

Pedestalled bowls with a central hole in Protopalatial Crete: a ritual and communal function?*

1. Introduction

This paper is dedicated to pedestalled bowls of Protopalatial (M(iddle) M(inoan) IB-MM IIB: XIX-XVIII cent. BC) Crete that have a tall, tubular pedestal and a bowl on the top with a hole in the centre. These pedestalled bowls, known in the literature as fruitstands (*fruttiere* in Italian), fruit-dish stands, *compotiers*, offering tables or simply pedestalled vases, are attested with or without a hole in the centre of the bowl. I decided to focus only on those pedestalled bowls that have (or may have) a holed bowl since this seems to imply a ritual use of the vase. The presence of the hole is not ascertainable for all the examples taken in consideration, but it is assumed on the basis of closed analogies with specimens having a hole in the centre of the bowl.

There are several reasons for my interest in these special vases. First, the pedestalled bowls attested in the Protopalatial period differ from the earlier examples, *i.e.* Neolithic and Prepalatial, in their standard shape, with a tall and tubular pedestal and an elaborate bowl with a central hole. This pottery shape appeared in MM IB, at the beginning of the Protopalatial period, and usually went out of use at the end of the period, namely in MM IIB; so far, the only exception is represented by one example, slightly different in its lower and conical stand, coming from the MM IIIA House to the South of the Ramp at Phaistos¹. Second, they occur mainly in palatial centres (Knossos, Phaistos, Malia) and major settlements (*e.g.* Petras and Palaikastro), and more rarely in funerary and cult contexts. Third, most of them have skeuomorphic features and connections with foreign elements: they may imitate shapes of Egyptian stone vessels, such as carinated bowls, and features of the Giali obsidians, *i.e.* the white-spotted appearance. Combining the special features of these vases with the most recent information from their contexts of finding, I will argue that they were especially attributed a ritual use during communal ceremonial activities and a social function in expressing both the high status and international connections of Minoan elites.

2. The Minoan pedestalled bowls in the literature: typology and function

* I am grateful to Filippo Carinci, Maud Devolder, and Simona Todaro for having discussed some aspects of this paper with me, to Georgios Doudalis and Jeffrey Soles for sharing information on the 2022 excavation at Mochlos, and to the anonymous reviewers for their useful and insightful comments. A special thanks to Stephen Conway for editing my contribution.

¹ CARINCI - LA ROSA 2001, 230, F. 4964, fig. 24.

2.1 The morphological types

Pedestalled bowls are pottery shapes attested in the Aegean since Neolithic times. Well-known are the Neolithic examples of Saliagos² and Ftelia in Mykonos³, and the Minoan specimens from the E(arly) M(inoan) I-II burial cave of Pyrgos, from the funerary tholos tombs of the Mesara plain (*e.g.* Koumasa, Ayia Kyriaki), as well as from Knossos and Ayia Triada⁴. In terms of shape, these EM pedestalled bowls are slightly different from the Protopalatial specimens analysed here, both for their pedestal - which is conical or tubular, and sometimes holed or fenestrated - and the bowl, which is usually plain, conical, and without a hole in the centre. There is only one exception: an EM II pedestalled bowl with a holed bowl retrieved from the Pyrgos Cave⁵. In terms of function, it seems relevant to say that the Prepalatial examples have been interpreted as vases used in ceremonial activities performed outside the tombs⁶. As we shall see in the next pages, D. Haggis has compared the communal function of the Protopalatial fruitstands from the MM IB Lakkos at Petras to the EM I chalices⁷.

In the Protopalatial period, the pedestalled bowl is attested both with and without a hole in the bowl. But, because of the absence of a systematic study of this pottery shape, in the literature there is no distinction between pedestalled bowls with or without hole in the bowl. From what I have observed, it is however possible to distinguish the two shapes morphologically, but also functionally. The first one, without a hole in the centre of bowl, is usually a plain shallow bowl on a low and conical stand (Fig. 1a-b)⁸. This type was probably used as a fruitstand, namely as a serving vessel. The second one, with a holed bowl, instead has a more elaborate bowl on a tall and tubular pedestal with a height ranging from 27 to 35, which usually ends with a disc base. The complete examples show that the pedestal can be closed at the base (Fig. 3b) or at height of about 6 to 8 cm from the base (Fig. 2a). The upper bowl, with a rim diameter of 20 to 27 cm, has a central hole, whose diameter ranges from about 2 to 5 cm. The presence of the hole implies a ritual function of the vase, a function which is less evident in the examples without a hole. There are two main types of holed bowl: the first type has a conical bowl with

² EVANS - RENFREW 1968, figs. 31-33, pl. XVI.

³ See fig. 3 in MASTROGIANNOPOULOU 2012 for pedestalled bowls from Ftelia and other Neolithic sites in the Aegean.

⁴ For chalices and other pedestalled bowls from Pyrgos, see XANTHOUDIDES 1918, figs. 9, 14; from Ayia Kyriaki, see BLACKMAN - BRANIGAN 1982, figs. 7, 13; from Knossos, see WILSON 1985; from Ayia Triada, see TODARO 2001.

⁵ I thank Simona Todaro for this information.

⁶ For a discussion on the chronology and function of EM I-II pedestalled bowls from Minoan Crete, see HAGGIS 1997; TODARO 2001.

⁷ HAGGIS 2007, 761.

⁸ See this type from Knossos in MACGILLIVRAY 1998, from Phaistos in LEVI - CARINCI 1988, 17-19, and from the Kamares Cave in DAWKINS - LAISTNER 1913, 24, pl. IX; VAN DE MOORTELT 2011, 311, table 2.

ledge rim (Fig. 2b-c), while the second has a shallow carinated bowl with everted rim (Figs. 2a, 3a-b). We will see that at Malia a third type is attested, smaller in dimension and with a plastic decoration on the rim. The pedestalled bowls are mainly found in Polychrome, Barbotine and White-on-Dark Wares. Among the most common decoration attested on the first type there are floral and spiralling motifs or radiating crescents painted on the bowl interior, all around the central hole. Another characteristic feature, seen only on the second type - with carinated profile and everted rim - is the white-spotted decoration.

Figures 1-2

2.2 Previous studies on their function

Pedestalled bowls on Crete are known since the beginning of the XX century BC, when they were named 'fruitstands'. Pernier already mentioned the finding of two fruitstands (*fruttiere*) from the first excavations at Phaistos⁹ and fragments of these vases from Knossos are reported in early 1900 by Evans, as well as by Hogarth and Welch¹⁰. 'Kamares' fruitstands are also mentioned from the first campaign of excavation at Palaikastro¹¹. At Malia, the first findings of these vases come from the *Pierres Meulieres* necropolis, where three fragmentary examples were first found by Chapoutier in 1928 and later published by Van Effenterre¹². These examples preserve only the tall pedestal, without the bowl. This is the reason why they were interpreted as *trompettes*. Only later were new specimens also found in the Malia Palace, in Quartier Mu and Chrysolakkos, and interpreted as *compotiers*.

In the first publications of these pedestalled vases, little consideration was dedicated to their possible function. It is only from the 1960s that a more specific attention was devoted to the function of these vases: in 1963, Van Effenterre presented the three Malia examples from the *Pierres Meulieres* necropolis, reporting the hypothesis of Picard about their possible use as trumpets or vases for libation rituals in funerary contexts¹³, and later, in 1980, he called them *présentoirs* (display stands) with religious function because of their finding in funerary contexts¹⁴. He was also the first to realize that most of these Minoan vases have a central hole

⁹ PERNIER 1935.

¹⁰ See for example EVANS 1900, 80, fig. 24; EVANS 1904, 17, fig. 6; HOGARTH - WELCH 1901, 80, pl. VIIe, fig. 15.

¹¹ BOSANQUET ET ALII 1902-1903, 278, 308.

¹² CHAPOUTIER 1928, 502-504; see also VAN EFFENTERRE - VAN EFFENTERRE 1963, 82-83, pl. XXXIV, where they have been published upside down; VAN EFFENTERRE 1980, p. 250, fig. 350.

¹³ VAN EFFENTERRE - VAN EFFENTERRE 1963, 82-83, pl. XXXIV.

¹⁴ VAN EFFENTERRE 1980, 206.

in the bowl¹⁵. In 1989, Pelon and Stürmer published the first work entirely devoted to these *compotiers*¹⁶. In this paper, the authors observed that the pedestals are closed at the base, and thus proposed their use for solids, rather than for liquids. They also noted the almost exclusive presence of these vases in palaces, namely Malia, Phaistos, and Knossos, thus pointing to the palatial character of these peculiar vases¹⁷.

In the last three decades, fragments of pedestalled bowls have then been found in all the palatial sites of Crete - Knossos, Phaistos, and Malia - as well as in other major settlements (*i.e.* Petras and Palaikastro) of the Protopalatial period, and have been interpreted as special vases, offering tables or ceremonial vessels¹⁸. As mentioned, for the specimens found in the MM IB Lakkos deposit of Petras, Haggis has persuasively proposed a communal use, rather than individual, comparing them to the EM I chalices¹⁹. It is important to note that these interpretations have been attributed to pedestalled bowls regardless of the presence of a holed bowl, because the central hole of the bowl was rarely commented on.

In 2008, J. Phillips pointed out the importance of the examples with a shallow carinated bowl because the bowl portion imitates the shape of some Egyptian stone bowls²⁰, as already observed by several scholars²¹. She also stressed the dating of clay pedestalled bowls in the Protopalatial period, rather than in the successive Neopalatial²². Furthermore, Carter and colleagues, reporting the Evans's hypothesis that Knossian vases with white-spotted decoration imitated the stone surface of the white-spotted obsidian (*i.e.* the Giali obsidian from Dodecanese, which, however, Evans called 'liparite')²³, have recently suggested that the use of the Giali obsidian - both to produce stone vessels or as a source of inspiration for white-spotted decoration of clay vases - could be an indication of elite status not only in the Protopalatial, but also in the Neopalatial period²⁴.

In this paper, I wish to present the known examples of pedestalled bowls and their contexts of provenance, in order to define their chronology and discuss their possible role in ceremonial contexts. I will present them following a geographical order, moving from sites of Central Crete

¹⁵ See above, note 13.

¹⁶ PELON - STÜRMER 1989.

¹⁷ IDEM, 108-109.

¹⁸ See STÜRMER 1993 for Chrysolakkos at Malia; MACGILLIVRAY 1998 for Knossos; POURSAT - KNAPPETT 2005 for Quartier Mu at Malia; HAGGIS 2007 for Petras.

¹⁹ HAGGIS 2007, 761.

²⁰ PHILLIPS 2008a, 65.

²¹ It was first suggested by A. Evans (EVANS 1902, fig. 74; EVANS 1921, 178-179, fig. 127f), then by P. Warren (WARREN 1969, 111), and more recently by A. Bevan (BEVAN 2003, 63).

²² PHILLIPS 2008a, 65.

²³ EVANS 1921, 178-179, fig. 127f.

²⁴ CARTER ET AL. 2016, 28.

to those of Eastern Crete. Special attention will be devoted to those specimens that seem to imitate foreign products, whether stone vessels from Egypt and/or white-spotted obsidian from Giali.

3. The Protopalatial pedestalled bowls in context

3.1 Knossos

The first mentions of pedestalled bowls are in the early publications on Knossos, where they are called fruitstands or fruit-dish stands²⁵. In the 1998 publication devoted to the Protopalatial pottery of Knossos, MacGillivray identified seven examples of what he called offering tables rather than fruitstands²⁶. Most of them are preserved as rim fragments of bowls or as parts of the vase pedestal, and this is the reason why MacGillivray does not mention the presence of a hole at the centre of the vases bowl. As mentioned, the presence of the hole is sometimes assumed on the basis of strict parallels with examples having a hole in the centre of the bowl. Fragments of pedestalled bowls come from different contexts of Knossos, dating to MM IIA, MM IIB or mixed in date (see Table 1): of a total of seven specimens identified, three come from the North-West Pit, three from the Royal Pottery Stores, and one from the Monolithic Pillar basement (see Table 1)²⁷. It appears that at MM IB Knossos the shape is not attested.

At Knossos, the two existing types are both present in the Protopalatial period. The first type - with conical bowl and ledge rim - is usually decorated in Polychrome Ware with typical Kamares motifs, while the second one is in Light-on-Dark Ware. In his 1998 publication, MacGillivray published six examples which could be attributed to the first type and one to the second²⁸. Among specimens of the first type, which he compares to the fruitstands found at Phaistos²⁹, the first three come from the North-West Pit, an area interpreted by MacGillivray as a pottery dump, containing mainly MM IIA material, but also MM IB and MM IIB vases³⁰. Among the three examples, already described by MacGillivray, the first preserves only the pedestal, while the other two are parts of bowls; one has the interior bowl decorated with a red and white floral pattern including spirals on the dark coated surface, and the other has a black floral motif outlined in red and white on the buff-reserved surface.

²⁵ See EVANS 1900, 80, fig. 24; HOGARTH - WELCH 1901, 80, pl. VIIe, Fig. 15, where they are called fruit-dish stands.

²⁶ MACGILLIVRAY 1998, 86.

²⁷ IDEM, nn. 256-258, 647, 670, 746, 982. Some fragments published by S. MacGillivray (1998, nn. 575-579, pls. 63, 95) as bowls belong to pedestalled bowls with less certainty because, differently from the most common types, they have a plain bowl.

²⁸ IDEM.

²⁹ IDEM, 86.

³⁰ IDEM, 29, 135, nn. 256-258, pls. 51, 52, 60.

The fourth specimen is found in the South-West Room of Royal Pottery Stores and is dated to MM IIA³¹. It is a Polychrome bowl rim fragment displaying running spirals at the exterior surface and floral motifs in the interior. The fifth one, retrieved from the Area of the Lime Kiln in the Royal Pottery Stores (see Table 1), is decorated with floral motifs in the interior bowl and filled semicircles along the rim³². According to MacGillivray³³, the MM IIA groups from the Royal Pottery Stores belong to destruction levels.

The last example, coming from the Monolithic Pillar Basement - a mixed context with mainly MM II material - preserves the pedestal and the lower part of the upper bowl³⁴. It is decorated with Barbotine prickles and filled-in motifs typical of MM IIA. Because of its close parallels with the characteristic MM IIA Phaistian decoration, it could be an import from Phaistos or an imitation of Phaistian products. In the picture of this pedestalled vase, the hole at the centre of the bowl is clearly visible³⁵.

The only example belonging to the second type - the carinated one - is a rim fragment of a carinated bowl from the South-West Room of the Royal Pottery Stores, which is produced in Light-on-Dark Ware and has a white-spotted decoration³⁶. This fragment was first published by A. Evans as a clay imitation of Egyptian carinated bowl shapes and decoratively imitating what he called the 'liparite' stone (*i.e.* the white-spotted obsidian, later identified as the Giali obsidian)³⁷, used to imitate the Egyptian anorthosite gneiss, even if in a reverse form, considering that the anorthosite gneiss shows black crystals on a white surface. Then, in 1998 MacGillivray³⁸ indicated this fragment as part of an offering table with close parallels to the Malia types.

It is worthwhile mentioning that Knossos has revealed both imports of Egyptian carinated bowls in anorthosite gneiss, found mainly in fragments³⁹, and their imitations in Giali obsidian and quartz crystal⁴⁰. If the imports found at Knossos have been interpreted as Egyptian carinated bowls of the Dynasties IV-V (corresponding to EM II on Crete)⁴¹, the Knossian imitations are instead found in later contexts, namely in the Royal Pottery Stores, dated to MM

³¹ IDEM, 154, n. 670, pl. 110.

³² IDEM, 157, n. 746, pls. 24, 117.

³³ IDEM, 39.

³⁴ IDEM, 167-168, n. 982.

³⁵ See illustrations of this specimen in EVANS 1921, pl. Ib and EVANS 1935, 114, fig. 80c.

³⁶ MACGILLIVRAY 1998, 153, n. 647, pls. 22, 107.

³⁷ EVANS 1902, fig. 74. See also EVANS 1921, 178-179, fig. 127f.

³⁸ MACGILLIVRAY 1998, 37, 86.

³⁹ WARREN 1969, 765, 111, P408, P509. See also PHILLIPS 2008b, 104, 150-151, 336-337, nn. 175, 291, 294.

⁴⁰ See BEVAN 2003, 63, fig. 4.4. See also PHILLIPS 2008b, 102, 322, n. 172.

⁴¹ WARREN 1969, 111; see also BEVAN 2003, 63, and PHILLIPS 2008b, 97.

IIA, and in mixed or unspecified contexts, ranging from EM IIB to MM II. Most of the imitations mentioned by Bevan in his 2003 paper as coming from Knossos, are actually very similar to the bowl portions with carinated profile belonging to the pedestalled bowls discussed here. This datum, already highlighted by Phillips⁴², is interesting because it points to the imitation of a class of Egyptian vases that was probably still circulating at Knossos also in the Protopalatial period, and which likely became the source of inspiration for the Knossian pedestalled bowls.

| Knossos | Contexts | MM IB | MM IIA | MM IIB | Mixed |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Palace | Royal Pottery Stores | | South-West Room 2 | | |
| | | | Area of the Lime Kiln 1 | | |
| | North-West Treasury | | | | North-West Pit 3 |
| | | | | | Monolithic Pillar Basement 1 |
| Total: 7 | | | 3 | | 4 |

Table 1. The pedestalled bowls found at Protopalatial Knossos with their finding contexts and relative chronology.

It appears that the pedestalled bowls attested at Knossos are found only in the palace structures and are instead absent in the surrounding houses. The three examples from the Royal Pottery Stores hint at their possible use in ceremonial activities of the First Palace. Less useful are the contexts of the Monolithic Pillar Basement and of the North-West Pit, unless considering the deposit from the latter as the result of pottery dumps coming not only from early houses located in proximity of the palace West Court, but from levelling operations that took place in the same West Court at the end of the Protopalatial period, as suggested by MacGillivray as a possible hypothesis⁴³. Out of seven, at least five specimens date to MM IIA on a stratigraphic basis or stylistic grounds.

Except for one fragment in Barbotine Ware, we have observed that examples identifiable as belonging to the first type show a preference for a polychrome decoration including a series of

⁴² PHILLIPS 2008a, 65-66.

⁴³ MACGILLIVRAY 1998, 29.

white floral motifs located in the interior bowl, with some complementary red motifs. It is interesting to note that the lone example with a shallow carinated profile is the sole pedestalled bowl decorated in White-on-Dark Ware with a white-spotted surface; this likely suggests that, at least for Knossos, only the carinated type - the one imitating Egyptian shapes - took inspiration from the Giali obsidian appearance.

3.2 Phaistos

The first findings of pedestalled bowls at Phaistos are mentioned by Pernier in the MM IIB Shrines (*Sacelli*), against the façade of the North-West palatial building⁴⁴. Then, both complete and fragmentary pieces were found during Levi's excavations of the First Palace and surrounding quarters⁴⁵. They are indeed present both in the palace and in quarters or blocks that surround it. Out of 14 specimens, eight were found in MM IIA contexts and four in MM IIB contexts, while the MM IB deposits do not seem to yield them (see Table 2). It is interesting to point out that most of these Phaistian pedestalled bowls are multi-layered vases manufactured using the layering technique, a well-attested forming ceramic technique at Phaistos and in southern Crete⁴⁶.

Together with the pedestalled bowls on a tall, tubular pedestal, Protopalatial deposits from Phaistos have yielded examples of bowls with a low, conical stand, which Carinci has also defined fruitstands⁴⁷; they will not be considered in this paper because they lack both the tall tubular pedestal and the hole in the centre of the bowl.

The most ancient examples come from three MM IIA deposits: the platform deposit of Room IL in the South-West building of the First Palace (one specimen), which is a closed deposit, interpreted as the result of a feasting and building event⁴⁸; the homogeneous dump of Bastione II (three specimens), in the Lower West Court, which consists of re-deposited material from consumption and building activities undertaken in the South-West Building⁴⁹; and the homogeneous fill of Rooms CVI-CVII (four specimens) in the Acropoli Mediana quarter (see Table 2)⁵⁰.

⁴⁴ PERNIER 1935,

⁴⁵ LEVI 1976; LEVI - CARINCI 1988, 17-19.

⁴⁶ TODARO 2018.

⁴⁷ LEVI - CARINCI 1988, 17-19.

⁴⁸ See CALOI 2012, 2021.

⁴⁹ See CALOI 2016, 2021.

⁵⁰ On this MM IIA fill, see BALDACCI 2017.

The best-preserved example comes from the Bastione II dump (F 1922: Fig. 2a)⁵¹, and is composed of a carinated bowl with everted rim and a tall pedestal on a disc base, which is closed at a height of about 8 cm from the open base (Fig. 2a). It is in Barbotine Ware, decorated with two horizontal series of prickles below the rim and five series on the pedestal, alternating with white crosses. The hole in the centre of the bowl has a diameter of about 5,5 cm.

The other two fragments from the Bastione II dump (F 2248 and F 1921: Fig. 2b-c)⁵² belong to the type with ledge rim and have a hole in the centre of the bowl measuring circa 2 cm in diameter. The first (F 2248: Fig. 2b) has only the bowl preserved, while most of the pedestal is missing. It is decorated in Polychrome Ware: the bowl has a series of five radiating, fringed triangles, terminating with spirals; the exterior surface of the bowls is decorated with series of zigzag alternated to horizontal lines⁵³. The second (F 1921: Fig. 2c) preserves both the bowl and the pedestal, but they are both fragmentary. It is in Light-on-Dark Ware and is decorated with series of thick, short white crescents on the ledge rim, on the interior bowl and on the pedestalled bowls (Fig. 2c). These crescents seem to anticipate the most common decoration with white, large crescents attested in pottery from MM IIB deposits at Phaistos, but common also at Malia (Fig. 3a)⁵⁴.

The platform deposit from Room IL has revealed only one fragmentary pedestal on a disc base (F 55). It is decorated in Polychrome Ware with a series of filled triangles, enclosed by horizontal bands, both red and white bands with added red dots⁵⁵. This example, as the one from the Bastione II dump illustrated in Fig. 2a, is closed at about 6 cm from the open, disc base.

There are six fragments of pedestalled vases from Acropoli Mediana, are found in the MM IIA homogeneous fill from below the slab floor of Rooms CVI-CVII (see Table 3)⁵⁶. Among them, there are four rim fragments of bowls and two parts of tubular pedestals; the rim fragments belong both to the type with conical profile and ledge rim and to that with carinated profile and everted rim⁵⁷. They are all decorated in Polychrome Ware, with white and red (or orange) Kamares motifs, namely lines, spirals, and zigzag elements. One exception is represented by n. 476⁵⁸, with a white splash decoration inside the bowl, and white and orange splash decoration

⁵¹ First published in LEVI 1976, F 1922, pl. 21a; LEVI - CARINCI 1988, 17, pl. 10a.

⁵² First published in LEVI 1976, F 2248, pl. 61b-c; LEVI - CARINCI 1988, 17, pl. 10b.

⁵³ For a description, see LEVI - CARINCI 1988, 17-19.

⁵⁴ For Malia, see PELON - STÜRMER 1989.

⁵⁵ LEVI 1976, fig. 61b-c; LEVI - CARINCI 1988, 17, fig. 10c.

⁵⁶ BALDACCINI 2017, 56-57.

⁵⁷ See description in BALDACCINI 2017, nn. 474-479, pls. 48, 97, 120; fig. 4.12.

⁵⁸ BALDACCINI 2017, n. 476, pls. 48, 97.

outside, both on bowl and pedestal; this decoration could recall the white-spotted surface of the Knossos and Malia specimens. The hole in the bowl measures circa 2 cm, exactly as in the specimens found at Malia.

Together with these samples from MM IIA contexts, there are four examples from MM IIB contexts (see Table 3), one from the destruction level of Room LIV in the South-West palatial Building⁵⁹, two from the shrines (*Sacelli*) against the western façade of the North-West palatial Building⁶⁰, and one small pedestal fragment from the MM IIB floor deposit of Room CV in the Acropoli Mediana, which is decorated with a spiral decoration⁶¹.

The specimen from Room LIV is represented only by a fragmentary bowl with ledge rim in Polychrome Ware, whose fragmentary status makes it difficult to understand whether it has a hole in the centre. It is very elaborate in decoration: it has a series of running spirals terminating with dotted loops combined with filling motifs in the most exterior part of the interior bowl, and filled semicircles its most interior part.⁶²

Both the specimens from the Shrines against the North-West Building are in Polychrome Ware; one was retrieved from Shrine VI and one from Shrine VII⁶³. The fragmentary example from Shrine VI⁶⁴ preserves both bowl and pedestal; the latter is decorated with two series of complex Kamares motifs, including loops alternated with rhombus-like motifs filled with crossing lines. The bowl shows white spirals and loops in the exterior surface, while the interior has a series of radiating petal-like motifs around the central hole.

The second one, coming from Shrine VII⁶⁵, preserves only the pedestal, which is decorated with white, vertically running spirals, contoured with orange and white lines.

| Phaistos | Contexts | MM IB | MM IIA | MM IIB | MM II |
|--------------|---------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| First Palace | South-West Building | | Room IL platform deposit 1 | | |
| | | | | Room LV destruction level 1 | |
| | Lower West Court | | Bastione II dump 3 | | |

⁵⁹ LEVI - CARINCI 1988, 17, F 787; LEVI 1976, pl. 61d.

⁶⁰ PERNIER 1935, 222-223, pls. XXII-XXIII.

⁶¹ BALDACCIO 2017, 113, n. 73, pl. 23.

⁶² LEVI 1976, F 787, pl. 61d.

⁶³ PERNIER 1935, 222-223.

⁶⁴ IDEM, 222, fig. 100, pl. XXII a-b.

⁶⁵ IDEM, 223, fig. 101, pl. XXIII.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Shrines against the North-West Building façade | | | Shrine VI floor deposit 1 | |
| | | | | Shrine VII floor deposit 1 | |
| Town quarters | Acropoli Mediana | | Rooms CVI-CVII, fill 6 | Rooms CV, floor deposit 1 | |
| Total: 14 | | | 10 | 4 | |

Table 2. The pedestalled bowls found at Protopalatial Phaistos with their finding contexts and relative chronology.

It is worthwhile noting that the pattern of Phaistos can be compared to that of Knossos: most of pedestalled bowls come from MM IIA deposits, while the MM IB deposits do not yield any examples. The MM IIA deposits that have revealed pedestalled bowls come from palatial contexts that are associated with ceremonial activities (*i.e.* the feasting deposit in Room IL and the Bastione II dump with material resulting from consumption and building activities). Likewise, the fragments of pedestalled bowls from the MM IIA fill of the Acropoli Mediana is re-deposited material from one of the most important quarters of the Phaistos settlement.

Among the MM IIB examples, the most interesting are the two pedestalled bowls from the Shrines. These two specimens could help in connecting the use of these special vases not only with ceremonial activities of palatial character, but also with ritual (and possibly cult?) activities. The Shrines have already been interpreted as cult rooms⁶⁶, not only for their installations (*e.g.* benches), but also for their associated finds (*e.g.* offering tables, stone vessels, special vases).

It is relevant to point out that at Phaistos the type with ledge rim and the one with carinated profile seem contemporary: they are both attested in MM IIA contexts. Although the finding of only one complete example from Shrine VI makes it difficult to hypothesize that the type with a ledge rim becomes the most common in the successive MM IIB phase, the MM IIIA pedestalled bowl with ledge rim from the House South of the Ramp could hint at this possibility⁶⁷.

Differently from Knossos and Malia, it appears that the type with white-spotted decoration is not attested at Protopalatial Phaistos.

⁶⁶ GESELL 1985, 9-11.

⁶⁷ See above, note 1.

3.3. Malia

Malia is the only site revealing pedestalled bowls featuring at least three types of bowl and two types of pedestals. Besides the two above-mentioned bowl types, at Malia there are examples with a smaller bowl (diam. 14-15 cm) decorated with plastic decoration on the rim; concerning the pedestals, at Malia there is a sample with a moulded pedestal.

Together with the three above-mentioned examples from the necropolis of the *Pierres Meulières* (MH 8501, MH 8502, MH 8503), Malia has revealed four examples from the Palace, 11 from Quartier Mu and two from Chrysolakkos. Most of them come from MM IIB contexts (see Table 3).

The three fragmentary specimens from the *Pierres Meulières* necropolis preserve only tubular pedestals on a disc base, with a height ranging from 29 to 32. They are decorated in Light-on-Dark Ware: the first is painted with three groups of five white horizontal bands (MH 8501), the second, very restored, has no more readable traces of white (HM 8503), and the third seems to show white splashes (HM 8502)⁶⁸. Where preserved, the hole between the pedestal and the bowl is 1,9 cm large in diameter.

The palace of Malia has revealed four specimens coming from what have been interpreted by the excavators as the destruction level of the ancient palace (*i.e.* the First Palace), in Quartiers III and IV⁶⁹. Three of them were found on a stucco floor, in Room Epsilon, just below the porch facing the *salle d'apparat* III 7⁷⁰. The fourth one was found by Chapouthier in front of the North Porch and dated to MM II⁷¹. The four examples were later described and illustrated in the 1989 paper by Pelon and Stürmer⁷². Despite their fragmentary state, they all preserve both the bowl and the pedestal. They belong to the carinated type, with a carinated bowl and everted rim, and a large hole (diameter 5,5 cm) in its centre. Two of them are decorated in Polychrome Ware and show on the interior bowl a series of white crescents (see Fig. 3a)⁷³, *i.e.* the typical MM IIB decoration, well-attested on pedestalled bowls and other shapes from MM IIB closed contexts of Phaistos; their rim is decorated with lines or diagonal traits in polychromy. The pedestals of these two specimens are different in shape - the first is tubular and plain, while the second is conical and moulded - but have a similar decoration with alternating, coloured - white and red - bands. The other two examples are in Light-on-Dark Ware: one is simply decorated

⁶⁸ VAN EFFENTERRE - VAN EFFENTERRE 1963, 82, pl. XXXIV.

⁶⁹ PELON 1984, 881-887.

⁷⁰ IDEM, 882-885, fig. 8.

⁷¹ CHAPOUTIER - DEMARGNE 1942, 37, n. 2, fig. 12, pl. XLVI, 1

⁷² PELON - STÜRMER 1989, 103-107, nn. 2-5, figs. 3-11.

⁷³ IDEM, n. 2 (83 P 242 and 83 P 247,1), figs. 3-4; n. 5, figs. 9-11 (HM 8478 and P 4236); see also PELON 1984, 885, fig. 8.

with a white band on the interior bowl, and with horizontal bands and two concentric circles on the tubular pedestal⁷⁴, while the second one shows a white-spotted decoration both on the exterior bowl and on the pedestal (see Fig. 3b)⁷⁵. This decoration is the same as that observed at Knossos, making it possible that this specimen could date to MM IIA, rather than to MM IIB.

Figure 3

In 1993, Stürmer published two fragments of carinated bowls belonging to pedestalled vases from Chrysolakkos⁷⁶. They come from two deposits of the earlier building, known as the *Escalier Est* and the *Tranchée Nord*. The fragments are both parts of carinated bowls with everted rim, with a diameter ranging from 19 to 23 cm, but their fragmentary status prevents understanding whether they had a hole in the centre of the bowl. The first is produced in Light-on-Dark Ware with white - no more readable - motifs⁷⁷, while the second one is decorated in Polychrome Ware⁷⁸ with white and orange peinture. Stürmer dates them to MM II on stylistic grounds.

The MM IIB levels of Quartier Mu have revealed one fragmentary example and 10 fragments of pedestalled bowls (called *comptiers*), described as having a hole in the middle of the bowl and produced in Light-on-Dark or in Polychrome Wares (see Table 3)⁷⁹. Among the 11 specimens from Quartier Mu, six fragments have been illustrated⁸⁰, but not catalogued and commented, and thus their finding context is not known.

The most preserved *comptier* (n. 1153) was found in fragments in two different spaces of Bâtiment A, namely I 17 and III 3, and dated to MM I by Poursat and Knappett⁸¹. The vase is composed of a bowl with everted rim and of a tubular pedestal on a large disc base⁸². It is in Polychrome Ware, decorated with white and red rosettes enclosed by zigzag motifs, and alternated with coloured bands. These motifs are painted on the interior bowl, on the tubular

⁷⁴ PELON – STÜRMER 1989, n. 3 (83 P 244), figs. 5-6.

⁷⁵ IDEM, n. 3 (83 P 244), figs. 5-6.

⁷⁶ STÜRMER 1993, 175, nn. 53 and 152, figs. 6, 14.

⁷⁷ See the description in STÜRMER 1993, 138, n. 53, fig. 6.

⁷⁸ IDEM, 163, n. 152, fig. 14.

⁷⁹ POURSAT – KNAPPETT 2005, 82-84, 237, nn. 1151-1154bis, pls. 31, 40, 53.

⁸⁰ IDEM, pl. 40.

⁸¹ IDEM, 83-84, 135, n. 1153, fig. 27, pl. 53; for the contexts of finding: 255, 260-261. The first space, I 17, is a pottery repository, while the second one, III 3, is a basement which yielded material fallen from the upper floor, also including many administrative documents.

⁸² IDEM, 83-84, 237, n. 1153, fig. 27, pl. 53.

pedestal, as well as on the disc base. It is very similar to MM IB decorations of Phaistos and thus could date to MM IB on stylistic grounds.

Among the illustrated examples, two of them (nn. 1154-1154bis) have small bowls (diam. 14-16) with peculiar features⁸³: the first has an undulated rim, while the second has appliques in form of spirals on the rim. They are both in Light-on-Dark Ware: the first with white-spotted decoration and the second with spiral decoration. These specimens come from Space VII 4 in Bâtiment D⁸⁴. According to the excavator, this is the space that has revealed the highest number of vases inspired by Egyptian productions, like the well-known bridge-spouted jars and hemispheric cups with relief decoration in the shape of cats, plant motifs and monkey-like figures⁸⁵.

Two other illustrated pedestalled bowls in fragments (nn. 1151-1152), equally retrieved from the above-mentioned Space III 3, have a carinated bowl with everted rim and are produced in Light-on-Dark Ware (with white-spotted decoration?)⁸⁶.

Among the six illustrated, but not catalogued and commented on, pieces, there are other fragments of pedestals and bowls that seem to be decorated in Light-on-Dark Ware⁸⁷.

All these vases from Quartier Mu have been interpreted by Poursat and Knappett as special vases likely used for ceremonial activities⁸⁸.

It is important to note that, differently from Knossos and Phaistos, most of the pedestalled bowls from Protopalatial Malia seem to date to MM IIB both on stratigraphic (see the destruction levels of Quartier Mu) and stylistic grounds. It remains, however, to be understood whether the high number of specimens with white-spotted decoration (at least three) could date back to MM IIA as the example found in the Royal Pottery Stores at Knossos.

Worthy of mention is the finding of three pedestalled bowls from a funerary context, an exception in the panorama of Minoan Protopalatial sites.

| Malia | Contexts | MM IB | MM IIA | MM IIB | Mixed |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Palace | Quartier III | | | | Quartier III 7 3 |
| | Quartier IV | | | | Quartier IV 1 |

⁸³ IDEM, 84, 237, nn. 1154-1154bis, pl. 31.

⁸⁴ IDEM, 277.

⁸⁵ IDEM, nn. 638, 844-845, pl. 37.

⁸⁶ IDEM, nn. 1151-1152, pl. 40 e-f.

⁸⁷ IDEM, pl. 40.

⁸⁸ IDEM, 135.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Town | Quartier Mu | | | Bâtiment A, Room III 3 3 | |
| | | | | Bâtiment D, Room VII 4 2 | |
| | | | | No specific context 6 | |
| | Chrysolakkos | | | | Escalier 1 |
| | | | | | Tranchée Nord 1 |
| Necropoleis | Pierres Meulières | | | | Fosse aux trompettes 3 |
| Total: 20 | | | | 11 | 9 |

Table 3. The pedestalled bowls found at Protopalatial Malia with their finding contexts and relative chronology.

3.4 Petras

The MM IB Lakkos deposit of Petras, published by Haggis in 2007, has so far revealed the highest number of pedestalled bowls - called fruitstands by the scholar - in Protopalatial Crete. Their shape however, of both the bowl and pedestal, differs considerably from one another, and they are produced in at least seven wares (*i.e.* Polychrome, Rough Burnished, Monochrome, Dark/Red Wash, Plain, Light-on-Dark, and Dark-on-Light Wares)⁸⁹. Since no complete pedestalled bowls have been found, but only fragments of rim or pedestal, it is impossible to determine whether they belong to the types with holed bowl. For this reason, in this paper I take into consideration only the fragments of bowls and pedestals that closely resemble those belonging to the types observed in the other palatial sites, namely the Petras examples in Polychrome and Monochrome Wares. Thus, I do not include the pedestalled bowls with a conical stand and rib base, sometimes handled, and/or a bowl with thick and articulated rim, which at Petras are very much attested in Rough Burnished and Red Wash Wares⁹⁰.

In the MM IB Lakkos deposit the pedestalled bowls in Polychrome Ware are represented by two fragmentary pedestals with closed disc base, with linear decoration⁹¹. The Monochrome

⁸⁹ HAGGIS 2007, 749.

⁹⁰ IDEM, figs. 22-23.

⁹¹ IDEM, L643 and L279, 733, fig. 12b-c.

Ware has revealed two fragments of bowls that could belong to pedestalled vases with holed bowl; they both have a ledge rim bowl⁹².

Haggis observed that these vessels from the Lakkos deposit, which he called fruitstands, are present in every ware, but with rare examples in comparison to the drinking and pouring vases. Because of the rarity and of the large dimensions of these vessels, he interpreted them as special vessels with a possible ritual and communal function⁹³. It is interesting to note that also at MM IB Petras the pedestalled bowls are very elaborate and richly decorated, exactly like the examples retrieved from other palatial sites.

3.5 Palaikastro

At least three pedestalled bowls, named ‘Kamares fruitstands’ by the first excavators of Palaikastro, are found in deposits from earlier occupation of the town: two come from Room 22 in Block G and one from Room 40 in Block B⁹⁴. From the first room the excavators report one stem (*i.e.* pedestal) and one complete specimen. The pedestal is not illustrated, but only described as painted in white. The complete vase - illustrated in fig. 8 in the 1902-1903 BSA - in Polychrome Ware, has a bowl with ledge rim decorated with floral motifs in the interior surface, and a pedestal decorated with three zones painted with circular and floral motifs.

The ‘kamares’ pedestal reported by Bosanquet et alii from Room 40 is described as contained in ‘a remarkable deposit of 59 small Kamares vases’⁹⁵.

The illustrated specimens from Palaikastro are not certain examples with a hole. On stylistic grounds, the Protopalatial deposits coming from the above-mentioned rooms of Block G and B, have been dated to MM II. According to Knappett and Cunningham, it is likely that both the deposits from Block G and B are fills re-deposited in MM II, but it is difficult to say if MM IIA or B⁹⁶. The above-mentioned complete pedestalled bowl from Room G22 has been dated by them to MM IIA.

In recent years, a new fragmentary example of a bowl belonging to a pedestalled bowl was found in the MM IIA deposit of Room Ib, in Block M at Palaikastro (see Table 4)⁹⁷. This specimen belongs to the carinated type with everted rim; it is painted black inside and decorated

⁹² IDEM, fig. 19j-k.

⁹³ HAGGIS 2007, 749

⁹⁴ BOSANQUET ET ALII, 278, 307-308, fig. 8.

⁹⁵ IDEM, 289.

⁹⁶ KNAPPETT - CUNNINGHAM 2012, 126.

⁹⁷ IDEM, 120, n. 76, fig. 4.5.

in Light on Dark with white bands outside. The fragmentary state of the bowl cannot help in determining whether or not it had a holed bowl.

| Palaikastro | Contexts | MM IB | MM IIA | MM IIB | MM II |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Town | Block G | | | | Room G22 2 |
| | Block B | | | | Room 40 1 |
| | Block M | | Room Ib 1 | | |
| Total: 4 | | | 1 | | 3 |

Table 4. The pedestalled bowls found at Protopalatial Palaikastro with their finding contexts and relative chronology.

4. Concluding remarks: chronology, function, and special connections

The most ancient examples of pedestalled bowls appear in MM IB, as testified by the fragmentary examples from the Lakkos deposit at Petras (for which, however, it is not possible to ascertain the presence of a hole in the centre of the bowl) and by a pedestalled bowl likely dating to MM IB on stylistic grounds, which come from MM IIB levels of Quartier Mu at Malia. If we examine their profile, both the types with ledge rim and with carinated bowl and everted rim are already attested in MM IB.

It is interesting to note that, despite their appearance in MM IB, the pedestalled bowls spread in MM IIA. This is particularly true at Knossos and Phaistos, while for Malia it appears that most of the finds come from MM IIB deposits. It remains, however, to understand whether some of the examples from Quartier Mu could date to MM IIA or earlier, as observed by the same authors⁹⁸.

The rise in number of pedestalled bowls from MM IB to MM IIA is not surprising. The MM IIA phase has revealed an increasing production of clay vases, mainly cups and pouring vessels, imitating metallic prototypes in every palatial and non-palatial site of Crete⁹⁹. And this, in turn, could be the consequence of a major access to metal sources due to increasing connections of Minoan sites, and mainly Minoan palaces, with the eastern Mediterranean, especially Egypt, and the Near East¹⁰⁰. It has already been pointed out by several scholars that MM IIA corresponds to a phase of increasing power at Minoan palaces: this is documented by

⁹⁸ POURSAT - KNAPPETT 2005, 135.

⁹⁹ CALOI 2009.

¹⁰⁰ CALOI 2013a with bibliography.

renovation programmes at Knossos and Phaistos¹⁰¹, as well as by the foundation of the Petras Palace. Moreover, the MM IIA phase corresponds to a new investment in high-profile buildings, as is well-represented by the foundation of Quartier Mu and Building Dessenne at Malia¹⁰², and new buildings at Palaikastro.

The MM IIA pedestalled bowls are found in deposits connected to ceremonial activities of the palaces, as testified by the specimens from the South-West building at Phaistos and by those from the Royal Pottery Stores at Knossos. But they also seem associated with wealthy elite quarters, such as the Phaistian Acropoli Mediana or the Blocks M, G and B at Palaikastro, which are rich in deposits with high-level Kamares pottery. If we move to MM IIB, the contexts are particularly interesting at Malia, where most of the pedestalled bowls come from Protopalatial levels below the *salles d'apparat* of the Palace, or from significant rooms of Quartier Mu.

In MM IIB, a new increase of these pedestalled vases in cult contexts is also visible, like in the Shrines VI and VII at Phaistos, and in the recently excavated MM II shrine at Mochlos. A new, fragmentary holed pedestal has been discovered in the 2022 excavation at Mochlos, in what the excavator, Jeffrey Soles, has defined a shrine¹⁰³. If we add to these examples from shrines, the three fragmentary *compotiers* retrieved from the *Pierres Meulières* necropolis of Malia, the ritual function of these special vases is quite certain. If the contexts where these vessels have been found in the Protopalatial period are meaningful to appreciate the ceremonial and ritual character of these vessels, more problematic is their actual function.

They all display elaborate decoration not only on the interior, but also on the exterior surface of the bowl and on the pedestal, likely because they were intended to be positioned in a central, and highly visible position, and observed from different viewpoints. This marked elaboration in decoration, associated with their large size, striking appearance and rarity, had already prompted Haggis to interpret these pedestalled bowls (and also other different kinds of fruitstands with an open base) from the MM IB Lakkos of Petras as vases with a special, and possibly ritual, communal function in contrast to the individual function of many pouring and drinking vases. I think that this communal function could be associated not only with the specimens from MM IB Petras, but with all the examples found in the above-discussed sites.

¹⁰¹ See MACDONALD 2012 for Knossos and CALOI 2021 with bibliography.

¹⁰² It seems that most of the high-profile buildings, like Quartier Mu (POURSAT - KNAPPETT 2005) and Building Dessenne (DEVOLDER - CALOI 2019), have been founded in MM IIA.

¹⁰³ This discovery has been presented by Jeffrey Soles (paper entitled: *Greek-American excavations at Mochlos 2021-2022, the discovery of a Minoan waterworks*) at the 13th Cretological Congress held at Hagios Nikolaos (2022, 5-9 October). I thank Jeffrey Soles and Giorgos Doudalis for the information they gave me about this fragmentary pedestalled bowl. The pedestal is holed and is decorated in White-on-Dark Ware.

Moreover, the ritual function of these special vases may be accentuated by the presence of a hole in the centre of the bowl. This represents the main morphological and functional difference with pedestalled bowls without a hole. If the latter could have been used as serving vessels to present or display food, likely solids, the ones with a hole in the bowl could have been used on ritual occasions. What remains to understand is the function of these holed bowls. Pelon and Stürmer have rightly underlined that they could not have been used for libation rituals, as suggested by Van Effenterre and Picard, because of the closed base of the pedestal, which would have prevented the liquid from pouring out; they have alternatively proposed a use of these pedestalled bowls as serving vessels for solid material¹⁰⁴. I instead think that the hole was purposely made to be used - and not ignored - and possibly for liquids. I suggest that the holed bowl could have been used to clean or purify something using a liquid; the focus of the action would have been first the cleaning/purification and then the flowing and draining into the bowl hole of the liquid. In this respect, the interior decoration of the bowls, mainly characterized by radiating or spiralling elements around the hole (Figs. 2-3), could be an abstract representation of a liquid spiralling down the hole. The finds from the Shrines of Phaistos, and especially from Shrine VI, where the pedestalled bowl is associated with pouring vessels would corroborate the hypothesis of their use with liquids. I do not wish to take this interpretation too far, but at least to open up the possibility that these pedestalled bowls could have been used in ritual performances involving the use of liquids for cleaning or purifying activities, which took place during communal (or at least non-domestic) activities, mainly of palatial or elite character. If we connect the special function of these vases with their skeuomorphic features, then it is possible to associate their elaboration in shape and decoration with new meanings. I have already mentioned that several scholars have suggested that the carinated shallow bowls from Knossos - and also from Malia - could imitate the Egyptian shallow carinated bowls typical of the IV-V Dynasties, *i.e.* of centuries before. But it is now important to remark that every site discussed here has revealed Protopalatial pedestalled vessels with a bowl that recall the earlier Egyptian bowls. This suggests that this fashion was not only Knossian or Maliote, but attested in all the Minoan palaces and major settlements of Crete discussed here, and thus opens up the possibility that these Egyptian bowls were the source of inspiration for the Protopalatial pedestalled bowls with carinated bowl and everted rim. It remains, however, to understand whether this fashion originated at Knossos, the site that has revealed the highest number not

¹⁰⁴ PELON - STÜRMER 1989, 108-109.

only of Early Bronze Age Egyptian imports of shallow carinated bowls, but also of their imitations in different materials (see *supra*).

But, if we focus on the pedestalled vessels with carinated bowls displaying white-spotted decoration, these have been retrieved solely from MM II (A or B) deposits of Knossos and Malia. If the decoration of these pedestalled bowls imitates the Giali obsidian appearance, it should be noted that this trend was adopted only in the palatial sites of Knossos and Malia, probably because the Giali obsidian was more at home here rather than in other contemporary Minoan sites¹⁰⁵. It appears, however, that this interest in the white-spotted decoration was expressed by other Minoan sites (e.g. Phaistos) in the production of different kinds of special and ritual vessels (e.g. rhyta)¹⁰⁶. This production of ritual vases with specific ‘reminders’ to supra-regional contacts, whether with Egypt or Dodecanese, may therefore express new needs of aspiring elites (as Carter has defined them!) to be part of new exchange networks in the Eastern Mediterranean, which started to develop precisely in MM IIA.

Ilaria Caloi

Bibliography

- ANDREOU S. 1978, *Pottery groups of the Old Place period in Crete*, PhD dissertation, University of Cincinnati.
- BALDACCI G. 2017, *L'edificio protopalaziale dell'Acropoli Mediana di Festòs (Vani CV-CVII)* (ANTICISTICA 10, ARCHEOLOGIA 2), Venezia.
- BEVAN A. 2003, «Reconstructing the role of Egyptian culture in the value regimes of the Bronze Age Aegean: stone vessels and their social contexts», in R. Matthews - C. Roemer (eds.), *Ancient Perspectives on Egypt*, London, 57-73.
- BEVAN A. 2007, *Stone Vessels and Values in the Bronze Age Mediterranean*, Cambridge.
- BLACKMAN D. – BRANIGAN K. 1982, «The Excavation of an Early Minoan Tholos Tomb at Ayia Kyriaki, Ayiofarango, Southern Crete», *BSA* 77, 1-57.
- BOSANQUET ET ALII 1902-1903, «Excavation at Palaikastro II», *BSA* 9, 274-387.
- CALOI I. 2009, «For a new ceramic sequence of Protopalatial Phaistos (MM IB-MM IIA) and some observations on Barbotine Ware», *Creta Antica* 10.2, 373-440.

¹⁰⁵ CARTER ET ALII 2016.

¹⁰⁶ IDEM; see a Phaistian rhyton with white-spotted decoration from a MM IIB context in CALOI 2013b, 244, n. 840, pl. XL.

- CALOI I. 2012, «Memory of a feasting event in the First Palace of Phaistos: preliminary observations on the bench deposit of Room IL», *Creta Antica* 13, 41-59.
- CALOI I. 2013a, «Connecting Crete with the Near East and Egypt in the Minoan Protopalatial Period: What News in the 21st Century?» in L. Bombardieri - A. D'Agostino - G. Guarducci - V. Orsi - S. Valentini (eds.), *SOMA 2012: Identity and Connectivity* (BAR-IS 2581), Oxford, 365-370.
- CALOI I. 2013b, *Festòs Protopalaziale. Il Quartiere ad Ovest del Piazzale I. Strutture e ritrovamenti delle terrazze mediana e superiore*, (ANTICISTICA 3, ARCHEOLOGIA 1), Venezia.
- CALOI I. 2016, «Ristrutturando il Primo Palazzo di Festòs. Materiali di scarto dallo scarico del Bastione II», in F. Longo - R. Di Cesare - S. Privitera (eds.), *DROMOI. Studi sul mondo antico offerti a E. Greco dai suoi allievi della Scuola Archeologica Italiana*, Paestum, 425-436.
- CALOI I. 2019, «Visible and commemorative structured deposits. Keeping the memory of communal societies at Minoan palaces», E. Borgna - I. Caloi - F. Carinci - R. Laffineur (eds.), *MNEME. Past and memory in the Aegean Bronze Age* (AEGAEUM 43), Leuven-Liège, 115-120.
- CALOI I. 2021, «Renovating the First Palace of Phaistos during the Middle Minoan IIA Phase (18th Cent. BC)», *RdA* 44 (2020), 3-19.
- CARINCI F. - LA ROSA V. 2001, «Le ceramiche e i nuovi dati di scavo», in L. Beschi - A. Di Vita - V. La Rosa - G. Pugliese Caratelli - G. Rizza (a cura di), *I Cento anni dello Scavo di Festòs*, Roma, 477-524.
- CARTER ET ALII 2016, «Spherulites and Aspiring Elites: The Identification, Distribution, and Consumption of Giali Obsidian (Dodecanese, Greece)», *JMA* 29.1, 3-36.
- CHAPOUTIER F. 1928, «Chroniques de fouilles et découvertes archéologiques dans l'Orient hellénique. Malia», *BCH* 52, 498-505.
- CHAPOUTIER F. - DEMARGNE P. 1942, *Fouilles exécutées à Malia. Troisième rapport : Exploration du Palais. Bordures orientale et septentrionale (1927, 1928, 1931, 1932)*, (ETUDES CRÉTOISES 6), Paris.
- DAWKINS R.M. - LAISTNER M.L.W. 1913, «The Excavation of the Kamares Cave in Crete», *BSA* 19, 1-34.
- DEVOLDER M. - CALOI I. 2019, *Fouilles exécutées à Malia : le Bâtiment Dessenne et les abords Sud-Ouest du palais dans l'établissement pré- et protopalatial de Malia*, (ETUDES CRÉTOISES 37), Athènes.
- EVANS A.J. 1900, «Knossos I. The Palace», *BSA* 6, 3-70.

- EVANS A.J. 1902, «The Palace of Knossos», *BSA* 8, 1-124.
- EVANS A.J. 1904, «The Palace of Knossos», *BSA* 10, 1-62.
- EVANS A.J. 1921, *The Palace of Minos at Knossos*, vol. I, London.
- EVANS A.J. 1935, *The Palace of Minos at Knossos*, vol. IV, London.
- EVANS J.D – RENFREW C. 1968, *Excavations at Saliagos near Antiparos*, (BSA Suppl. 5), London.
- HAGGIS D.C. 1997. «The Typology of the Early Minoan I Chalice and the Cultural Implications of Form and Style in Early Bronze Age Ceramics», in R. Laffineur, P. P. Betancourt, (eds.), *TEHNE. Craftsmen, Craftswomen and Craftsmanship in the Aegean Bronze Age* (AEGAEUM 16), Liège - Austin, 291-299.
- HAGGIS D.C. 2007, «Stylistic Diversity and Diacritical Feasting at Protopalatial Petras: A Preliminary Analysis of the Lakkos Deposit», *AJA* 111/4, 715-775.
- HAGGIS D.C. 2012, «The Lakkos pottery and Middle Minoan in Petras», in M. Tsipopoulou (ed.), *Petras, Siteia-25 years of excavations and studies* (MONOGRAPHS OF THE DANISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS 16), Athens, 191-204.
- HOGARTH D.G. – WELCH F.B. 1901, «Primitive painted pottery in Crete», *JHS* 21, 78-98.
- KNAPPETT C. - CUNNINGHAM T. 2012, *Palaikastro Block M: The Proto- and Neopalatial Town* (BSA Suppl. 47), London.
- LEVI D. 1976, *Festòs e la civiltà minoica I* (INCUNABULA GRAECA LX), Roma.
- LEVI D. - CARINCI F.M. 1988, *Festòs e la civiltà minoica II.2. L'arte festiva nell'età protopalaziale. Ceramica ed altri materiali* (INCUNABULA GRAECA LXXVII), Roma.
- MACDONALD C.F. 2012, «Palatial Knossos: the early years», in I. Schoep - P. Tomkins - J. Driessen (eds.), *Back to the Beginning: Reassessing Social and Political Complexity on Crete during the Early and Middle Bronze Age*, Oxford, 81-113.
- MACGILLIVRAY A. 1998, *Knossos: pottery groups of the Old Palace period*, (BSA Studies 5), London.
- MASTROGIANNOPOULOU V. 2012, «Vases of the réchaud type from the Neolithic settlement of Ftelia, Mykonos: Archaeometrical and ethnoarchaeological approach», in N. Zacharias, M. Georgakopoulou, K. Polykreti, G. Phakorellis, Th. Bakoulis (eds.), *Praktikà*, Athens, 459-476.
- PELON O. 1984, «Rapports sur les travaux de l'Ecole française en Grèce en 1983. Le Palais», *BCH* 108, 881-887.
- PELON O. - STÜRMER V. 1989, «Sur les pseudo-trompettes de Malia», *BCH* 93, 101-111.
- PERNIER L. 1935, *Il Palazzo minoico di Festòs*, vol. 1, Roma.

- PHILLIPS J. 2008a, *Aegyptiaca on the Island of Crete in their chronological context: a critical review*, vol. I, Wien 2008.
- PHILLIPS J. 2008b, *Aegyptiaca on the Island of Crete in their chronological context: a critical review*, vol. II, Wien 2008.
- PLATON L. - PARARAS Y. 1991, *Pedestalled Offering Tables in the Aegean World*, Jonsered.
- POURSAT J.-C. 2013, *Fouilles exécutées à Malia: Le Quartier Mu V. Vie quotidienne et techniques au Minoen Moyen II* (ETUDES CRÉTOISES 34), Athènes.
- POURSAT J.-C. – KNAPPETT C. 2005, *Fouilles Exécutées à Malia: Le Quartier Mu IV. La Poterie du Minoen Moyen II. Production et Utilisation* (ETUDES CRÉTOISES 32), Athènes.
- STÜRMER V. 1993, «La céramique de Chrysolakkos: catalogue et réexamen», *BCH* 117, 123-187.
- TODARO S. 2001, «Nuove prospettive sulla produzione in stile Pyrgos nella Creta meridionale: il caso della pisside e della coppa su base ad anello», *CretAnt* 2, 11-28.
- TODARO S. 2018, «What is essential is invisible to the eye. Multi-layered and internally supported vases at Protopalatial Phaistos», in Baldacci, G. - Caloi I., *Rhadamanthys. Studi di archeologia minoica in onore di Filippo Carinci per il suo 70° compleanno* (BAR-IS 2884), Oxford, 39-48.
- VAN DE MOORTEL A. 2011, «The Phaistos Palace and the Kamares cave: a special relationship», in W. Gauss - M. Lindblom - R.A.K. Smith - J.C. Wright (eds.), *Our cups are full: Pottery and Society in the Aegean Bronze Age* (BAR IS 2227), Oxford, 306-318.
- VAN EFFENTERRE H. 1980, *Le palais de Malia et la cité minoenne* (INCUNABULA GRAECA LXXVI), Roma.
- VAN EFFENTERRE H. - M. VAN EFFENTERRE 1963, *Fouilles exécutées à Mallia. Étude du Site (1956–57) et Exploration des Nécropoles (II) (1915–1928)* (ETUDES CRÉTOISES 13), Athènes.
- VAN EFFENTERRE H. – M. VAN EFFENTERRE 1976, *Fouilles exécutées à Mallia. Exploration des maisons et quartiers d'habitation (1956-1960). Quatrième fascicule* (ETUDES CRÉTOISES 22), Paris.
- WARREN P. 1969, *Minoan Stone Vases*, Cambridge.
- WILSON D.E 1985, «The Pottery from the West Court House at Knossos: Defining the Beginnings of Early Minoan IIA», *AJA* 89.2., 355-356.
- XANTHOUDIDES S. 1918, «Megas protominoikos taphos Pyrgou», *ArchDelt* 4, 136-170.

List of illustrations

- Fig. 1a-b. Pedestalled bowls without holed bowls from Phaistos (a: F 234; revision of I. Caloi from LEVI 1976 and LEVI - CARINCI 1988) and from the Kamares Cave (b: DAWKINS - LAISTNER 1913, pl. IX).

- Fig. 2a-c. Pedestalled bowls with holed bowls from the MM IIA dump of Bastione II from the Phaistos Palace: a. F 1922; b. F 2248; c. F 1921 (Revision of A. Sanavia from LEVI 1976 and LEVI - CARINCI 1988).

- Fig. 3a-b. Pedestalled bowls with holed bowls from the Protopalatial levels of Room Epsilon

- Quartier III from the Malia Palace: a. 83 P242, 83 P247,1; b. 83 P 247, 2, 5, P 3234 (Drawings by J. Schumacher; Courtesy of EfA).