



# INSTAP STUDY CENTER FOR EAST CRETE

## SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIP IN THE AEGEAN





**Tom Brogan, Director of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete, and Jan Driessen, Director of the Sissi Archaeological Project, discussing the Late Minoan I court-centered building at Sissi, located near Malia in eastern Crete. Photo G. McGuire.**

# THE INSTITUTE FOR AEGEAN PREHISTORY

The Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) was founded in 1982, and it is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in the United States. It supports research into the civilizations of the Aegean and related areas from the Paleolithic to the beginning of writing with the Greek alphabet, traditionally set at the time of the first Olympiad in 776 B.C. To that end, INSTAP has awarded more than 4,000 grants to individual scholars and organizations from more than 15 countries.

INSTAP funds excavation projects, field surveys, scientific analyses, conservation of sites and materials, study and research of

archaeological artifacts and assemblages, publication, and the work of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete (SCEC). The Institute promotes technological advances in the field, including in such areas as petrography, paleobotany, ground-penetrating radar (GPR), global-positioning systems (GPS), dendrochronological and radiocarbon (C-14) dating, and DNA analyses.

INSTAP supports partnerships with Greek archaeologists and regional district offices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. Project teams are international, composed of students and scholars from a wide range of countries.



Gold seal rings from the Late Helladic IIA grave of the Griffin Warrior, Pylos.  
Photos C. Papanikolopoulos; courtesy Dept. of Classics, Univ. of Cincinnati.



# A CENTURY OF AMERICAN EXCAVATIONS IN CRETE

The Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Center for East Crete (INSTAP SCEC) is dedicated to the investigation of Cretan prehistory from the earliest times through the Early Iron Age, with an emphasis on Minoan civilization. The Study Center facilitates the exploration of Cretan material culture by Greek and international archaeologists and researchers. Our institution continues a 100-year tradition of archaeology on the island and annually provides unique and vital support to more than 50 projects.

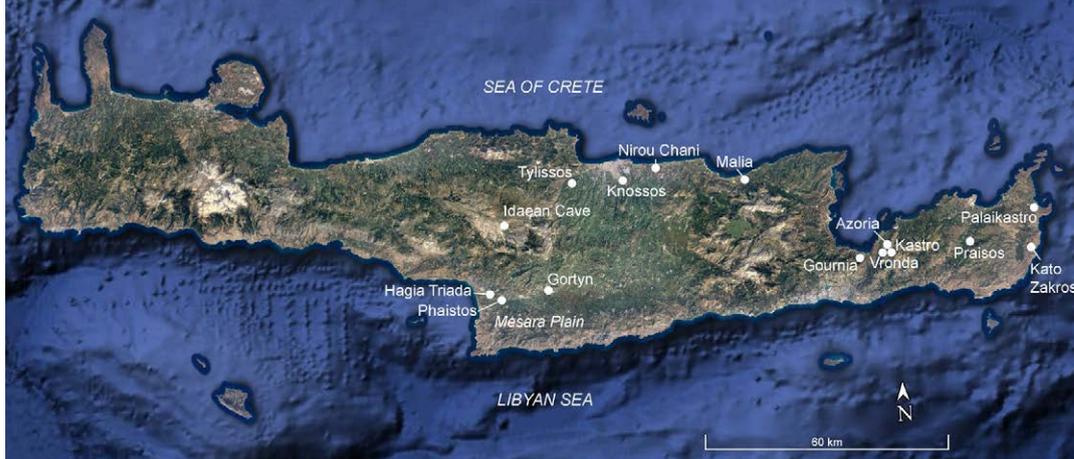
Major excavations on Crete began in the first decades of the 20th century and included: Arthur Evans' work at Knossos; Italian teams digging in

south-central Crete (Phaistos, Hagia Triada, and Gortyn); British teams in eastern Crete (Palaikastro, Kato Zakros, and Praisos); and Greek excavations at Malia, Tyllisos, Nirou Chani, the Idaean Cave, and the circular tombs of the Mesara.

The first American archaeological work in Crete began with the pioneering excavations of Harriet Boyd Hawes, Richard Seager, and Edith Hall. In the region of the northern isthmus of Ierapetra and along the coast of the Mirabello Bay, Hawes worked at several sites, including Kastro, Vronda, and Azoria—all located near the modern village of Kavousi—before turning her attention to the Minoan settlement of



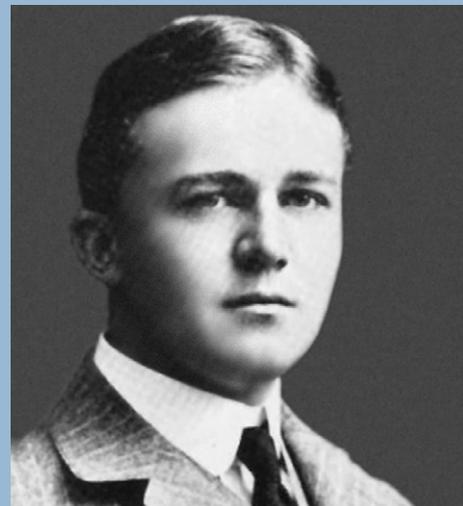
Top: Harriet Boyd as depicted in "Memoirs of a Pioneer Excavator in Crete" by Harriet Boyd Hawes in *Archaeology* magazine volume 18 (1965), pages 94–101. Bottom: Seager's villa as depicted in *Richard Berry Seager: Pioneer Archaeologist and Proper Gentleman* (1997) by M.J. Becker and P.P. Betancourt, fig. 35.



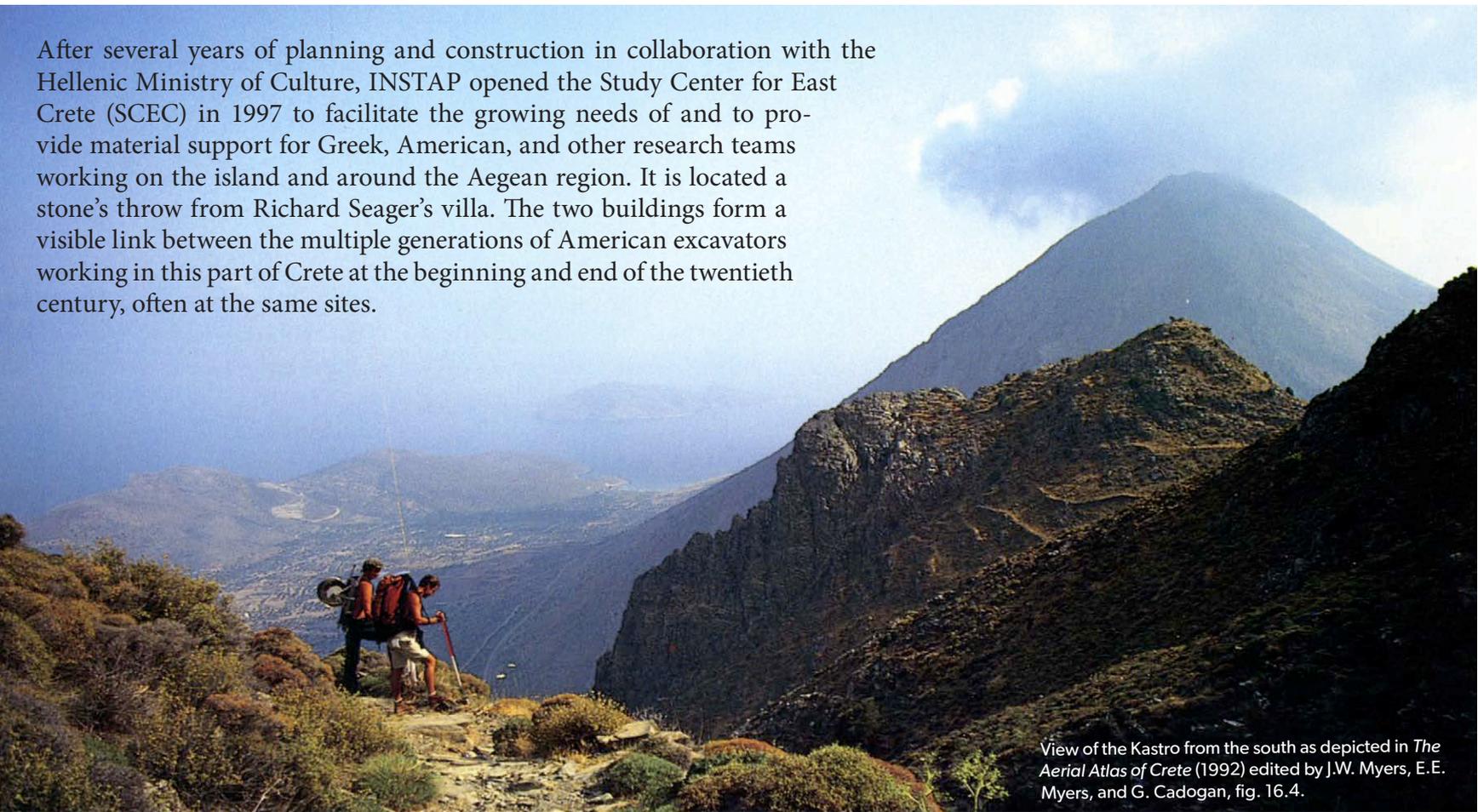
Gournia, located west of the Study Center. Seager and Hall continued excavations in the area at Vasiliki, Pseira, Mochlos, Pacheia Ammos, Sphoungaras, and Vrokastro. Seager lived in East Crete for two decades, and his villa is nestled in the pine trees overlooking the village of Pacheia Ammos and nearby the Study Center.

The work in East Crete almost came to a halt after that first generation because, unlike the British, French, and Italian schools of archaeology—all of which have had substantial facilities in Crete—the United States had none and hence a limited ability to study finds prior to their transfer to Greek museum displays or storage rooms.

Top: map of Crete marking the sites mentioned. Top right: Edith Hall as depicted in "One Hundred Years of American Archaeological Work on Crete" in *Crete 2000: One Hundred Years of American Archaeological Work on Crete* (2000) edited by J.D. Muhly, pages 7–20, fig. 4. Bottom right: Richard Seager as depicted in *Richard Berry Seager: Pioneer Archaeologist and Proper Gentleman* (1997) by M.J. Becker and P.P. Betancourt, fig. 2.



After several years of planning and construction in collaboration with the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, INSTAP opened the Study Center for East Crete (SCEC) in 1997 to facilitate the growing needs of and to provide material support for Greek, American, and other research teams working on the island and around the Aegean region. It is located a stone's throw from Richard Seager's villa. The two buildings form a visible link between the multiple generations of American excavators working in this part of Crete at the beginning and end of the twentieth century, often at the same sites.



View of the Kastro from the south as depicted in *The Aerial Atlas of Crete* (1992) edited by J.W. Myers, E.E. Myers, and G. Cadogan, fig. 16.4.

# INSTAP STUDY CENTER FOR EAST CRETE

The Study Center facilitates the exploration of Cretan prehistory from earliest times through the early Iron Age, with an emphasis on Minoan civilization. On Crete, the SCEC provides facilities, equipment, and services for the primary study of excavated material and also functions as a base of operations for individuals engaged in a wide range of Cretan research topics. The Study Center works closely with the local district office of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP), and several projects of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) to develop a comprehensive approach to excavation, study, and heritage management for the wider archaeological community.

When it opened, the Study Center served as the base for several ASCSA-affiliated excavations and surveys (Mochlos, Pseira, Kastro, Vronda, Chalasmenos, Pseira, Kavousi, Gournia, and Vrokastro), with some in collaboration with the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. By 2016, this assistance had reached several more projects affiliated with ASCSA (Chrysokamino, Azoria, Hagios Charalambos, and Gournia) and others in eastern and central Crete



directed by our colleagues in the local district of the ministry, various foreign schools, and Greek universities.

To extend these services to an even wider community working on Crete, the Greek mainland and other islands, Cyprus, and Turkey, INSTAP created the Publication Team, which offers technical support for illustration, photography, conservation, petrography,



Top and middle: Late Minoan II-III A:1 short sword with inlaid griffin from the excavation of the Religious Center of the City of Knossos; photo I. Papadakis-Ploumidis; courtesy A. Kanta. Right: Middle Minoan II silver-alloy seal ring from the cemetery of Petras in eastern Crete; photo C. Papanikolopoulos; courtesy M. Tsipopoulou.

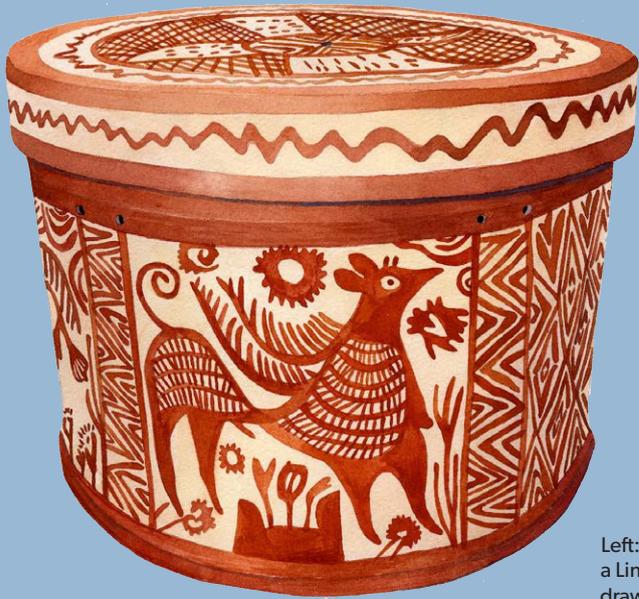
and geophysical and faunal analysis. In 2017 the Publication Team worked with more than 40 projects based in the Aegean. The combined effort continues a 100-year tradition of archaeology by Greek, American, and other foreign scholars and provides vital support annually to more than 100 individuals and projects.

The work of the Study Center takes various forms. For example, it assists the excavation of the important Minoan cemetery at Petras where the people interred include the residents of the first Minoan palace on the neighboring hill. The excavator is attempting to recover nearly 100% of the artifacts and ecofacts from the tombs; more than 40,000 soil samples have been processed at the Study Center by its water-sieving department in order to collect the smallest pieces of evidence (i.e., tiny metal and stone beads, seals of different materials, and plant remains) that greatly contribute to our understanding of Minoan burial customs. In the petrography lab at the SCEC, the staff is carefully tracing the history of Cretan pottery production, consumption, and exchange through the



Top: view of the South Acropolis at Azoria, from the southeast, with Kavousi village in the background; photo courtesy D. Haggis. Bottom: aerial view of the Minoan settlement on the island of Pseira located off the northeastern coast of Crete, as depicted in *The Aerial Atlas of Crete* (1992) edited by J.W. Myers, E.E. Myers, and G. Cadogan, fig. 38.3





Left: Late Minoan III pyxis from the Limenaria cemetery of Mochlos; watercolor D. Faulmann. Right: fragment of a Linear A tablet from Room 16 of the palace in the Minoan settlement of Gournia; photo C. Papanikolopoulos; drawing D. Faulmann; courtesy Gournia Excavation Archives.



analysis of 8,500 thin-section slides that have been manufactured from pottery samples chosen from over 100 archaeological projects. To assist publication of excavation reports, the photography lab has set a new annual record by taking and processing 25,000 images for more than 20 archaeological projects in mainland Greece, Turkey, and the Aegean islands.

Left: Stephaniea Chlouveraki conserving a pithos from Azoria; photo courtesy INSTAP SCEC Archives. Center: Melissa Eaby excavating a bronze saw from a Late Minoan I house on Chrysi Island; photo courtesy V. Apostolakou.

Additionally, the Study Center supports a diverse program of public archaeology. It hosts a summertime lecture series on new developments in Aegean Bronze Age archaeology and related topics. Staff members give educational tours for Greek and foreign schools, and they assist the regional district offices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture in presenting archaeological discoveries at sites and in local museums.

Excavation teams and other members of the Study Center share their new discoveries from the Greek past with the wider scholarly community and the local and foreign lay audience. There is a growing list of preliminary and final publications by our members in scholarly journals such as *Hesperia* and *Aegean Archaeology*, various Festschriften and conference proceedings, and scholarly volumes like the *Prehistory Monographs* published by INSTAP Academic Press, which was founded in 2001 as a continuation of our mission. The Study Center's newsletter, *KENTRO*, is another part of this dialog, along with articles in Cretan and other Greek journals.



Chronis Papanikolopoulos photographing pottery vessels from Azoria in the central courtyard of the Study Center.

# INSTAP FELLOWS AND INTERNS



INSTAP supports the next generation of young scholars through annual fellowships and internships, several of which take place at the Study Center for East Crete. This program has supported 55 interns, 40 fellows, and 15 doctoral students in the last decade, promoting important research.

The Richard Seager Fellowship is intended for scholars in the field of the Aegean Bronze Age or Early Iron Age who are working to complete their Ph.D. dissertations.

The Harriet Boyd Hawes Fellowship is aimed at the investigation of the role of women or gender studies in Bronze Age Crete.

The Petrography Internship is a one-month program at SCEC in which successful applicants work with the petrographer of the Study Center to analyze pottery fabrics from regional sites.

The Librarian Fellowship is a one-year program at SCEC intended for young scholars who are close to finishing their Ph.D. dissertations.

The conservation lab annually accepts interns who are trained in current preservation techniques.

INSTAP Research fellowships allow for a six-week period of study at SCEC.

The Robin Hägg Memorial Fund offers a grant to a post-doctoral scholar working in the field of Aegean prehistory who wishes to conduct research in Greece.

Top left: Niki Saridaki researching in the library of the Study Center. Top right: Eleni Nodarou examining petrographic slides. Bottom left: Angela Ratigan rendering a 3D reconstruction of Late Minoan IB houses at Mochlos. Bottom right: William Gilstrap works on material from the Neopalatial potter's workshop at Zominthos. All photos courtesy INSTAP SCEC Archives.

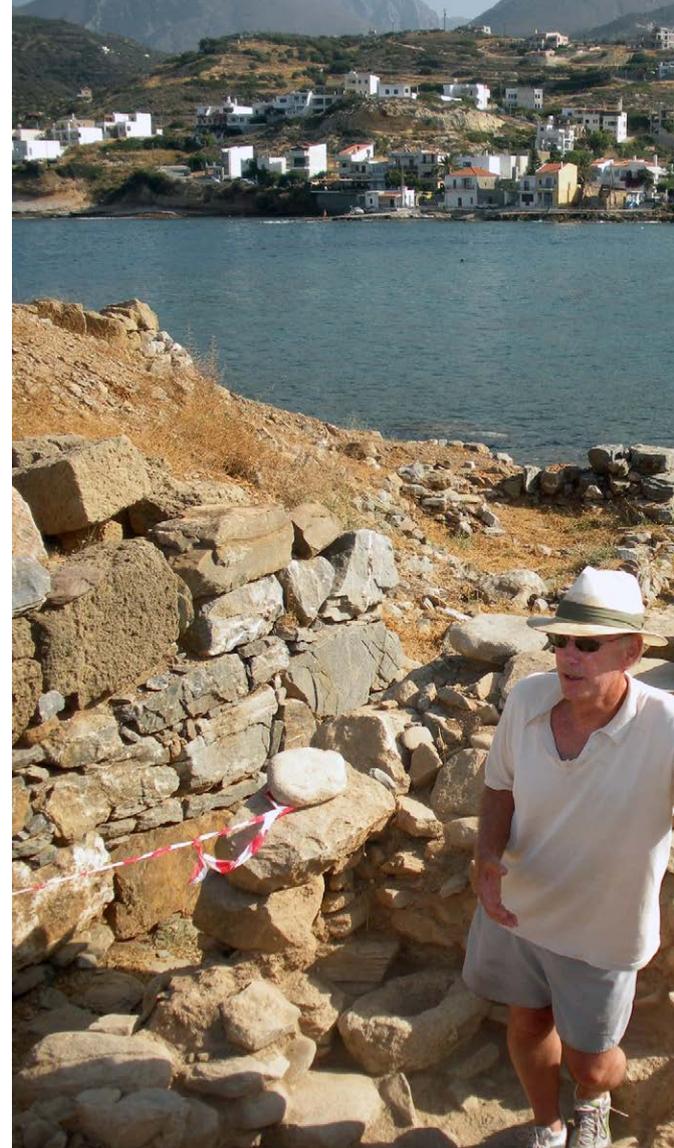


Late Minoan town of Gournia in eastern Crete, looking northwest; photo S. Ferrence.



## FRIENDS OF THE INSTAP STUDY CENTER FOR EAST CRETE

Join this organization whose mission supports the work of the Study Center. Email your name and address to [FINSTAPEC@gmail.com](mailto:FINSTAPEC@gmail.com) to receive the latest news about archaeological work in Crete and around the Aegean. Anyone interested in Aegean archaeology or the work of the INSTAP Study Center is welcome. Please help us to continue offering support through the Study Center with your donation (see back page).





*Opposite page*

Left: survey team led by Tom Strasser and Eleni Panagopoulou near Plakias on the southwestern coast of Crete where their discoveries have rewritten the earliest chapter of Cretan habitation, which now begins ca. 130,000 BP; photo N. Kapranos; courtesy T. Strasser. Right: Jeffrey Soles giving a tour of the Late Minoan town on the islet of Mochlos; photo S. Ferrence.

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Top: Doug Faulmann using the drone for aerial photography at Mesorachi, west of Siteia; photo K. Hall. Right: aerial photo of the islet of Mochlos with the ancient isthmus discernable under water where Minoan architecture has been documented; photo J.L. Cantoro and D. Faulmann.



# PUBLIC OUTREACH AT THE STUDY CENTER

Since 1997 the Study Center has organized a robust lecture series—involving more than 75 speakers—for the archaeological community in addition to presentations and events for local audiences. Over the same period, the SCEC has hosted international conferences exploring Cretan ceramic chronology and petrography, household archaeology, and best practices in the conservation of objects and sites. The Center has also facilitated the installation of informative signs at local archaeological sites and in museums.



# SUPPORT THE STUDY CENTER

Our goal is to ensure the ability of the Study Center to provide the support essential to the work of future generations of scholars and students. Past donors include Malcolm Wiener, the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, the Ms. Foundation for Women, and the University of Pennsylvania, among other institutions and individuals.

Your contribution can make a difference. Donations will be utilized to fund internships, fellowships, public lectures, and symposia among many other opportunities to show your support. You may designate a purpose for your gift.

If you would like to make a donation in support of the INSTAP Study Center, please see the back page for all the details. Gifts are fully tax deductible in the United States.

## *Opposite page*

Top: Tom Brogan presenting the work of the Study Center on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; photo N. Vogeikoff-Brogan. Lower left: view of the informative signs at the Late Minoan III settlement of Vronda, Kavousi; photo courtesy INSTAP SCEC Archives. Lower right: Eleni Nodarou presenting a lecture on the use of mudbrick in Minoan architecture at a site conservation seminar hosted by the Study Center; photo courtesy INSTAP SCEC Archives.



Kathy Hall documents the preservation of the Late Minoan IB bronze sistrum from House C.3 at Mochlos; photo M. Tzari.

# INSTAP ACADEMIC PRESS

The Institute for Aegean Prehistory founded its press in 2001 to publish projects dealing with the subject of Aegean Prehistory and closely related topics. The press is a scholarly publisher specializing in peer-reviewed publications of essential primary source material from archaeological excavations as well as individual studies dealing with material from prehistoric periods. We are dedicated to the production of the highest quality excavation reports and monographs. INSTAP Academic Press is a member of the Association of University Presses.

“The volume publishes in exemplary fashion the six Mycenaean chamber tombs at Ayia Sotira. This volume does justice to the true meaning of the word by integrating all the results by location (dromos, stonion, chamber) and burial, thus facilitating the reconstruction and understanding of episodes of use for each tomb. The editing of this volume is of high quality, and the accompanying visual material is crisp and clean. The Ayia Sotira publication . . . is the best of its kind yet available in Aegean archaeology.”

Yannis Galanakis, review of *Ayia Sotira: A Mycenaean Chamber Tomb Cemetery in the Nemea Valley Greece* (*Prehistory Monographs* 56), R.A.K. Smith, 2017, <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2018/2018-10-34.html>.



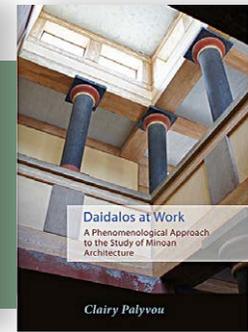
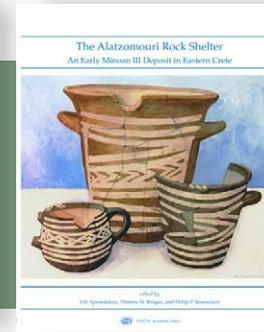
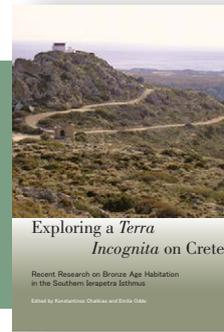
“The long-awaited *magnum opus* of Robert Koehl is a first-class presentation and discussion of the material . . . A comprehensive selection of pieces is illustrated by excellent technical drawings and photographs of good quality. . . .”

Peter Warren, review of *Aegean Bronze Age Rhyta* (*Prehistory Monographs* 19), R. Koehl, 2006, *The Classical Review* 58, pp. 251–254.

“The work exhibits the superb quality that characterizes the publications of INSTAP Academic Press. This volume . . . represents an authoritative and comprehensive study of the archaeology of the site. It . . . sets a model for final publications of Aegean settlement sites.”

Antonis Kotsonas, review of *Kavousi IIC: The Late Minoan IIIC Settlement at Vronda. Specialist Reports and Analyses* (*Prehistory Monographs* 52), G.C. Gesell and L.P. Day, eds., 2016, *AJA* 122.1, [www.ajaonline.org/book-review/3588](http://www.ajaonline.org/book-review/3588).

Over 70 books have been published since 2001, all available in print and eBook formats. To purchase and/or download, find them at [www.instapress.com](http://www.instapress.com), [www.oxbowbooks.com](http://www.oxbowbooks.com), and [www.jstor.org/publisher/instapress](http://www.jstor.org/publisher/instapress). Recent titles include:



“The decision by J.S. Soles and C. Davaras, the editors of the *Mochlos* series, to correlate the settlement and cemetery is to be praised, given the small number of publications that deal with contemporary Bronze Age settlements and cemeteries. . . . The high quality of publication is also reflected in the clear line drawings, the careful reconstructions, the detailed tables, the excavation photographs and in particular the tomb drawings annotated with findspots. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the INSTAP team, the 24th Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, and the Greek Archaeological Service should all be congratulated on a fruitful collaboration and the prompt and exemplary publication of their research. One can only look forward to the publication of the two remaining *Mochlos* II volumes.”

Yannis Galanakis, review of *Mochlos IIA: Period IV, The Mycenaean Settlement and Cemetery: The Sites (Prehistory Monographs 23)*, J.S. Soles and C. Davaras, eds., 2008, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-11-12.html>.

“This book is an exceptionally full and thorough publication . . . very logically arranged and set out . . . in every way Tournavitou and her colleagues should be congratulated on having produced a tour de force—an exemplary publication.”

Susan Sherratt, review of *The Wall Paintings of the West House at Mycenae (Prehistory Monographs 54)*, I. Tournavitou, 2017, *Journal of Greek Archaeology* 3, 2018.

“The organization of the book is very thematic, which contributes to the clarity of discussions; the level of detail is very high. Handily, all figures and plates are printed in a separate volume. Plans and drawings of finds are professional. The two volumes are beautifully produced, on high-quality paper. . . . This is a high quality professional publication, with a clear and detailed presentation of the evidence and sober and sensible interpretations.”

Margaretha Kramer-Hajos, review of *Midea. The Megaron Complex and Shrine Area. Excavations on the Lower Terraces, 1994–1997 (Prehistory Monographs 20)*, G. Walberg, 2007, *BMCR* 2008.03.43, [bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2008/2008-03-43.html](http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2008/2008-03-43.html).



Left: epiphany and adoration of the Minoan goddess as depicted on the Late Minoan Ivory jewelry box from the town of Mochlos; photo C. Papanikolopoulos; courtesy Mochlos Excavation Archives.

*Opposite page*  
Left: Late Minoan Ivory box with amethyst and carnelian jewelry from the town of Mochlos; photo C. Papanikolopoulos; courtesy Mochlos Excavation Archive. Right: replicas of Minoan cooking vessels; photo courtesy Minoan Tastes, Ierapetra, Crete, Greece.

# THE GOLDEN AGE OF AEGEAN BRONZE AGE ARCHAEOLOGY

The archaeological discoveries and contributions to scholarship by INSTAP-supported projects have transformed the field of Aegean Bronze Age archaeology. For almost 40 years INSTAP has played a vital role in the preservation of the history of Greece and the wider Aegean.

We need your support to continue to provide and expand our services for scholars working around the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean regions.



## GIVE TODAY

Please send your contributions to the address located on the back cover, with checks payable to INSTAP Study Center for East Crete. Donations can also be made online at [www.instapstudycenter.net](http://www.instapstudycenter.net). We welcome any donation, large or small, and invite you to visit the Study Center in eastern Crete as we uncover the past and see it come to life once again.





*This page*

Top left: students Miriam Chadima and Nikki Vellidis sieving excavated soil and looking for faunal material and other archaeological remains; photo F. Dibble. Top right: Matina Tzari sorting pottery in the stoa of the Study Center; photo courtesy INSTAP SCEC Archives. Bottom left: excavation of the Minoan settlement of Gournia; photo J. Spiller; courtesy Gournia Excavation Archives.

*Opposite page*

View looking east from the Study Center toward the village of Pacheia Ammos on the southern shore of the Mirabello Bay; photo S. Ferrence.

# GIVE TO INSTAP TODAY



*Your contribution can make a difference.*

We need your help to continue offering support through the Study Center. Your donation will be used to fund many diverse opportunities such as internships, public lectures, and symposia among other initiatives. You may designate a purpose for your gift, which is fully tax deductible in the United States.

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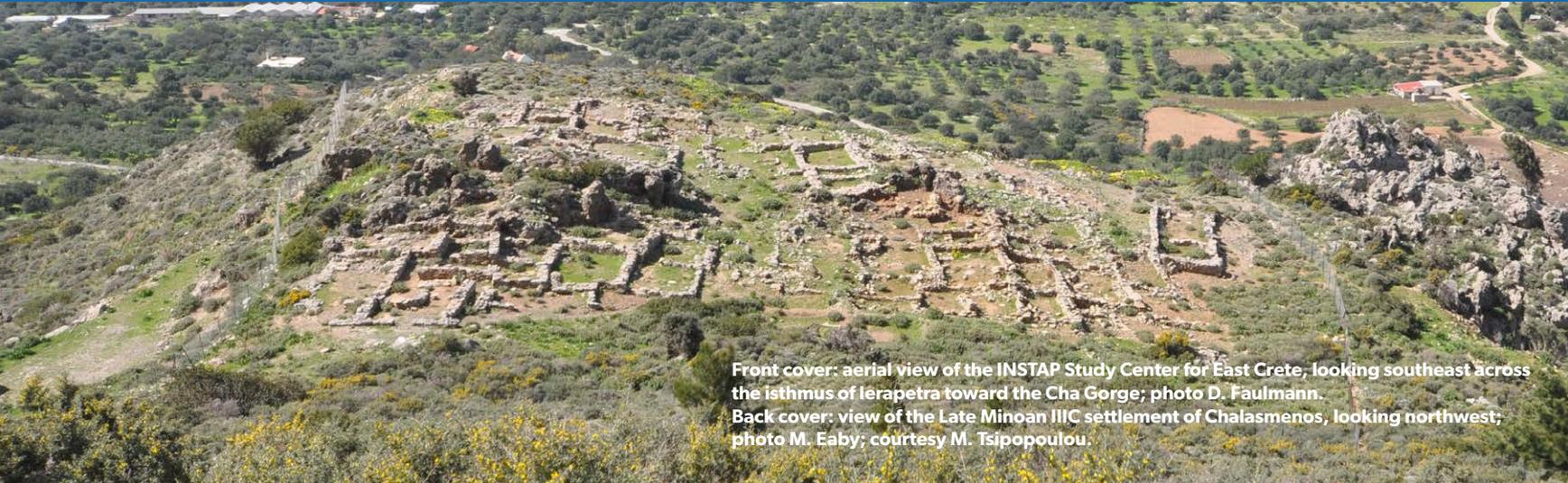


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**Front cover: aerial view of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete, looking southeast across the isthmus of Ierapetra toward the Cha Gorge; photo D. Faulmann.**  
**Back cover: view of the Late Minoan III C settlement of Chalasmenos, looking northwest; photo M. Eaby; courtesy M. Tsipopoulou.**