

APOSTOLAKOU (V.), BETANCOURT (P.P.), BROGAN (T.M.) (edd.) *Bramiana. Salvaging Information from a Destroyed Minoan Settlement in Southeast Crete*. (Prehistory Monographs 66.) Pp. xviii + 162, b/w & colour ills, maps, pls. Philadelphia: Instap Academic Press, 2021. Cased, US\$80. ISBN: 978-1-931534-30-7.

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It has happened to me, and I am sure it has happened to other archaeologists as well. You come across a destroyed site, the damage often the result of construction, and there are just a few artefacts left, often with no stratigraphical or locational contexts. What to do? I admit that I have walked away from such scenes, saddened by the destruction of possibly valuable information. Fortunately, the Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi and the staff of INSTAP at the East Crete Center did not. Recognising the destruction, they conducted a salvage excavation and published the few artefacts in a useful framework.

The site is Bramiana, an artificial lake that supplies water to the south-eastern Cretan city of Ierapetra. The site was discovered by Doug Faulmann, the chief artist at the East Crete Center, and represents the few remains of a second-millennium BCE site, which was destroyed by a bulldozer at some point prior to 1980. The scant remains are a mere 291 catalogued items, of which the vast majority are ceramics, with a small presence of lithics, represented by six catalogued ground stone tools and four catalogued bits of building material.

The publication of the sample breaks down into 21 chapters. These include an introduction, a vital chapter on the petrographic analysis of pottery, eleven chapters on the ceramics, one on the ground stone tools, one on building materials, one on other finds, one on the Bramiana landscape, three that tie the analysis together and contextualise the results in an analysis of trade and economics, and one providing 'Final Comments'.

With such a small non-contexted sample, the approach of the Ephorate and the Center was unique and has produced the most amount of possible information. Rather than study the ceramics by style or shape, the overarching framework for their analysis is ceramic petrography, an analysis that allows them to contextualise the site into the larger cultural orbit of eastern Crete. The goal of the analysis was to understand better the nature of intercommunal trade in east Crete, especially within the important isthmus connecting sites such as Gournia and Mochlos to the south coast, and to explore further the possibility of an important Minoan site at Ierapetra.

The analysis allowed the investigators to connect this site, and if it were a satellite community of a larger Minoan centre at Ierapetra, that centre as well, to three general geographic areas: East Crete, including Kavousi and Palaikastro, the area along the Gulf of Mirabello, including Gournia and Kato Chorio, and the Cretan South Coast, including sites within the Mesara.

The sample is small, but some observations prove useful. Vessels that were produced from South Coast fabric, presumably local, reveal different workshops. There appears to be little connection in the sample to the Mesara, only a few Kamares Ware cups. There is some connection to the region around Palaikastro and East Crete, as seen in imported cooking pots and jugs. Some bowls and jugs came from the region between the Gulf of Mirabello to Siteia. Storage vessels, cups, bowls and ritual vessels can be tied to material from the Mirabello region. The storage vessels, predominately pithoi containing

agricultural goods, provide a rudimentary picture of the trade connections of the unknown urban centre at Ierapetra.

The analysis provides an important, albeit small, armature upon which to begin to build our understanding of trade connections in this important and still somewhat mysterious part of second-millennium Crete. The editors and contributors should be thanked for rescuing this information from a destroyed site and providing the greatest amount of useful information from a very small sample. My wish is for this approach to become common in rescuing un-contexted finds in the future, not only on Crete, but elsewhere as well.

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WHITING (C. M.) *Dogs in the Athenian Agora*. (Agora Picture Book 28.) Pp. 44, b/w & colour ills, colour map. Princeton, NJ: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 2022. Paper, £4.50, US\$4.95. ISBN: 978-0-87661-646-8.

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The dog has attracted increased scholarly attention in recent years because of its near ubiquity across the ancient record. W.'s booklet is the latest contribution to the expansive 'Agora Picture Book' series and focuses exclusively on the lives of dogs in the Athenian Agora, spanning the Archaic to the late antique periods. It offers an elegant synopsis of the data aimed at audiences with general interests in the site, excavations and, of course, dogs. It addresses the functions of dogs within this urban environment through representations of them in pottery, stelae, reliefs, figurines and statues, and material remains. The volume is a welcome contribution to studies on the presence and influence of animals on urban and conceptual landscapes, and social history. The Agora booklets are valuable for their ability to reach wider audiences and are well positioned to enhance general knowledge around the diversity of the evidence and how it attests to varying experiences of ancient Athenians and the animals they shared their lives with.

W. draws attention to the variety of the archaeological material to show how dogs appeared in artefacts and historical features. The evidence is necessarily selective to show how dogs functioned in hunting, domestic, funerary and ritual contexts. Of note is the inclusion of canine skeletal remains in the Agora Bone Well (Deposit G 5:3, fig. 45), which W. notes yielded varying canid skulls. This highlights the fact that, when we are dealing with dogs in the ancient record, we are not dealing with a singular entity or symbolic figure, but with dogs of different types, shapes, sizes and functions. Indeed, W. notes visual details that might otherwise be overlooked, such as painterly techniques and relief lines on vases to depict collars, postures and physiques (figs 4, 5 and 10), which contribute to the work's central theme of diversity in function and representation.

W.'s narrative supplements the archaeological material by referring to ancient literary sources and current scholarly questions. These include naturalistic versus stylised representations of dogs on vases, the symbolic and discursive functions of