

PREFACE

The first volume on the Greek-Swedish Excavations at the Agia Aikaterini Square, Kastelli, Khania, was published in 1997. *GSE I* contained the remains from the Geometric to the Modern Greek period, that is the Post-Minoan period from c. 1000 B.C. until today. They were presented in one volume of text and one of plates.

In 2000, the second volume was published. In this, the remains of the Late Minoan IIIC settlement were presented. Text and plates were kept together in one volume.

In 2003, the third volume on the Late Minoan IIIB:2 settlement was published. It was presented in one volume of text and one of plates.

Now we are pleased to present the fourth volume on the Late Minoan IIIA:2 and IIIB:1 settlements. The results are presented in one volume of text and one of plates. We are most indebted to the authors of this volume, especially to the editors Erik and Birgitta P. Hallager, who have personally written most of this volume, as was also the case with *GSE II* and *III*.

As regards LM IIIA:2 and LM IIIB:1, the periods under discussion in this volume, a few notes may be made. After the initial studies, the two periods were kept as one stratigraphic unit. However, after more detailed studies of stratigraphy, pottery and architecture were made, it turned out that it was in fact possible to divide them into two separate units, where both continuity and major changes both in the architectural development and the pottery were found. This is, for the first time, extensively documented in Crete.

Moreover, some notes on Building 2; this building was constructed in the LM IIIA:2 period and continued in use until the end of the LM IIIB:1 period. Only a very small part of two rooms was excavated during the period 1970-1987, while the extended excavations in 1990 and 2005 proved this building to be of special importance, at least during the later part of the LM IIIB:1 period. It was here, in 1990, that three Linear B tablets were found *in situ* on the floor of Room E

and where in a pit exactly below the latest floor of Room B the first complete inscribed stirrup jar was found in 2005. While one of the Linear B tablets could prove that Dionysos was already a god in the Greek pantheon c. 1250 BC, the inscribed stirrup jar had the abbreviation for “royal” inscribed.

An important event happened in the spring of 2009, when a protective roof was raised over the most important parts of the excavation area. The roof was sponsored by the European Union. After the roof had been constructed, many architectural details, which had disappeared or been partly destroyed during the years when the excavation was not protected, were then reconstructed.

We are most grateful to the 25th Department of Antiquities in western Crete and to the staff of the Archaeological Museum in Khania, who have always been most helpful throughout the years and facilitated our work. We also thank the Greek Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

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We are most grateful to the Institute for Aegean Prehistory in Philadelphia for its continuous support since 1989, both for excavations and for making the scientific work on the excavated material possible.

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