation revealed that this feature is part of a built well (Pl. XVII:3), carefully constructed mainly with roughly-shaped Tokhni stones, the north and west sides of which survived only at a much lower level, having been cut by the adjacent west wall of A.174. Excavation reached a depth of 6m. below the surviving upper part of the shaft, and stopped at this level because of ground water. The fill contained many stones and plaster<sup>4</sup> fragments, fragments of ceramic wall brackets, stone basins and an imported basalt quadruped mortar, with some sherds including White Slip II, Base-Ring II and a White Painted Wheelmade III shallow bowl, and many animal bones. Levels representing the original use of the well have not yet been reached, and it is not yet certain to which of the pre-LC IIC phases its construction belongs.

Small tests were also carried out in the east part of the area between the main square of B.X and the differently-aligned "enclosure wall" to the north (in A.162, A.165, P53C, etc.). This enclosure wall, at least in its presently-visible form (with large gypsum block foundation) was constructed in the last, LC IIC phase, as was the street surface with U-shaped stone drain immediately to the north.

It is clear that the west and north parts of B.X as they now exist were completely reconstructed in LC IIC with much ashlar masonry, on the same or almost exactly the same lines as a pre-existing earlier building (see below for discussion of chronology). At the same time various storage and industrial facilities to the north and west were built or redeveloped, and the level of the street to the west was raised. Further excavation and study

4. We use the term "plaster" to refer to a variety of materials, mostly used for floors, including the type of thick white floors made from what appears to be pulverized chalk. Samples of these materials from *Ayios Dhimitrios* are being analyzed as part of a study of ancient building materials by Maria Philokyprou of the University of Cyprus.

is needed to check whether the same rebuilding sequence applied in the east and SE parts of the building; possibly the reconstruction was not needed in these areas, and a hint that this is so may be the lack of ashlar masonry on the exterior.

## STREETS

The B.X complex is surrounded by narrow streets (*ca.* 2.0-3.0m. wide) which run along the ashlar exterior wall of the main square building on the west (A.183), and along the outside of the "enclosure wall" on the north (A.166) and east (A.188). Each of these was provided with a drain, in the form of two parallel lines of stones in the west street, a U-shaped solid stone in the north, and an impressive construction with wall-like sides on the east. On the west, an E-W narrow street or corridor (without drain) leads westwards between B.XIV and B.XI from the west street, opposite a side entrance into B.X. At the SW corner of B.X, the west street meets a much wider (6m.) N-S street (A.191), which is presumably a continuation of the street on the same alignment which was found in the East and South-East Areas of the site.

In LC IIC, contemporary with the ashlar reconstruction of B.X, the west street was surfaced with hard white plaster (see Fig. 3 for a WPWM III carinated cup fragment found in the foundation trench for the reconstruction, sealed below the street surface). North of M51B opposite the side entrance to B.X, the street is at its widest (*ca.* 3.0m.) and the surface was very smooth, hard and undamaged, and sloped down towards the north, without a drain; perhaps this part was covered by a roof. On the west side, next to the wall of B.XIV, was a row of at least eight approximately circular pits (65-75cm. diameter, 16-26cm. deep) (Pl. XVII: 1), perhaps settings for pithoi or bins. Like many parts of B.X and the adjacent areas, the street was re-surfaced with a much thinner, softer layer of plaster later within LC IIC. The southern part of the street (adjacent to the Pithos Hall within B.X) slopes to the south; near the highest point in M51B a raised area of plaster served as a curb preventing water from entering B.X, and channelling it towards a drain in the form of a shallow depression with a curb of stones at one side,

which became a deeper, more solidly built feature at the SW corner of B.X. The white plaster street surface ran over the foundation of the west wall of B.X (S.267) and curved up against the face of the ashlar blocks (many of which had been removed by Roman stone robbers). The street narrows to 2.0m. at its south end where it makes an awkward corner to meet the wider street south of B.X, an arrangement which seems inconvenient if large quantities of goods were being delivered to the storage and industrial areas which can be accessed from this street—but there may have been alternative access to some of these areas. The wider street to the south (A.191) was also surfaced with layers of white plaster and yellow-grey clay. The drain, coming from the west street, crossed the north end of A.191 heading to the SE, and was cut by the robbers' trench of the west wall of B.XII; it has not yet been traced further south, although similar drains were found in the parts of this street which were excavated in the East and South-East Areas.

The west and south streets have provided an opportunity to excavate down to bedrock in an extensive area, which links B.X stratigraphically with the various buildings to the west. The interpretation is not without challenges, as the various phases are not equally well preserved in all parts of the area, and especially because the reconstruction, and later the Roman robbing trenches of B.X have often destroyed vital relationships between floors and walls, etc.

Almost all of the west street has now been excavated down to the bedrock, as have two test trenches in the north part of the south street. Below the LC IIC street surface (or "upper"<sup>5</sup> phase) were two successive floors (of grey or yellow-grey clayey material, quite different from the

5. The use of the terms "early", "middle" and "upper" or "late" is only intended for temporary convenience in this report; for example, there is certainly some evidence for even earlier occupation on the site, but as no features of the earliest periods are being described here, we have avoided giving a name to them. For "in-house" descriptions of stratigraphic phases without implications of their absolute chronological significance, we are using names of colours for phases, but as it has not been decided whether these will be used in the final reports, they are not employed here.

Fig. 3. Examples of Mycenaean and Mycenaean style pottery from B.X and the street (A.183). LH IIB/IIIA:1 alabastron K-AD 1915 and one-handled kylix or stemmed goblet K-AD 1916 from M50B, 20.2; LH IIIA:2 piriform jar fragment K-AD 2260 from A.168, 7.6; carinated cup fragment (unregistered) from N1A, 32.1; shallow bowl K-AD 1851 from N52C 6.1+7.2.

white LC IIC surface), which were contemporary with the original construction of B.X (the "middle" phase); the original foundation trench of B.X was sealed below these floors, itself cutting material of earlier periods. The foundation trench of the west wall of the street (S.297) cut the grey clay floors, so this wall which forms the boundary of the industrial areas to the west was built in the LC IIC phase. The "middle" phase street (if it was a street which is uncertain) was provided with a drain, which at the SW corner of B.X was carefully plastered (South 1984, 17, pl. V: 1).

Beneath the "middle" phase were substantial remains of a "lower" phase. A continuous stretch of wall (S.450), the orientation of which is about 12° different from that of B.X, extends for about 25m., from beneath the east wall of B.XI next to Tomb 11, SE to beyond the SW corner of B.X. Its width of 0.65m. is not impressive (although it is the same as that of the walls of the LC IIC domestic buildings), but its length is noteworthy. Associated with it (but truncated at each side by the foundation trenches of the later periods) are floor surfaces and a low bank or bench of plaster on the east side. Other early features include various, mostly small, pits, and a much larger (2m. long) deep rectangular cutting which is almost entirely beneath the foundation of the west wall of B.X (S.267). The earliest floor surfaces encountered are formed of a cement-like mixture of beige clayey matrix with many very small diabase pebbles. The ceramic sequence and implications for chronology are further discussed in the last section of this report.

#### BUILDING XIV

In 1992-94, the major parts of four grid squares were excavated to the NW of B.X (L52B and D, M52A and C), where the existence of a building was suspected as its east and south walls had already been partly uncovered. Part of Building XIV has been revealed (so far *ca.* 11.5×11.5 m., = 132.25 m<sup>2</sup>), and it probably extends some distance further to the north and west. Only brief remarks concerning this structure are given here, as a full appreciation of it will require both considerable extension of the excavated area, and removal of baulks which are presently obscuring

the relationships of some walls and floors. Most of the walls are of the usual non-ashlar type as found in the domestic buildings, but those on the exterior are *ca.* 0.94 m. wide, constructed with large stones including a few ashlar blocks. Internal walls divide the space into a number of small rooms; one E-W wall separates a northern row of rooms from those in the south part. The building has at least two major architectural phases, with some walls of the earlier phase having gone out of use and been replaced by walls in different locations in the later phase, while other parts of the structure remained in use throughout (Pl. XVII: 4). In the later phase, two large (1.54×1.02, 1.80×1.06m.) rectangular stone blocks were installed, one with a small square hole through the centre, another with a larger (diam.: 0.20m.) cylindrical hole, which was placed over a pit (Pl. XVII:5); the purpose of these blocks is uncertain, but they resemble the large block with a small square hole which covered a deep pit in A.162 north of B.X (South 1983, 100, pl. XIV: 2). Preliminary study of the pottery suggests that the building phases probably belong to the "middle" and certainly the LC IIC phases as defined in the street, but not to the earlier phase. A number of Mycenaean (including pictorial krater) and Red Lustrous fragments were found in the SE part of the building, but these may derive from tomb looting. In the northern part of the building, some sherds which do not belong to the usual local repertoire were at first classed as Archaic (and reported as such: Christou 1995, 819), but further study by L. Steel and M. Morden has concluded that this material is definitely not Archaic, but rather Late Bronze Age including imports from the Levant and probably Egypt.

#### BUILDING XI AND AREAS TO THE SOUTH

A fairly detailed survey of B.XI, west of B.X, believed to be for olive oil production, was given previously (South 1992, 135-9). In 1992 the excavation was extended to the west, and the sloping pebble floor of A.185 was found to extend 2m. further west than shown in the previously published plan (*ibid.*, fig. 2), without any significant features. Thus it remains unclear whether A.185

had any entrance other than at the NE corner, and whether olive pressing was carried out inside B.XI. Further excavation in A.186, east of A.185, showed that a low stone bench along the west side was constructed after the floor was replastered in the last part of the LC IIC phase. Earlier in LC IIC, a channel in the hard white plaster floor curved from the NE doorway to the central entrance at the south.

South of B.XI, and immediately west of the street west of B.X, two parallel walls enclose a space almost 20m. long, *ca.* 3.6m. wide (A.187; only the central part of the west side remains to be excavated). A stone basin and bench, and prolific ceramics including a probably Syrian jug were previously found at the south end of this area (South 1991, 136). Near the north end, a pithos sunk in a pit below the floor was found to be filled with rubbish (fragments of utilitarian ceramics and wall brackets, animal bones, etc.). In the NW corner of the area many carbonized olive pits were found.

In 1994 part of the area west of A.187 and south of A.185 was excavated (north half of L50B). It might have been expected that this area would reveal more evidence concerning oil production, but it proved to be one of the most sterile areas of the site, with a fill of pinkish-brown soil (probably finely "dissolved" mudbrick) covering a gently sloping bedrock surface. In contrast, excavation of M1A only 7.5m. to the south yielded rich occupation debris with animal bones and ash, next to a feature consisting of a Canaanite jar (neck and base missing) built into a wall-like construction, probably for use as an oven (Pl. XVII: 2).

#### BUILDING XV (Fig. 2)

The NE corner of B.XV was revealed in 1991 (South 1992, 139), and much more of the building has now been excavated (about 160m.<sup>2</sup>). Its east limit is a substantial (1.1m. wide) wall, originally faced with ashlar (now robbed) on the exterior, which forms the west side of the wide street (A.191). Most of the other walls are much narrower, and some have low stone footings with grey-white mudbrick superstructures. A large rectangular room in the NE of the building held sev-

eral large and medium sized pithoi standing on the floor or on stone bases (Pl. XVIII: 3), while other pithoi stood on a stone and mudbrick bench against the east wall. Another pithos was sunk in a pit below the floor, next to the bench and to a platform with small stone steps, probably to facilitate access to the pithoi on the bench; a channel led from the bench to the sunk pithos. The room to the south contained further small sunk pithoi, and just outside this room to the south were two large stone mortars showing signs of heavy use, set into a floor next to a square bin and channel (Pl. XVIII: 2). In the west part of the area so far excavated are three more rooms: that in the SW contained a fragmentary very large squat short-necked pithos, a large gypsum weight and a near-complete Base-Ring ware bull figurine. North of this is a wide room with few features, and in the NW corner of the building an area with several robbed walls, many pithos fragments, ground stone tools and pieces of a very large and finely cut straight-sided limestone basin. It seems that the building was designed for some kind of industrial/agricultural processing, but it is difficult to guess what this may have been. Flotation samples were processed, but did not contain any significant botanical material, nor did the sunk pithos from the NE room contain olive oil, according to a gas chromatography analysis.

#### BUILDING XII

Completion of excavation of the large, very badly robbed "Building XII" area south of B.X is not anticipated in the immediate future. However, some trenches have been excavated along the south face of B.X, in order to reveal the foundations of the south face of B.X more fully, and to obtain a preliminary view of how the two buildings relate. Excavation of part of O1C clarified the B.X wall foundation at this point, and showed that several successive floors of B.XII survive here. Further east, trenches in P1D and Q1C uncovered a buttress against the SE corner of B.X, parts of two platforms or walls, some robbers' trenches, and a deep circular pit (possibly a latrine) containing ceramics including White Painted Wheelmade III bowls.

Fig. 4. Plans and sections of Tombs 11+9 and 13+12.

## TOMBS

All the well-preserved tombs which have so far been discovered in the North-East Area are located in the streets west and south of B.X. However, further tombs may exist under the many parts of the area which have not yet been excavated down to the bedrock. There was probably a number of tombs along the slope at the edge of the site. Several tomb-like holes have been observed along the slope north and NW of B.X; one (in O53) was cleaned out but there was no clear proof that it had been a tomb —this feature and others may have been much damaged by looters and/or erosion. In P53D north of B.X, part of a *dromos* and tomb entrance sealed with a stone slab (numbered as Tomb 8; not shown on Fig. 1) were found at the edge of the eroded slope, but the east end of the *dromos*, and most of the tomb chamber, were entirely eroded away. In B.XIII a deep pit (which requires further investigation) is probably a looted tomb (South 1991, 137).

## Tombs 9 and 11

The Tomb 9 and 11 complex was excavated in 1983-84,<sup>6</sup> but is briefly summarized here for comparison with Tombs 12-13 and 14-15, with which it has many similarities. It is located beneath the street west of B.X, and the *dromos* is parallel to the wall (S.450) of the "early" phase. A rectangular *dromos* (1.5m. long excluding two steps at the south end, 1.2-1.35m. wide, ca. 1.50m. deep) gave access to a large chamber at the north (T.11) and a much smaller one at the south (T.9, with remains of a newborn infant), and there was a small niche halfway up the east side of the *dromos* (containing very incomplete remains of an adult and a two-year old). The large T.11 chamber, sealed by a stone slab and unlooted, was 4.20m. wide, divided into two lobes by a buttress projecting from the rear wall, and had a rock-cut bench at each side. On these benches were the skeletal remains of three young women, comprising an articulated extended burial on the west bench (left of the entrance) with her head towards the entrance, and two skeletons (one very incomplete, one fairly well represented) in a disarticulated state on the east bench. The remains of a child of about three years old were on the floor. Also on the floor, but

on top of a silt layer which accumulated after the placement of other objects on the floor, were three new-born infants. The grave goods included a large quantity of gold and silver jewellery, seven Mycenaean vessels (including two kraters), a few Cypriot ceramics of White Slip II, Base-Ring I/II and Base-Ring II, at least 21 Red Lustrous ware spindle bottles and flasks, many ivory objects and a lesser number of glass, faience, stone, bone, etc. The main use of T.11 can be dated to LC IIA:2 or perhaps a transitional period LC IIA:2/IIB, based on the Mycenaean pottery (one vessel of LH IIIA:1, six of LH IIIA:2, two of which can be classed as IIIA:2 early), the White Slip II, a cup of transitional Base-Ring I/II style, etc. The three infants, whose interment appears to be the last episode of use of the tomb, were accompanied by three White Slip II bowls which can most comfortably be dated to LC IIB. Much of the material in the tomb (e.g. Red Lustrous ware, ivory and gold objects) belong to long-lived types which cannot help in precise dating. Stratigraphically, the last opening of the T.11 *dromos* was cut through a "middle" phase surface of the street: this may correspond to the LC IIB burial of the three infants in T.11, and/or the deposition of remains in T.9 or the *dromos* niche, rather than to the main use of T.11 which must be at least a little earlier. The *dromos* fill contained many sherds with a rich variety of partly restorable White Slip II, Base-Ring II, White Shaved and other wares (but no Mycenaean), which suggests that an approximately contemporary nearby tomb was being looted or cleared, while the very rich T.11 remained unlooted.

## Tombs 12 and 13

Tombs 12 and 13 share the same *dromos* (ca. 1.65m.×1.1m.), located in grid square N2C ca. 14m. south of the SW corner of Building X. In 1992, during routine excavation of the south half of this square, a large irregular oval pit was found cut through the hard white lime cement surfaces

6. For brief summaries see Karageorghis 1985, 928-32; South 1984b; South in press; Goring 1989; the Mycenaean vessels are illustrated in South and Russell 1993, fig. 3. The final publication has regrettably been long delayed; these tombs will now be included together with Tombs 12-17 in a forthcoming volume of *SIMA*.

Fig. 5. Section through Tomb 13 and plans and sections of Tombs 14+15, 16 and 17.

of the 6m. wide N-S street (Area 191), also cutting through a layer of fine dust and silt on top of the street; the pit was sealed by a thick layer of fallen mudbrick material from the adjacent buildings. Thus the pit dates to about the time of the abandonment of the site at the end of the 13th century. The pit led down to a rectangular *dromos*, within which it continued as a clearly distinguishable cut through the earlier *dromos* fill. This cut slanted down towards the north end of the *dromos*, where the entrance of a large chamber, Tomb 13, was located; the stomion was not closed by a stone slab, but pieces of a gypsum slab were found lying inside the chamber; the condition of the contents of the chamber (see below) showed that it had been looted and many metal objects removed. At the east side of the *dromos*, the robbers' cut had reached as far as the stone sealing the stomion of the much smaller Tomb 12 but the robbers had not entered this tomb: at least, its blocking slab was found in place and chocked with small stones. All this evidence shows that at about the time of the site's abandonment or shortly thereafter, robbers who knew the location of the tomb cut through the *dromos* fill, aiming for the large, rich Tomb 13 and probably ignoring the small child's and infants' Tomb 12.

### Tomb 12

Tomb 12 has a small, approximately oval chamber (1.45m.×1.2m.). It housed the skeletal remains of 3 infants and a child of 5-6 years old.<sup>7</sup> Unlike many infant or child burials which often have only one or two small pots, or no grave goods, in this case there were seven vessels, a Monochrome krater with raised wavy bands, three Base-Ring II cups, a Plain White shallow bowl, a Mycenaean IIIB shallow bowl with plain painted bands, and a small White Painted Wheelmade III bowl. The latter and one of the Base-Ring cups were of very small size, suitable for use by children. A set of astragali ("knuckle-bones") was also included, comprising at least 49 astragali mostly of sheep and goat, with one of fallow deer; some of these had been modified by being ground to a smooth surface on one or more sides, while others had not been so modified.<sup>8</sup> The most precious items were one gold hoop earring, and a silver Hittite figurine (K-AD 1599, height: 6.2cm.,

Pl. XIX: 1). This shows a kilted male figure with a tall conical headdress with relief crescents, and shoes with upturned ends, holding a crook and standing on a deer; he is probably a Hittite protective god who is more often represented on seals and reliefs (cf. Osten-Sacken 1988). It is a notable addition to the very small quantity of Hittite or Anatolian material found in Cyprus (Åström 1989) and this exotic and valuable object suggests a high status for at least one of the burials, presumably the child rather than any of the infants. The ceramics date this group to LC IIC.

### Tomb 13

Tomb 13 has a large, approximately circular chamber (max. diam.: 3.8m.); the upper part of it is cut in the *havara*, and the lower part in conglomerate of diabase pebbles in a sandy matrix. Inside the entrance a sloping ramp, built of one large slab (0.84×0.45m.) with smaller stones at the lower end, facilitated access to the chamber. On the west side of the chamber (left of the entrance), was a bench built of stones, its flat top formed of two large gypsum slabs.

Late Bronze Age looters had entered the chamber, and it is assumed that they removed many metal objects, but plentiful material remained, in many cases still intact. Great quantities of silt and collapsed conglomerate filled the chamber, and the contents must have been disturbed by flooding as well as robbing so that little trace of the original arrangement was preserved. However, on the bench was the fairly well-preserved skeleton of a middle-aged adult, probably female, with the head towards the entrance. Some stones were placed on edge to protect the head area. Next to the skull was a flat clay slab with a

7. Information on the skeletal material from Tombs 12 and 13 is from a preliminary report by Sherry Fox Leonard.

8. This information is from a report kindly compiled by Paul Croft. Astragali were widely used in the ancient world for games similar to dice, scoring according to which way up the bones fell (which obviously would have been affected by smoothing various sides of the bones as in this case!); also, heavier astragali would knock aside lighter ones; they could also be used for divination (for astragali in Cyprus see Reese 1985 for a weighted astragalus from Ugarit Schaeffer 1962, 103-105, figs 64-65).

Fig. 6. Mycenaean IIIA:2 krater K-AD 1619 from Tomb 13. Height: 37.4cm.; rim diam.: 28.7cm.

central depression, perhaps some form of offering table; three small bronze blades were found on it. Various ceramic, faience and alabaster vessels found on top of and around the skeleton were probably left there by looters or flooding. Many other bones were scattered on the floor of the chamber, especially around the east side (they comprise at least several individuals of varied ages). It seems probable that the bench to the left of the entrance was used for the final burial, while earlier remains were pushed aside.

Of the 243 registered objects from T.13, 90 are ceramic, and 40 (44%) of these are Mycenaean, an exceptionally high proportion. They include three fine Mycenaean kraters, two with octopus designs (of LH IIIA:2 and IIIB; pl. XIX: 2), and one with more unusual representations (K-AD 1619, LH IIIA:2, Fig. 6, Pl. XIX: 5-6) which has been discussed in more detail by Louise Steel (1994). On one side, a chariot with two human figures, followed by a single horse, is proceeding towards a female figure inside a building topped by several horns of consecration. On the other, a similar figure in a building is placed in the centre, approached by horses from either side, with a large fish placed vertically next to the building. Other Mycenaean vessels (Pl. XIX: 3-4) include piriform jars (two large examples have painted signs on their bases and sides), stirrup jars, straight-sided alabastra, juglets, a globular flask, cups, a kylix and shallow bowls; they mostly date to LH IIIA:2 with a few of LH IIIB, but a few sherds of IIIA:1 were also found. Six Aegean-style shallow bowls of local manufacture (White Painted Wheelmade III) show that the tomb continued in use throughout LC IIC, contemporary with the last use of B.X. Seven Red Lustrous spindle bottles and lentoid flasks, six White Slip II bowls, and 15 Plain White jugs and bowls were also present. Base-Ring shapes were confined to the usual Base-Ring II carinated cups (five examples), and four large jugs of Base-Ring I type with cutaway spouts and raised bands with incised decoration. Several bowls (some with pedestal) have a red slip, and they may be imports from the Levant (cf. Seger 1988, 74-6).

Other objects included several faience and alabaster vessels, many ivories in fragmentary con-

dition but including rods, decorated discs and fragments of duck vessels (including a duck head with inlaid blue eye), while strips of bone may have belonged to wooden boxes. About 80 registered small items of gold jewellery were missed by the looters, including various types of beads, rings, "bull's head" earrings and a circular ornament with lapis lazuli inlay.

This tomb may have been first used in Late Cypriot IIA, judging from some sherds of early White Slip II and LH IIIA:1, but if so, almost all of the material from the earlier burials must have been removed to make way for later burials. Much of the material, with plentiful LH IIIA:2, dates to Late Cypriot IIB, but local Aegean-style shallow bowls and cups show that its use continued well into Late Cypriot IIC. Only the Base-Ring I jugs do not fit comfortably into this suggested dating: their excellent state of preservation makes it unlikely that they are relics of an earlier LC IIA burial for which there is only very scanty and fragmentary possible evidence; they could be "heirlooms", or more likely this particular type of vessel continued to be made at the same time as Base-Ring II types (carinated cups etc.) were being produced. A similar occurrence of Base-Ring I in "later" contexts applies to Tomb 14, and some other contexts at the site, and difficulties with the traditional view that Base-Ring I comes before Base Ring II have been discussed by Vaughan (1991).

## Tombs 14 and 15

Tomb 14, excavated in 1994, is located immediately north of Tomb 13 (indeed they almost meet underground), in grid square N2A, also on the west side of the street south of B.X. The circumstances were similar to those of Tomb 13: a large pit in the street surface was sealed below mudbrick collapse. Late Bronze Age robbers had also cut down into the *dromos* fill, their cut sloping down towards the east side of the *dromos* (where no tomb chamber exists); however their cut stopped a few centimetres away from the blocking stone of the Tomb 14 entrance on the north side of the *dromos* (perhaps they were too busy with the successful robbing of Tomb 13 to continue!). The rectangular *dromos* (1.5×1.25m),

Fig. 7. Mycenaean IIIA:2 krater K-AD 1978 from Tomb 14. Height: 34.1cm.; rim diam.: 26.4cm.

Fig. 8. Red Lustrous ware arm-shaped vessel K-AD 1979 (length: 62.7cm.) and White Slip ware krater fragment with pictorial bichrome decoration K-AD 2062 (height: 16.3cm.; rim diam.: ca. 20cm.) from Tomb 14.

also has a very small chamber or niche (Tomb 15) at the south end.

Tomb 14 has a large chamber up to 3.70m. long, roughly rectangular in shape but subdivided by a rock-cut buttress which was reinforced by a stone-built pillar. The upper part of the chamber is cut in *havara*, the lower part in crumbly conglomerate. Almost the entire left (west) half of the chamber (left of the entrance) with its northern lobe comprised a very large rock-cut bench (3.6×1.4m.). As the entrance was sealed by a stone slab, it was anticipated that the last burial(s) would be found intact on the bench. Grave goods were found scattered in apparently random fashion on the floor, with a dense cluster of ceramic vessels immediately inside the entrance, and some bones of two individuals probably both male lay among them. In fact only a tiny quantity of bones and objects (including a gold diadem) were found on the bench. Presumably the bench was deliberately cleared, either to make ready for its use for a new burial which never happened, or even as a rather tidy Late Bronze Age looting operation; but whatever happened, the tomb entrance was carefully re-sealed. Thus the contents as found probably do not represent the complete original grave goods, but nevertheless included a range of luxurious and unusual items.

Mycenaean vessels included one krater decorated with two large birds (Fig. 7) and several jugs, stirrup jars, a flask, cup and bowl. As well as Red Lustrous ware spindle bottles and large lentoid flasks, the latter with very grey fabric under their stroke burnished red slip, there were three of the much rarer arm-shaped vessels (Fig. 8), which have been found occasionally in tombs and sanctuaries in Cyprus but are more common in Anatolia (Eriksson 1993, 27-8). Plain ware vessels comprise several shallow bowls and jugs with trefoil mouths. Several pedestalled bowls, most with traces of red slip, may be Levantine imports. White Slip II was represented by several of the ubiquitous bowls, but also a large krater fragment with highly unusual bichrome pictorial decoration incorporating rather naturalistically rendered birds (Fig. 8; for a detailed discussion see Steel *in press*). Base-Ring, as in Tomb 13, was represented by Base-Ring II cups, and Base-Ring I large

jugs. A single fragment of a White Shaved flask was found. Numerous unrecognizable bronze fragments were found, with three daggers the only complete objects. Many small fragments of gold foil, some decorated, may represent overlay for objects of other materials, and there were also finger rings and several types of beads; the only surviving substantial gold objects were two of the decorated strips usually known as "diadems", the only examples from the site so far, one decorated with stamped spirals, the other with impressed lines of dots. Ivory objects were extremely fragmentary, except for some discs, presumably pyxis lids; there is a fragment of most of a duckling, which would have been attached to the cover of a duck-shaped cosmetic container, but nothing identifiable as the main duck. Square glass plaques must have belonged to a gaming box, and there were faience gaming pieces to go with it. Judging from the ceramics, Tomb 14 seems to have been used during Late Cypriot IIB; the Mycenaean pottery was entirely of LH IIIA:2 late, except for one example of IIIB.

Tomb 15 (max. diam.: 0.8m.) at the south side of the *dromos* was partly sealed by a gypsum slab, but no trace of bones survived, although a small White Slip II bowl decorated in the Parallel Line style was placed inside the niche.

### Tomb 16 and 16A

Tomb 16, with a small oval chamber 1.85m. long, had had the upper part of its chamber roof and *dromos* cut away during a Late Cypriot levelling operation prior to the construction of the adjacent buildings. Presumably at the same time, most of its contents were removed, leaving only a few scraps of bone of an adult female and an infant and a few sherds indicative of a Late Cypriot IIB date (fragments of Red Lustrous spindle bottle, White Slip II krater, Base-Ring I, White Shaved flask). The *dromos* was approximately square (1.0×1.0m.); in the middle of the west side was a small niche (T.16A, 0.35×0.30m.) which contained the remains of an infant without any grave goods, and was carefully sealed by a miniature stone slab chocked with small pebbles. The existence of Tomb 16, located only 6m. north of Tomb 11, shows that this area was not exclusively reserved for large high-status tombs.

Fig. 9. Plan and sections of Tombs 18-20.

## Tomb 17

Only 3.5m. east of Tombs 13 and 12 a very small burial facility, Tomb 17, was cut through a street surface. A roughly rectangular shallow pit (0.90×0.82m.) led to a miniature chamber only 60cm. long, where some bones of a child of 8-12 years old were found with a Base-Ring II cup and a White Slip II bowl. The feature is unusual, and it is notable that the trouble was taken to create a real, although unimpressive, chamber for this burial, rather than simply making a small pit or using a *dromos* niche.

## Tombs 18-20

An unexpected addition to the range of tomb types at the site was found late in the 1995 season. The north part of Plot 338 in the western half of the site was ploughed for the first time in many years and the tractor caused the collapse of part of the roof of a tomb chamber. This feature (Tomb 18, on the west side of the *dromos*) was excavated in September 1995 and then backfilled, and the *dromos*, another chamber on the east side (Tomb 19) and a large niche or alcove on the south side (Tomb 20) were investigated in June 1996 and backfilled. This burial complex is located about 150m. west of Building X, but well within the ancient settlement as defined by surface finds. The only previous excavation in the west part of the site was the emergency work undertaken in 1979 in far from ideal conditions, when Buildings IV-VII were partly uncovered (South 1980, 42-4, fig. 6). Tombs 18-20 lie about 75m. north of the north side of the highway where it crosses the West Area.

## *Dromos*

The *dromos* was investigated only the year after the chamber of Tomb 18 had been excavated and then backfilled. A small trench (3×2.5m.) was opened for the purpose, which revealed a pit (probably a tree-pit) and a line of stones in the NE corner, but no other features. The limestone bedrock here underlies only 20-25cm. of topsoil, so it is unlikely that any well-preserved architecture survives in the immediate vicinity, and any other nearby tombs are likely to have been robbed, as these were, as they could be located

easily.

The *dromos* is almost square, 1.47×1.38m., and 1.3m. deep from the preserved upper surface of the bedrock; it is neatly cut and its bottom is flat and horizontal. The upper part of the fill was soft brown soil with many large stones, containing a few sherds of Cypro-Geometric to Cypro-Classical date; this fill extended to the *stomia* of T.18 and T.19, and was cut through lower levels of fill also containing Iron Age sherds. The *stomia* of both tombs were blocked, that of T.18 with a large thick stone, that of T.19 less effectively with a few small stones.

## Tomb 18

Tomb 18 was excavated through the hole in the roof; during its excavation the *stomion* and blocking stone were seen from the inside, but the *dromos* was not investigated for lack of time, and the existence of Tombs 19 and 20 was yet not known. The chamber, cut entirely in the soft limestone *havara*, is rectangular (3.35m. N-S, 2.80m. E-W), and is very neatly shaped and symmetrical with a central axis through the entrance; the walls are vertical for much of their height (unlike those of many other tombs at the site which are more curved). Rectangular benches (1.30-1.20m. wide) extend for the whole length of the chamber at each side, separated by a narrow, rather deep rectangular central depression (0.85m. wide, 0.60m. deep). At the west end of the chamber opposite the entrance there is a large alcove of near-circular shape (1.80m. N-S, 1.35m. E-W), the floor of which is about 0.20m. higher than the floor of the lowest part of the chamber in the central depression. Three clearly defined steps lead down from the *stomion* to the central part of the chamber. The *stomion* is about 0.65m. wide. The chamber was filled with great amounts of silt and lumps of limestone fallen from the roof.

Material found in the lower parts of the chamber included large quantities of skeletal remains and ceramics, with a few objects of other materials (stone, ivory, gold, bronze, glass). Little or no trace of any meaningful arrangement of the burials and grave goods could be detected, and all the contents seem to have been thoroughly disturbed by looting and probably flooding. Although the

Fig. 10. Pastoral Style krater fragment K-AD 2247 Mycenaean pictorial vessel fragment K-AD and Bichrome III juglet K-AD 2235 from Tomb 18.

great majority of the material is of Late Bronze Age date, the tomb may have been re-used once in the Late Geometric period, as shown by the presence of an intact Bichrome III barrel-shaped juglet (K-AD 2235, Fig. 10) —but there were no other restorable vessels of this period. A small number of non-restorable sherds of Cypro-Geometric III, Cypro-Archaic and Classical wares also occurred in all deposits, thus the tomb must have been looted several times, or perhaps remained open during parts of these periods. The range of Late Bronze Age ceramic types suggests that the tomb was used over a considerable period at least through LC IIB and IIC. Cypriot ceramics included Base-Ring I and II, White Slip II, Monochrome, with several Monochrome kraters with raised wavy band decoration (cf. K-AD 364 and 618 in South *et al.* 1989) and Plain White wares including a large jug. Mycenaean and Mycenaean-style vessels included a WPWM III shallow bowl, a Mycenaean cup (LH IIIA:2), an LH IIIB stirrup jar, and several others represented by only a few fragments, for example just one sherd of a large pictorial vessel, with motifs including a bird (Fig. 10). A large fragment of the handle and part of the wall of a Pastoral Style krater shows part of an animal's body and legs (K-AD 2247, Fig. 10). Several sherds of a Minoan large stirrup jar with painted bands and octopus tentacles are a major addition to the few dozen very small Minoan sherds previously found at the site. Other objects included a gold hoop earring (probably gold over bronze), a silver(?) ring, bronze fragments, a glass pomegranate-shaped vessel, an ivory spindle whorl, and a stone tripod mortar fragment. The skeletal remains of several individuals were in a better state of preservation than most at the site, but because of the mixed nature of the material it may not be possible to assign them to periods with certainty.

The very rectangular, symmetrical shape of the chamber at first glance seemed unusual for the Late Bronze Age, but its shape is in fact very similar to three Late Cypriot tombs excavated by Kyriakos Nicolaou at Yeroskipou-Asproyi (especially Tomb 2, although this is a little smaller, lacks the alcove and has the bench continuing around three sides of the chamber; Nicolaou 1983, fig. 7) and to Tomb 32 at Episkopi-Bamboula

(Benson 1972, 7, 27, pl. 11) and there are other examples with the long, deep central depression (e.g. others at Yeroskipou, and at Kouklia: Maier and Karageorghis 1984, 51, 104; at Alassa: Hadjisavvas 1986, 66).

### Tomb 19

Tomb 19 is on a slightly different axis to T.18, and although fairly large, covers less area. The chamber is pear-shaped with the widest part near the entrance (3.8×2.9m.). Two steps (the lower one badly preserved) lead down to a rectangular central depression (2.0×0.9m., 0.8m. deep), surrounded by a bench on three sides (width *ca.* 0.8m. on north and south, 1.4m. on east). At the back of the chamber above the east bench was a cylindrical hole in the roof (diam. 0.45m.) leading up to the topsoil; this was probably not a looters' hole, as it is too narrow and had not penetrated the layers of roof collapse and silt which filled the chamber.

Fragmentary bones of four adults and two children and artefacts were found thinly scattered on the benches and in the central depression, among the silted fill; none were complete or *in situ*, and it can be assumed that there had been considerable disturbance by looting and flooding. Although incomplete, some ceramic vessels are partly restorable. Mycenaean material includes several stirrup jars, a juglet, two flasks, a cup and a shallow bowl with added white painted decoration. Cypriot ceramics include a local imitation (White Painted Wheelmade III) stirrup jar, at least four Base-Ring II cups and a miniature pyxis, a Monochrome krater with raised wavy bands, and a Plain ware krater. Other materials included 11 barrel-shaped gold beads with incised line decoration, two plain oval gold beads and a heavy gold hoop earring; blue glass beads; a silver or bronze pin; fragments of an ivory pyxis; and a biconical chlorite spindle-whorl or bead. The tomb must have been disturbed in the Iron Age and/or Classical period like T.18, but only one Iron Age sherd has so far been identified. Some of the Mycenaean vessels may be classed as LH IIIA:2, but there is much of LH IIIB character, so the use of the tomb may have been during LC IIB-IIC, with substantial continuation in the latter period.

## Tomb 20

Tomb 20 is a large niche in the middle of the bottom of the south side of the *dromos* (0.56m. high, 0.68m. wide, 0.53m. deep (front to back)). The stomion is slightly narrower than the maximum width inside; it was blocked (after looting) with a small stone. The only material found in it was a few scattered sherds and a skull fragment.

The surviving material from Tombs 18 and 19 includes considerable amounts of imported Mycenaean and some Minoan pottery, with a fairly wide range of shapes, and both chambers contained other imported "luxury" materials, e.g. gold, glass and ivory. However, there is no evidence (except one isolated sherd) for the presence of large Mycenaean kraters, and absolutely no Red Lustrous ware (perhaps confirming that the latter was confined to "elite" tombs). They can perhaps be regarded as "upper middle class" tombs, compared to the "elite" tombs in the North-East Area. They are the first tombs of this type (with benches all round the chamber and deep rectangular central depression) to have been found at the site, and the first with possible Iron Age re-use.

## Discussion of tombs

The recently excavated tombs have provided much interesting material and evidence for funerary customs, but the size of the sample as a whole is still small, if we are concerned with making generalizations about the population and their burial practices. For example, when fully studied the skeletal material will probably only bring the total of individuals from the site to about 50<sup>9</sup> (compared to the previous total of 34: Moyer in South *et al.* 1989, 58-69).

The elite tombs of the North-East Area certainly provide some temptation towards generalizations, even though there are only three of them. Tombs 11, 14 and 13 are all located beneath a street adjacent to B.X, which was probably the administrative centre of the community and the residence of its most important members. They are all oriented parallel to B.X and/or earlier buildings, and all face south (contrasting with the tombs found in various other parts of the site which were oriented in a variety of directions,

most commonly to the east: South *et al.* 1989, 41-3). They may be arranged in chronological order, with T.11 (LC IIA:2/IIB) the northernmost, next T.14 (LC IIB), then T.13 (LC IIB/IIC). All are similar in size (but vary in shape) and have benches, or the widest bench (T.11) on the west side, to the left of the entrance, with an articulated burial, female or probably female, on the bench with head towards the entrance (T.11 and 13). Although the repertoire of grave goods varies, all have Mycenaean kraters and a similar range of luxury and imported materials. Children and infants are placed both in the main chambers and in smaller subsidiary chambers. The corners of the *dromoi* at the street surface were marked with vertically placed stones and possibly posts (in the case of T.13 and 14 this may have partly been done by the looters, in the case of T.11 there was no looting and it was probably done to facilitate re-opening the tomb for further burials). Without further excavation it is impossible to say whether such tombs were confined to the street (where re-opening them would have been relatively easy), or whether some may be inaccessibly sealed below later buildings. The continuity of use, orientation, and respect for earlier burials (T.11) suggests a strong political/social continuity from LC IIA through LC IIC, and B.X may have been deliberately placed next to the elite tombs of the ancestors of its builders.

## PHASES AND CHRONOLOGY

Very small amounts of MC III-LC IA material have been recovered from *Ayios Dhimitrios* (Russell 1986, 39-41, 265-6; Russell in South *et al.* 1989, 1-2, 11), but it is impossible to say what kind of occupation, if any, this represents. Some Middle Bronze Age sherds have been recovered from recent excavations, especially in areas SW of B.X, but they are in contexts with much Late Bronze Age material. Some sherds and artefacts may have arrived at the site by being brought from elsewhere in soil used for building materials,

9. Excluding the prolific material in Tomb 18, concerning which there may remain some uncertainty about the dating, because of the Iron Age looting and possible re-use.

for example the red "terra rossa" often used as packing below floors does not occur in the site area itself, and may have come from the Neolithic/Chalcolithic sites of Kalavassos-Kokkinoyia and Pamboules less than 1km. SE of Ayios Dhimitrios. Some indisputably Aceramic Neolithic objects have also been recovered from below floor levels in the North-East Area! Thus, small occurrences of earlier material in mainly later contexts does not prove early occupation of the site.

Use of the Ayios Dhimitrios area at least as a cemetery from LC IIA:1 has been known since the 1979 excavation of Tombs 3 and 4 (South *et al.* 1989, 47-51). Some tombs (e.g. T. 4) had very small quantities, sometimes only fragments of one vessel, of LC IB material, and it is difficult to decide whether to consider this as remnants of LC IB burials, or simply as outmoded material being included in LC IIA burials; in the site as a whole (e.g. among isolated sherds found in later contexts) there is very little material ascribable to LC I. It is only since the recent excavations in the North-East Area that a meaningful stratigraphic sequence, including both architecture and tombs, has become available covering at least LC IIA:2 - LC IIC.

Excavation of the street west of B.X and adjacent areas has provided a ceramic sequence which can be related to the architectural development.<sup>10</sup> Direct correlation with the tombs is more difficult as the later re-openings of the *dromoi*, for the last use (T.11) or looting (T.13 and 14), has destroyed any evidence for the original relationship of *dromoi* to floors. Relating the ceramic sequence to absolute chronology is not easy, especially as hardly any Mycenaean sherds occur in pre-LC IIC levels, and the few which do occur are very likely to be from the looting of earlier tombs (e.g. LH IIB/IIIA:1 vessels from one of the earliest street levels, Fig. 3), rather than dating the context in which they were found. Comparison of the street ceramics with those found in the tombs is particularly difficult as the repertoires of funerary deposits differ greatly from the mainly utilitarian wares found in the street. The small quantities of "fine wares" which are normally used as dating indicators are almost entirely confined to Base-Ring II and White Slip II, both long-lived types

which show little significant change throughout the period in question. It has been possible to define a ceramic sequence for the street areas based mainly on utilitarian wares. As these appear susceptible to considerable regional variation, and also often receive less attention in published reports, it may be difficult to compare our sequence to those of other sites; and in any case the few well-published sequences for the relevant periods are from more northern regions of the island (e.g. Nitovikla, Enkomi, Myrtou-Pigadhes).

Thirteenth century, LC IIC<sup>11</sup> deposits at Ayios Dhimitrios are characterized by LH IIB imports (especially shallow bowls); local imitations of Mycenaean (White Painted Wheelmade III), especially shallow bowls and Pastoral Style kraters; Base-Ring II small juglets and carinated cups; a few Handmade Bucchero jugs; White Slip II Normal Style and White Slip II Late (the latter in LC IIC late contexts); later forms of Monochrome (Russell's (1991, 136) Monochrome C). From study of the street ceramics it appears that Cooking ware shallow pans, jars with opposed horizontal loop handles, and circular flat lids, may be confined to the thirteenth century.

Wares which occur in all deposits in the sequence, with little variation, are Base-Ring II, White Slip II (Normal and Parallel Line Style), Pithos, Plain White Handmade and many Cooking ware forms. The absence of significant quantities of Proto-White Slip, White Slip I, and earlier forms of White Slip II (with e.g. bowls with spouts and/or flat everted rims) suggests that the earlier deposits should be dated not before the last part of LC IIA, or more probably LC IIB. The earlier deposits do contain significant amounts of early Monochrome, Black Slip Wheelmade and Red Slip Wheelmade. Cooking ware jars with vertical strap handles and a flattened rim (the rim often decorated with a series of incised lines) are found in the earlier deposits.

10. These remarks concerning the ceramic sequence are based on a preliminary report by Louise Steel.

11. By "LC IIC" we mean LC IIC with Mycenaean IIB pottery (cf. Åström 1972, 700-1, where LC IIC:1 corresponds to Myc. IIB:1, LC IIC:2 to Myc. IIB:2). The period called LC IIC:2 by Karageorghis and Demas (1985, 263-76; 1988, 254-66) is not represented at Ayios Dhimitrios.

It is difficult to resolve the question of whether the earliest street deposits are precisely contemporary with the main use of T. 11 (as might be hinted by the fact that T. 11 is parallel to the wall of the early phase) because the repertoire of ceramics is so vastly different, with only one White Slip vessel in the main burial phase in the tomb. In any case all the evidence shows that they must be nearly contemporary, in LC IIA:2 and/or early IIB. The original construction of B.X and the "middle" phase deposits of the street may be considered, in the present state of study, as late LC IIB or more likely early LC IIC, and the rebuilding with ashlar took place at a later stage of LC IIC.

### Radiocarbon Dating

A series of samples from the roof beams of the Pithos Hall in B.X, burnt in the destruction at the end of LC IIC, are being analyzed and compared with tree-ring dates by B. Weninger (Cologne University) and S. Manning (Reading University) (Manning 1996, and further reports in preparation). Preliminary results suggest that the dates overall average in the mid-fifteenth century B.C.; allowing for the fact that most of them are not from outer rings of the trees, this would give a date around 1420-1400 B.C. for the use of the beams in construction. It is plausible that beams from the first building phase of B.X could have been re-used in the rebuilding, since the building was reconstructed on the same plan. Thus the radiocarbon dates could correspond to the original construction of B.X, now believed to be in the latter half of LC IIB or the beginning of LC IIC. In previous discussions of *Ayios Dhimitrios*, like many scholars studying Late Bronze Age Cyprus, we have arbitrarily followed a "short" chronology (cf. Åström 1972, 762), according to which mid-LC IIB would be about 1345 B.C., and the beginning of LC IIC about 1320 B.C. However, there is no reason why this short chronology should be rigidly adhered to, and if a longer chronology is adopted, as suggested by many recent studies of Aegean and East Mediterranean chronology, then the radiocarbon dates may match the archaeology perfectly well.

### CONCLUSIONS

The work of recent seasons, although on a small scale, has greatly enhanced our understanding of the history of *Ayios Dhimitrios*, compared to the previous state of knowledge when it was impossible to link the earlier tombs to the later architecture. Significant use of the site area started by LC IIA:1 (T. 4 and small amounts of material from the North-East Area), and for LC IIA:2/IIB there is evidence of extensive buildings, with a very wealthy tomb adjacent to one of them (T. 11). A little later, Building X and some of the nearby buildings were constructed on a somewhat different alignment from the earlier buildings, and further rich tombs, generally similar to T.11, were in use. Probably in mid-LC IIC, B.X was reconstructed with much impressive ashlar masonry,<sup>12</sup> and its industrial and storage facilities were extended.

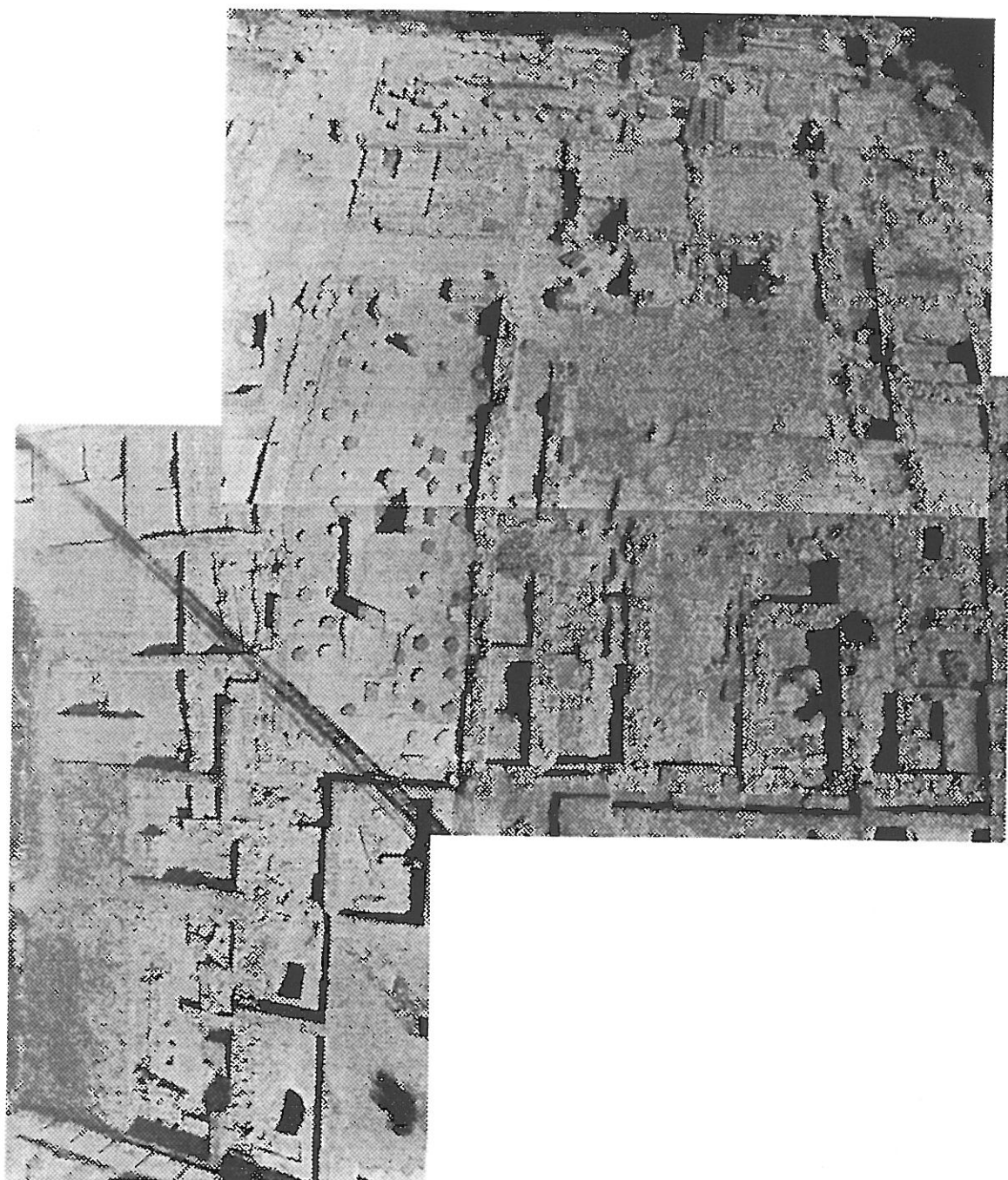
Much work remains to be done at the site, including further investigation of the history of the eastern parts of B.X, completion of excavation of B.XII to the south and the industrial areas (B.XV etc.) to the SW. Also, other areas of the site should be tested. It is hoped that these tasks can be undertaken after most of the results so far have been prepared for final publication.

12. The first phase of B.X may also have incorporated some ashlar; certainly some features of this period have roughly-chiselled Tokhni stone blocks (e.g. the A.174 well), and some small ashlar blocks in the second phase may have been re-used.

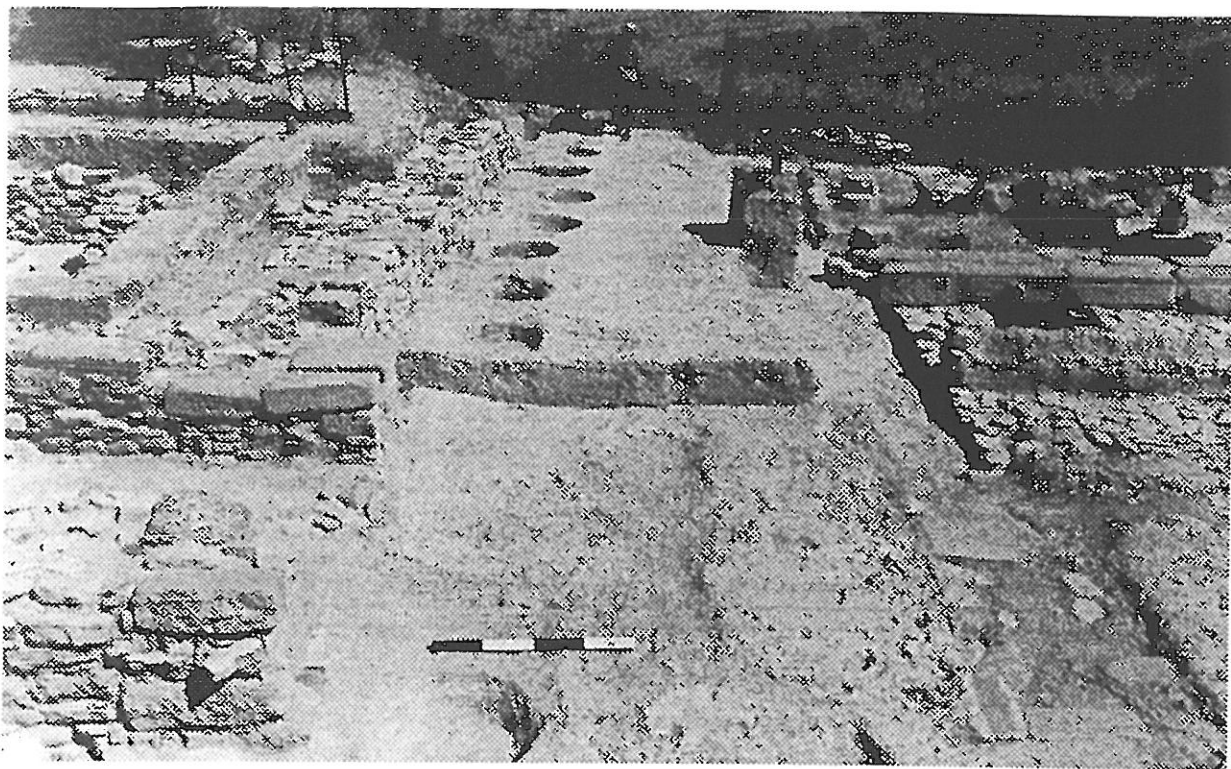
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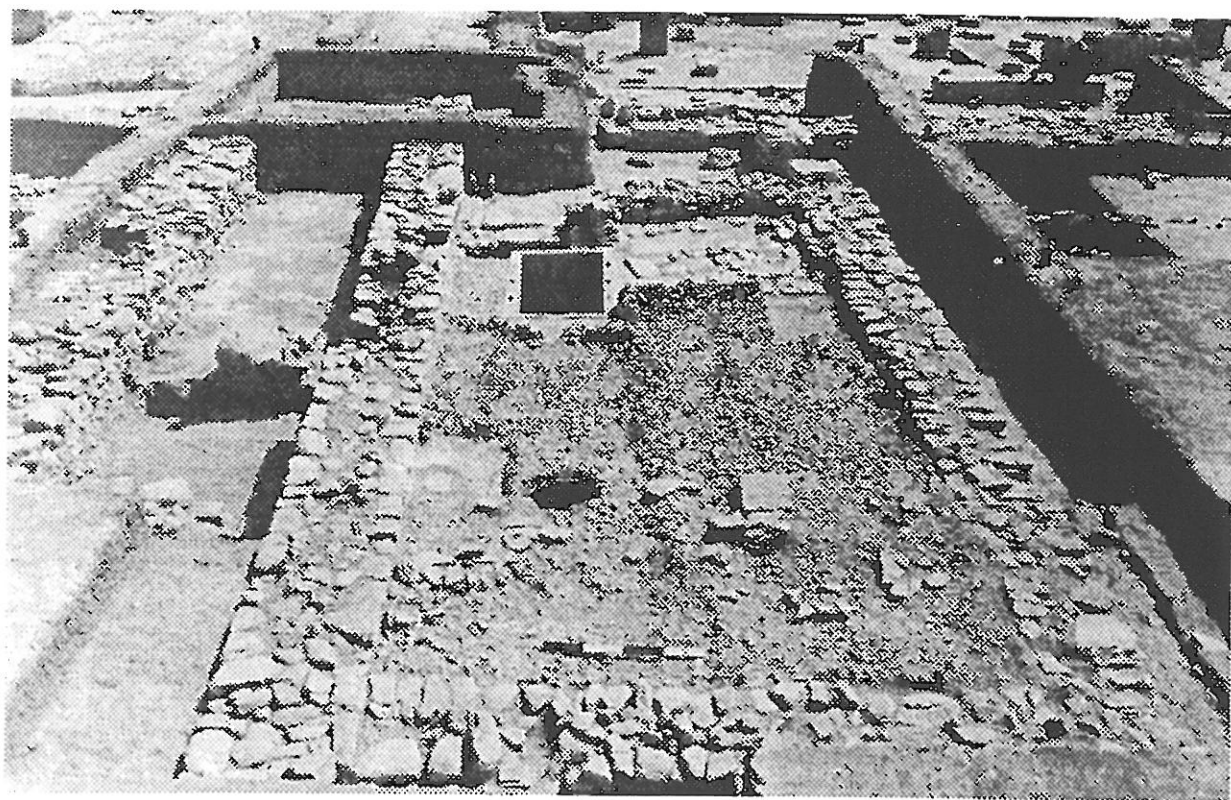
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Composite view of Building X and areas to the SW taken from extending ladder (approx. 100 feet high).



1. North end of the street west of Building X (Area 183) from S.



2. Building XI from W.



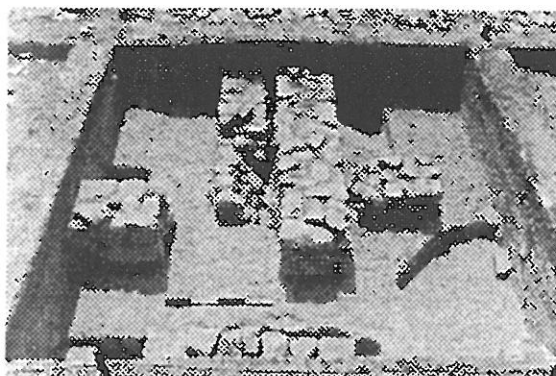
1. Circular pits in north end of street west of Building X (in M52B and D) from S.



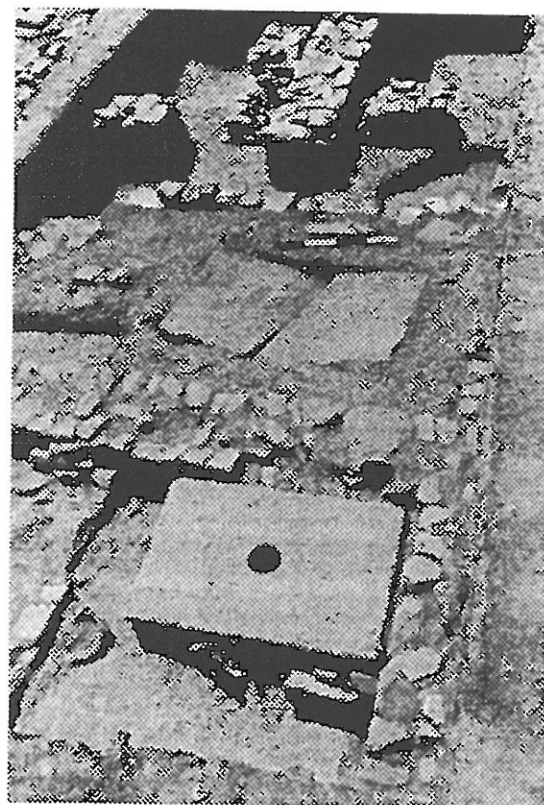
2. Canaanite jar set into a wall or bench, probably used as an oven, in M1A west of Building X, from W.



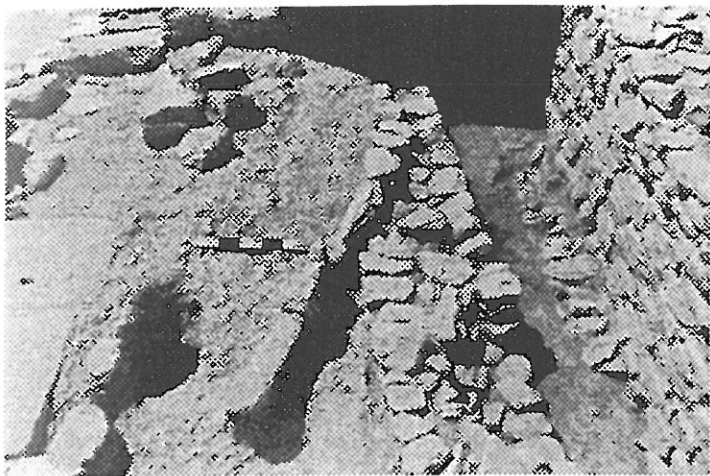
3. Well in Area 174, partly cut by one of the walls of Building X at right, from N.



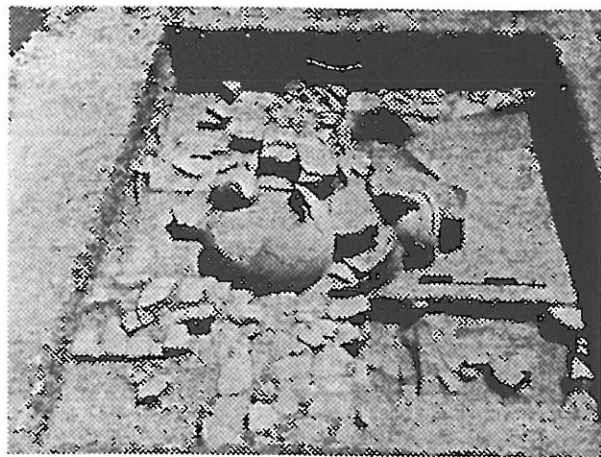
4. M52C in Building XIV, showing later wall cutting earlier wall, from N.



5. Large rectangular stone blocks with small and large holes in centre in M52A in Building XIV, from N.



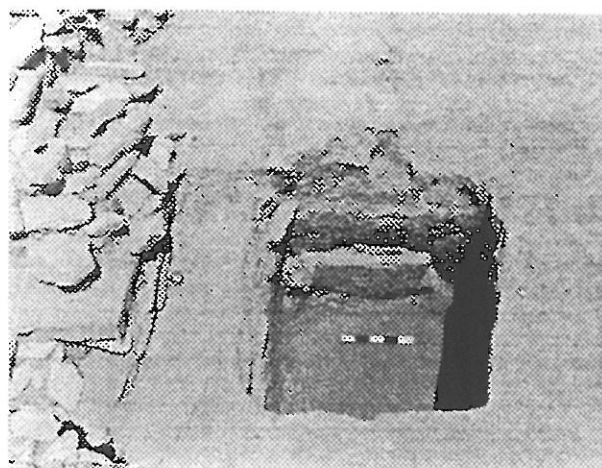
1. Street west of Building X (Area 183): part of M50D showing stone curb (probably part of "middle phase" drain) overlying "early phase" wall; all were sealed below the LC IIC street surface.



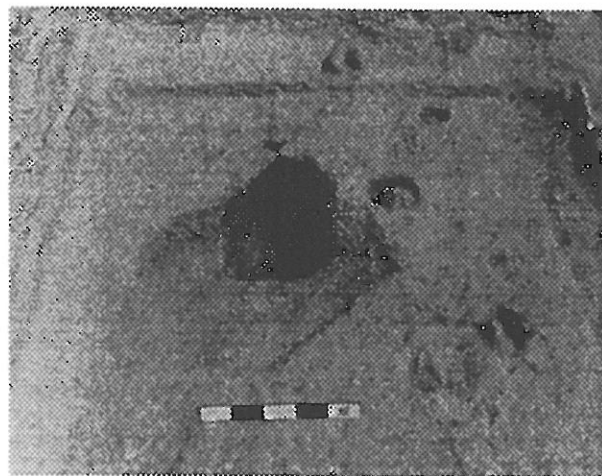
3. M2B showing part of Area 190 in Building XV during excavation with large pithos, steps and bench appearing behind, from W.



2. Large stone mortars, stone and plaster bin and bench at south of Building XV in M3B, from W.



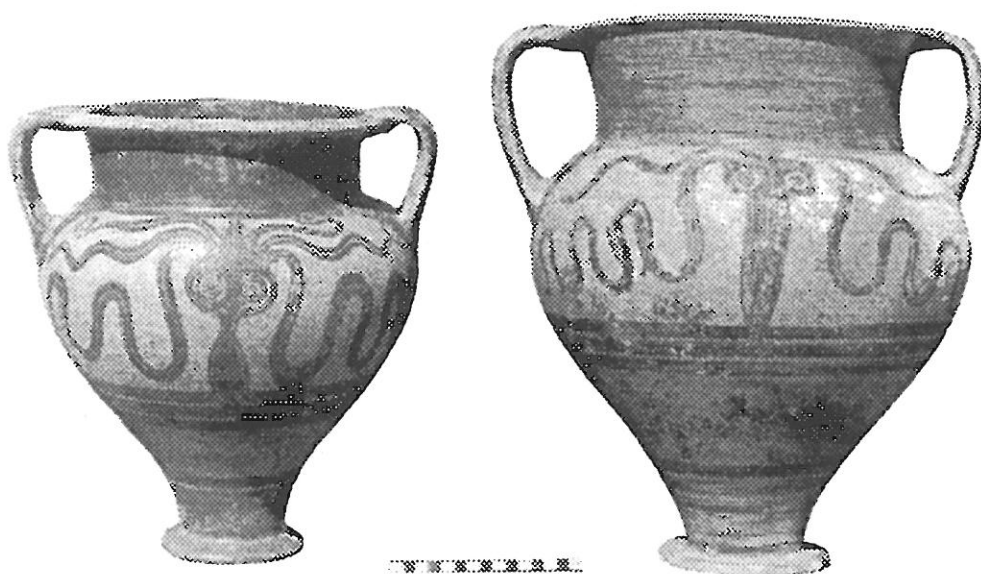
4. Tomb 14 dromos with blocking stone in place, wall of Building XV at left, from S.



5. Tomb 17 in N2D from S, robbers' trench of a wall of Building XII at right.



1. Silver Hittite figurine K-AD 1599 from Tomb 12 (height: 6.2cm).



2. Mycenaean kraters with octopus decoration K-AD 1614 and 1613 from Tomb 13.



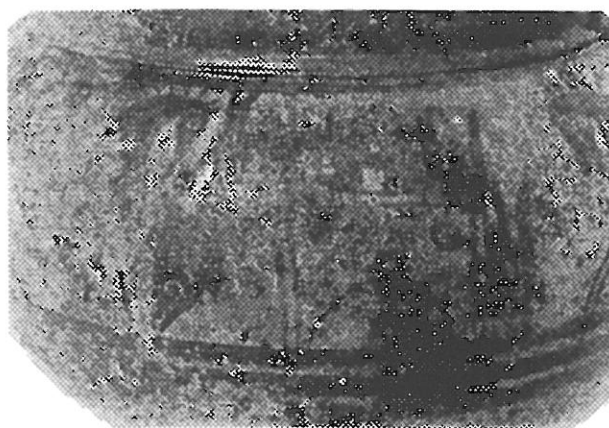
3. Examples of Mycenaean closed vessels from Tomb 13.



4. Examples of Mycenaean and WPWM III (at left) open vessels from Tomb 13.



5. Mycenaean krater K-AD 1619 from Tomb 13.



6. Detail of Mycenaean krater K-AD 1619.