

## Foreword

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Maria Papakyriakou

The publication of the second volume of *Studia Cyprologica Berolinensia* coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus' accession to the European Union, as well as the sad commemoration of half a century since the Turkish invasion in Cyprus in 1974. Just as Cyprus' EU membership emphasises its current function as a mediator and hinge between regions, continents and people, this volume, which is dedicated to the topography of Idalion, shows that these functions and their significance have existed since very ancient times.

For much of the 1st millennium BCE, Cyprus was home to a number of small polities, including the kingdom of Idalion. These had to formulate and (re)negotiate their claims and needs through both dialogue as well as periodic conflict, internally with each other and with the outside world. At the same time, the small Cypriot polities played an eminently important role in the international long-distance trade and economic structure of antiquity. As the most important component in the production of bronze, the natural resource copper was of comparable importance to the rare earths and minerals required for the technological needs of our own time. While Idalion, located in the interior of the island, benefitted from its privileged access to the famous Cypriot copper mines, it had to co-operate with coastal centres such as Kition (now Larnaca) in order to guarantee economic growth through maritime trade. This explains why the distant Idalion also appears in written documents of the Assyrian

kings, but also of the Egyptian pharaohs, who were all customers of Cypriot copper.

Significantly, this publication also shows how the modern study of ancient Cyprus can bring people together and unite them. Only through international co-operation between researchers from different disciplines and institutions is it possible to research and understand the human use and transformation of ancient landscapes and, in turn, to gain insights into how we deal with landscapes, their resources and the human interactions with(in) them today. The fact that Cyprus, which is not very large in terms of size, serves as the basis for such exemplary research can fill us all with pride.

Finally, the book also emphasises the never waning (yet continually varying) importance of collections of Cypriot antiquities in the world's museums. The Cypriot collections of the Berlin museums reflect the multifaceted history of Europe and the world, and not only in relation to antiquity. Originating initially as part of Prussian and later German aspirations to join the ranks of the great powers of the 19th century, they have developed into ambassadors of cross-border international co-operation and friendship. The fate of the Berlin *kypriaka* not only bear witness to the effects of two World Wars and the division of Germany – the latter a fate that Cypriots in particular can empathise with –, in recent years they have also developed into exemplary opportunities for current provenance research thanks to the cooperation between the

Berlin museums and the Institute of Archaeology of Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. Only in this way do they attain their full scientific significance and underline the importance of observing archaeological and research historical contexts. The resulting archaeological excavations, which Berlin archaeologists – 140 years after Max Ohnefalsch-Richter – have been carrying out since some years on the eastern acropolis of Idalion in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Cyprus and the University of Cyprus, arguably represent the quintessence of the points mentioned above.

Before being appointed as the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus in Berlin in September 2021, I had the fortune of serving previously in Berlin as a junior Political Officer and Deputy Head of Mission

from 1999 until 2004. During those years, I was honoured to accompany the late Professor Dr. Vassos Karagiorgis, one of the most renowned Cypriot archaeologist and former Director of the Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Cyprus, who, in his then capacity as the Director of the AG Leventis Foundation, came to Germany to retrace Cypriot archaeological artefacts that were scattered in various Museums in Berlin. The aim was to gather these Cypriot artefacts into a collection that is now proudly hosted by the Neues Museum in Berlin.

Maria Papakyriakou

Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the  
Federal Republic of Germany

## Preface by the Editors

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This second volume of the *Studia Cyprologica Berolinensia* series started as the publication of the proceedings of a workshop held from 18 – 20 October 2018 entitled “The Topography of Ancient Idalion and its Territory”, kindly funded by the Excellence Cluster “TOPOI – The Formation and Transformation of Space and Knowledge in Ancient Civilizations”<sup>1</sup> and held in the premises of the then TOPOI Building in Berlin (Mitte). The workshop dealt with the difficult question of how to define the territory of the ancient autonomous polities (city-kingdoms) of Iron Age Cyprus, particularly focusing on ancient Idalion, which has been subject of intense research based at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and led by Stephan G. Schmid. In recent years, research concerned with territorial issues of Iron Age Cyprus has not only included landscape archaeological approaches applying modern, state-of-the-art spatial analytical methods, but has also reconsidered “old” evidence from a new perspective, thus offering a fresh drive to tackle such questions.

Within the framework of a more general research project that mainly focused on the study and publication of Max Ohnefalsch-Richter’s activities in and around ancient Idalion,<sup>2</sup> the Berlin workshop<sup>3</sup> invited international scholars with expertise in Cypriot antiquity to collectively discuss common issues and to gain additional information

on the topography of the ancient Cypriot polity of Idalion and its hinterland. Research questions that were touched upon during the workshop and are subject of the various contributions of the present volume include general reflections on the organisation and definition of the polity of ancient Idalion based on historical and textual information on the topography and/ or organisation of the polity. They also discuss new information on the location of settlements, necropoleis and sanctuaries in the wider area of Idalion (and thus the general pattern of rural sites associated with Idalion and how they can be distinguished from those belonging to neighbouring polities), issues related to their chronology and function as well as questions concerned with continuity vs. discontinuity, and the possibility of defining regional specifiers in material culture at the transition from the (later) Bronze to the (early) Iron Age.

During the preparation of the workshop’s proceedings, a new research project was developed and implemented, focussing on the relationship between the three Iron Age polities of Kition, Idalion and Tamassos. The German-French project called ‘Kition-Idalion-Tamassos: cities and territories within Cypriot kingdoms during the first millennium BC’ (KIT)<sup>4</sup> is co-funded by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) and the Deutsche

1 | [www.topoi.org](http://www.topoi.org).

2 | See the first volume of the *Studia Cyprologica Berolinensia* series: S. G. Schmid – S. G. Horacek (eds.), »I don’t know what am I myself, it is so very difficult to explain.« Max Ohnefalsch-Richter (1850–1917) und die Archäologie Zyperns, *Studia Cyprologica Berolinensia* 1 (Berlin 2018).

3 | Co-organized by Sophie Horacek, Caroline Huguenot, Will M. Kennedy, Stephan G. Schmid and Angelika Walther.

4 | Co-directed by S. Fourrier and A. Cannavò (both CNRS Lyon), M. Recke (Universität Frankfurt), and S. G. Schmid (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin).

Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). This offered a perfect opportunity to slightly enlarge the frame and focus of the publication. Therefore, contributions also reflect upon the natural resources of ancient Idalion and how their availability was guaranteed and safeguarded against the reach of neighbouring polities (mainly, but not exclusively, of Kition and Tamassos) and implications for questions concerning physical territorial control of resources and important communication infrastructures.

First and foremost, our sincere gratitude is owed to all authors who have endured the editorial process of the present volume with great patience. Without their generous understanding and willingness to maintain the timeliness of their contributions in the face of additional evidence and publications becoming available since the completion of the workshop in 2018, this volume would not have been possible. Indeed, this volume is a manifestation of lasting collegial scholarly exchange – also across the various stages of academic careers: Contributions include still on-going and soon-to-be-completed PhD projects, postdoctoral research as well as papers presented by established scholars in the field of Cypriot archaeology. Most notably, we very much thank Vassiliki Kassianidou, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Cyprus and Giorgos Georgiou, Director of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, not only for their superb contributions to this volume but also for their kind and generous support throughout the years and over various stages of their respective careers.

We feel particularly honoured to have been able to present this publication during a meeting between Minister of State for Culture and the Media of the Federal Republic of Germany, Claudia Roth, and Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Cyprus Kassianidou in the Neues Museum in Berlin in June 2024. Matthias Wemhoff, Director of the Neues Museum, is warmly thanked for kindly hosting the event. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Her Excellency, Ambassador Maria Papakyriakou for the continued support in conducting and promoting German archaeological research in Cyprus.

The printing of this volume was generously funded by the Kultur-, Sozial- und Bildungswis-

senschaftliche Fakultät of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the *Studia Cyprologica Berolinensia* e.V. Once again, Volkhard Buchholtz and the Logos-Verlag Berlin have made the publication of this second volume of the *Studia Cyprologica Berolinensia* series possible thanks to their energetic devotion and flexible operation. Jennifer Webb and Evangeline Markou provided important help during the preparation of the book.

We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to those mentioned above and all the others who have contributed to the successful publication of this book, which may hopefully offer new insights into the archaeology and history of ancient Idalion and its surroundings and therefore prove useful for further research to come.

As the bulk of contributions laid forward in this volume were first presented at the “The Topography of Ancient Idalion and its Territory” workshop in 2018 in Berlin, naturally, some time has passed until their final publication was possible. This was not only due to unforeseen, critical circumstances – most notably the COVID-19 pandemic – that affected both the editors and contributors in different ways. Another, academically founded reason for the delay was the launch of the new joint German-French project KIT in 2021, which offered great additional value to the original workshop contributions.

In light of these delays, both the editors and contributors were very much driven to update relevant references and other source materials as much as possible within a reasonable framework. However, while the editorial work of this volume strived for comprehensive quality control throughout, ultimately, the individual authors remain responsible for the quality of and the views expressed in their contributions.

For all the patience and endurance throughout the publication process, the editors express their sincere thanks to all contributors who made this volume possible.

Berlin and Athens, June 2024

Stephan G. Schmid  
Will M. Kennedy

# Introduction

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Despina Pilides

The region of Idalion was the focus of 19th century investigations as a source of important finds from the city, its sanctuaries or cemeteries, which to a large extent, were exported to major museums by the antiquarians of the period. Some of the finds, such as the Idalion tablet (now at the *Cabinet des Médailles* in Paris), are unique documents that have been the subject of much research and discussion not only concerning the polity of Idalion but the entire political organization of Cyprus at the time.

The natural landscape was undoubtedly a determining factor for the development of settlement patterns in the Gialias valley. The Gialias river, the second longest river in Cyprus, runs through the plain of Mesaoria and links the inland settlements with the sea, the settlements of Agios Sozomenos, predecessors of Idalion, to Enkomi and, later Idalion to Salamis. At the junction between the Gialias and its tributary Alykos, alluvial valley floors are overlooked by a plateau of hard calcarenite, forming the characteristic topography of the region and diachronically offering the ideal strategic locations for overseeing and controlling resources. In combination with the proximity to the copper producing areas of the Troodos mountains, the water sources were key-factors both in the development of agriculture and the concentration of agrarian production from at least the Late Bronze Age and are deter-

minative of our understanding of the settlement distribution, their floruit and their demise.

The re-evaluation of legacy data such as the archives of Max Ohnefalsch-Richter, who had investigated both the earlier vestiges in the area of Agios Sozomenos and Idalion itself,<sup>1</sup> in combination with later and more recent research can afford new insights into the role of the region of Idalion and, at the same time accentuate the importance of inland Cyprus. Such endeavours primarily redress the long-standing imbalance in archaeological research whereby urban coastal centres monopolized academic interest. Without doubt, inland Cyprus was the backbone of the island's economy and it is now attributed the attention it merits.

The in-depth study of old excavation material from different perspectives and through the use of new technologies, often proves to be more valuable and fruitful than expected, and even with existing lacunae, the re-contextualization of available data leads to a new understanding of the material and social contexts.<sup>2</sup> In conjunction with empirical data from modern survey/ excavation projects theoretical models of the past, built on less nuanced information, may be re-adjusted.

It is also impressive at times how after years of excavation of a particular site, there is no clear perception of spatial urban organization within the

1 | Myres – Ohnefalsch-Richter 1899, 3–4. 58 and *passim*.

2 | See Webb 2018 for a parallel.



# The Polity of Idalion: A Constitutional Government of King and Polis or a Monarchy with Institutions?

Christian Körner

Για την αγαπητή γυναίκα μου Δωροθέα

Due to the scarcity of written documents the political systems of the Cypriot city kingdoms are difficult to reconstruct.<sup>1</sup> This makes the longest extant syllabic inscription of the island all the more interesting – the famous bronze tablet of Idalion (fig. 1).<sup>2</sup> According to the tablet, the king Stasikypros and the *polis* of Idalion compensated a doctor and his brothers for their help during a siege laid to Idalion by the Kitians and the Persians.

Scholars have tried to reconstruct the political system of Idalion and other Cypriot kingdoms on the basis of the tablet's text. For example, according to Stylianos the text could be taken as proof of the existence of a "constitutional monarchy".<sup>3</sup>

But what conclusions concerning the government of Idalion can really be drawn from this singular document? And how representative is the text for other Cypriot polities, or even for Idalion itself?

In this paper, I revisit the text of the bronze tablet. My main questions are the following: was the king's authority in Idalion restricted in any way? Were the people of Idalion represented by their own institutions? And if so, what was their position and what powers did they yield in relation to those of the king? Does the process described on the tablet represent the normal procedures for compensation in Idalion, or should it be regarded as a singular case? Are there parallels in other Cypriot cities to

\* | I would like to thank the organisers of the conference in Berlin, Stephan G. Schmid and Will Kennedy, for their kind invitation and warm hospitality. Further thanks go to Steve Gregoris (Basel) and Nicole Nyffenegger-Staub (Bern) for their help with the English language.

1 | In the last years, the Cypriot kingship and political system have been subject of several publications of which I will cite only a few examples: Demand 1996; 1997; Satraki 2012; Iacovou – Hatzopoulos 2014; Körner 2017a, 291–387. Beatrice Pestarino has recently published an in-depth study on the administration of the Cypriot kingdoms, based on the written evidence (Pestarino 2022). The polity of Idalion and the bronze tablet have been discussed in several publications, notably in the last three decades: Egetmeyer 1993; 2004; Georgiadou 2010; Körner 2017a, 333–345; 2017b, 234–240; Satraki 2018; Perdicoyianni-Paleologou 2021; Pestarino 2022, 48–76.

2 | ICS no. 217 = Egetmeyer 2010, 629–635, no. 1 = Koerner 1981, 195–201 = Georgiadou 2010, 145–147 = Perdicoyianni-Paleologou 2021, 32–35. The Greek inscriptions from Cyprus (both syllabary and alphabet) are now being edited in the 15th volume of *Inscriptiones Graecae*. However, the fascicle containing the syllabary inscriptions from Idalion was not yet published at the time when this manuscript was written. Today, the tablet is in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (Monnaies, Médailles et Antiques, Numéro d'inventaire: Bronze.2297); see fig. 1. On the history of the discovery of the tablet see Georgiadou 2010, 144; Pestarino 2022, 48 with n. 2.

3 | Stylianos 1992, 407; however, Stylianos himself sets "constitutional" in quotation marks.

# Max Ohnefalsch-Richter's Contribution to the Topography of Ancient Idalion

Stephan G. Schmid

## INTRODUCTION

Max Ohnefalsch-Richter (1850–1917) excavated intensively and on several occasions in and around ancient Idalion during his sojourn on Cyprus from 1878 until 1890 and then again in 1894/5.<sup>1</sup> However, most of his activities remained largely unpublished. Recent archival studies in Berlin, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Nicosia and elsewhere showed that much

more detailed documentation exists than previously assumed, although the connection between the various documents is not always obvious.<sup>2</sup>

Consulting the available documents, it is possible to draw a rather detailed picture of Ohnefalsch-Richter's activities.<sup>3</sup> In some cases, the almost complete reconstruction of excavations, mainly of sanc-

\* | Abbreviations of unpublished sources (for others see the bibliography at the end):

Zentralarchiv, SMB = *Zentralarchiv, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, IV-Nachlass Zahn*. Designating the archival structure and numbering of the scientific estate of Robert Zahn, holding most of the archival material related to *TaI*. The various numbers following "Z" indicate different documents.

TaI = *Tamassos and Idalion (Tamassos und Idalion)*. The title of Max Ohnefalsch-Richters final publication about the two sites, often announced, but never published. The various elements are preserved in the *Zentralarchiv, SMB*, bearing the signature "Z" followed by numbers.

TaI, Introduction = A kind of introduction to *TaI*, presenting the various elements, chapters and the genesis of the work. The chapter is archived as *Zentralarchiv, SMB, Z 1106–07*.

TaI, Topography = The topographical chapter dealing with the ancient city of Idalion and its surroundings from *TaI*. The chapter is archived as *Zentralarchiv, SMB, Z 1112–I*.

Several persons provided valuable assistance for this contribution. Besides the other contributors to this volume, I am especially grateful for help and information provided by (in alphabetical order) Annie Caubet (Paris), Sabine Fourrier (CNRS, Lyon), Antoine Hermay (Aix-en-Provence), Thomas Kiely (British Museum, London), Kornelia Kressirer (Akademisches Kunstmuseum – Antikensammlung der Universität, Bonn), Martin Maischberger (Antikensammlung, Berlin), Hélène Le Meaux (Louvre, Paris), Despoina Pilides (Cyprus Museum, Nicosia), Matthias Recke (Frankfurt), Andreas Scholl (Antikensammlung, Berlin). Will M. Kennedy (Athens) took over the demanding task of editing the English text.

1 | For Ohnefalsch-Richter's life and archaeological activities in Cyprus see Schmid 2018a; Schmid 2018d. He did not carry out any fieldwork in the area of Idalion during his last visit to the island in 1910/11. Cf. Schmid 2018c.

2 | See several contributions in Schmid – Horacek 2018a.

3 | In this contribution these will be shown exclusively for Idalion, while the same is true, to various extents, for other sites as well, specifically Tamassos. Cf. more specifically Recke 2018 with further references.



# A Sanctuary of a Female Deity Excavated by Max Ohnefalsch-Richter (1850–1917) on the East Acropolis of Idalion

Sophie G. Horacek

The results of the research and subsequent excavations carried out by Max Ohnefalsch-Richter (hereafter MOR) in the 19th century on the east acropolis of Idalion, where he located a sanctuary of a female deity, have never been systematically processed or published. Therefore, a revision as well as a catalogue and description of the material is essential for the interpretation of his discoveries. This is currently realized in the frame of the author's doctoral thesis, which is financially supported by the Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications, Harvard.<sup>1</sup>

The main source is a manuscript and typescript with a related find list, photographs and drawings of the objects and plans made by MOR as well as the material remains and objects themselves. MOR's original documentation is stored in the archive of the Antikensammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Preußischer Kulturbesitz. Some information can also be found in published preliminary reports and unpublished correspondences and notes, which are kept in different archives.

The finds submitted by the excavator are widely distributed in different museum collections (Nicosia,<sup>2</sup> Dali,<sup>3</sup> Limassol,<sup>4</sup> London (?),<sup>5</sup> Moscow,<sup>6</sup>

1 | This work is part of a larger research project on the archaeological activities of Max Ohnefalsch-Richter in Cyprus lead by Prof. Dr. Stephan G. Schmid and based at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; see also: Schmid – Horacek 2018.

The objects from the east acropolis collected by MOR will be presented in the catalogue of the author's doctoral thesis. Since MOR partially assigned duplicate numbers in his own inventory lists of the manuscript/typescript, the objects are assigned a unique name for this catalogue. Thus, all capitals begin with the designation 'MOR KAP' and the serial number. 'MOR TK [number]' stands for the terracotta statues and statuettes, 'MOR META [number]' represents all metal finds etc.

The pages of Ohnefalsch-Richter 1908a are cited in this paper in two different counting systems. The first page number refers to MOR's counting, but since MOR sometimes starts again counting from a page 'one' in the manuscript/typescript, a second alternative is given, which refers to a prepared PDF to be attached to the author's doctoral thesis. I thank Prof. Dr. Andreas Scholl (Director of the Antikensammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin) for the kind permission to reproduce the illustrations. I would also like to thank Nadja I. Horacek, Ruben Lubekwa and Will M. Kennedy for proofreading. All mistakes are my own.

2 | So far, only nine objects in the Cyprus Museum have been attributed to MOR's excavations at the east acropolis of Idalion. However, it is assumed that there are significantly more (Horacek in preparation, catalogue).

3 | Two objects in the Local Archaeological Museum of Ancient Idalion are attributed to MOR's work on the east acropolis of Idalion. For more details see: Horacek forthcoming; Horacek in preparation, catalogue.

4 | Two objects in the Limassol District Museum belong to the activities of MOR on the east acropolis of Idalion. I would like to thank Dr. Marina Solomidou-Ieronymidou (former Director of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus) for the kind permission to examine some of the capitals from the east acropolis of Idalion and Dr. Yiannis Violaris (Archaeological Officer, Department of Antiquities in the Limassol District) for his support in the Limassol District Museum. For more details see: Horacek forthcoming; Horacek in preparation, catalogue.

5 | The seven objects that, according to the excavator, were conveyed to London (cf. below), probably never reached the British Museum; see also the contribution by S. G. Schmid in this volume. I am grateful for the financial support of the Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies (BerGSAS), which allowed me to travel to London in spring 2019, as well as for the cooperation and the support provided by Thomas Kiely (Department of Greece and Rome, The British Museum). Thanks to his kindness it was possible for the author to search for the whereabouts of the material.

6 | Some of the finds which first were sent to Berlin came to Russia in 1945, relocated due to World War II. They were stored in an anti-aircraft bunker in Berlin-Friedrichshain and later brought to the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow: Akimova 2010; Tolstikov 2010; Akimova *et al.* 2014. Seven of them are still in the Pushkin Museum, some others were sent back to Berlin: Horacek in preparation, catalogue.

# Some Thoughts on the Topographical Situation of the So-Called Temple of Aphrodite Near the Gialias River in Idalion

Angelika Walther

## INTRODUCTION

The sanctuary on the banks of the Gialias river presented in this paper has become known as the ›Temple of Aphrodite‹.<sup>1</sup> Interest in the site first spiked in 1883 when farmers of the modern village of Dali, which now covers the area of the sanctuary, had contacted the German self-taught archaeologist Max Ohnefalsch-Richter (MOR) after finding numerous fragments of limestone and terracotta sculpture while cultivating the area. MOR realized the potential of the place and tried to offer the site to several European museums for excavation. In 1885 he eventually convinced Charles Watkins, the Larnaca-

based director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank,<sup>2</sup> to fund the excavation, which was conducted only for three months, from February to April 1885.<sup>3</sup>

MOR first mentions the sanctuary in an article published in 1886, where he sums up several archaeological activities in Cyprus.<sup>4</sup> In 1891, the sanctuary is listed as site no. 3 in his doctoral thesis “Die antiken Cultusstätten auf Kypros”.<sup>5</sup> It also is mentioned several times in MOR’s *opus magnum* “Kypros, the Bible and Homer”, which was published in 1893.<sup>6</sup> However, the final publication of the excavation was never completed. MOR intended to pub-

1 | This article is part of the author’s doctoral thesis and is based on a paper presented at the conference *The Topography of Ancient Idalion and its Territory*, held in Berlin, October 18th–20th 2018. The present author would like to thank the organizers and the editors of this volume, as well as A. Scholl and S. Brehme of the Antikensammlung Berlin, D. Pilides of the Cyprus Museum, M. Flecker of the Antikensammlung Kiel and U. Wallenstein of Schloss Friedenstein Gotha for their support of this PhD project and the permissions to examine objects of their respective collections.

2 | Charles Watkins was engaged in several archaeological endeavours with Ohnefalsch-Richter, the most famous being the excavations at the neighbouring city-kingdom of Tamassos, which resulted in a notorious lawsuit about the ownership of the found objects against Colonel Falkland Warren. For the lawsuit Watkins vs. Warren: Given 2001 and Pilides 2018, 202–203. For the Imperial Ottoman Bank see: Apostolides – Baruh 2015. For the excavation of Tamassos-*Frankissa* see most recently: Recke 2018.

3 | Ohnefalsch-Richter 1886, 198.

4 | Ohnefalsch-Richter 1886, 198. This is the first description of the site by MOR himself. Salomon Reinach already published a brief synopsis of the sanctuary from his correspondence with MOR in the second volume of the 1885 edition of the *Revue Archéologique* (Reinach 1885).

5 | Ohnefalsch-Richter 1891, 6–7 pl. VII. XIII. XVI.

6 | Ohnefalsch-Richter 1893, some of the plates depicting the sanctuary and its finds are identical to the plates of his 1891 publication.

# The Sanctuary Ohnefalsch-Richter Never Saw: The City Sanctuary in the Lower City South at Idalion

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Pamela Gaber

## ABSTRACT

In his work, *Kypros, the Bible and Homer*, Ohnefalsch-Richter noted the location of a number of sanctuaries at or near the site of ancient Idalion.<sup>1</sup> During the summer of 1998, the University of Arizona Expedition to Idalion under the direction of Pamela Gaber discovered yet another temple. This cult site is now referred to as the “City Sanctuary.” There are a number of reasons this temple differs from the other sanctuaries that have been investigated by excavators at Idalion.

During the excavation seasons from 2002–2017 a great swath of the City Sanctuary was uncovered. In addition to several unique features, there were two curious facts about the sacred precinct that marked it as unique among *temene* at Idalion. While there were inscriptions in many languages found at more than one sanctuary at Idalion, inscriptions in the Lower City South (City Sanctuary) occurred only

in Cypro-syllabic script.

Other anomalies include the exclusive use of open “saucer-type” lamps, even into the Hellenistic and Roman periods, and early rituals involving water that continued in use uninterrupted from the Geometric period through to the Roman period. Use of offering platforms and altars with ash pits also was continuous for a thousand years. Perhaps most tellingly, when the Phoenicians of Kition conquered Idalion in c. 450 BCE, they destroyed the administrative center violently and left the rest of the city untouched — except for one room in the City Sanctuary where the *xoanon* and two subsidiary wooden poles were housed. This was evidence that the City Sanctuary housed the cult of the Great Goddess, the primary deity of Idalion, and her guardian figures, the Master and Mistress of Animals.

1 | Ohnefalsch-Richter 1893, 5–19.

# The Iron Age Sacred Topography of Kition and Idalion: A Comparative Analysis

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Sabine Fourrier

## INTRODUCTION

The sacred landscapes of the Iron Age kingdoms of Kition and Idalion have been relatively well studied, particularly in regards to their possible extension in the Archaic period. Inventory of sanctuary sites coupled with production studies, especially of terracotta figurines, have suggested the existence of a vast Idalian territory, punctuated with many cult sites with clear Idalian affinities.<sup>1</sup> In contrast, a possible Kitian territory appears difficult to grasp outside the immediate vicinity of the city. On the one hand, a territorial kingdom, firmly established on a vast and densely occupied agrarian land, close to the rich cupriferous deposits of the Troodos foothills (Idalion); on the other hand, an urban polity whose evasive territory appears to be maritime rather than terrestrial (Kition). Things changed dramatically when Idalion was incorporated (presumably through military conquest) into the kingdom of Kition around 450 BCE.<sup>2</sup>

Historians, out of necessity, look backwards. Accordingly, the past history of Kition and Idalion has

been retrospectively evaluated by reference to this dramatic event: the fatal ending of the independent kingdom of Idalion. This view was summarized by Iacovou as “an ‘either or’ situation”.<sup>3</sup> Either Idalion or Kition: the two could not coexist as independent polities since they were mutually dependent (Kition needed a hinterland with access to the copper mines; Idalion needed a port for export). The extant documentation is too poor to establish that Idalion had to disappear so that Kition could exist as an independent polity, that the fatal ending of one was inescapable in order for the other to flourish. However, the available evidence sufficiently shows that the cities of Idalion and Kition indeed had close connections, both before and after the annexation. The conquest of Idalion did not mean its disappearance: the city was not razed to the ground (traces of destruction are conspicuously lacking); most remarkably, its culture was not erased. To the contrary, it was appropriated, embedded and promoted by the ruling Kitian kings.

\* | I would like to express my warmest thanks to St. Schmid for his invitation to contribute to the volume, and to A. Satraki for her invaluable help.

1 | Fourrier 2004; Fourrier 2007, 39–61. Inventory of possible Idalian and Kitian peri- and extra-urban sanctuaries: Ulbrich 2008, 326–331 (Idalion) and 353–359 (Kition).

2 | On the difficult dating of the conquest: Georgiadou 2010, 159–170.

3 | Iacovou 2013, 148–149.

# The Site of Idalion-*Bamboula*

Stephan G. Schmid

## INTRODUCTION

In Cyprus, the toponym of *Bamboula* frequently designates sites showing an (artificial) elevation.<sup>1</sup> Well-known as an archaeological site with the same name is of course the site of Kition-*Bamboula*, rising close to the former harbour of Kition.<sup>2</sup> As other examples with an archaeological connection, one could mention the sites of Episkopi-*Bamboula*,<sup>3</sup> as well as Erimi-*Bamboula*.<sup>4</sup> Much less known is the site of Idalion-*Bamboula* that shall be the focus of this short contribution. In recent research, the toponym is exclusively mentioned as the likely site of a sanctuary in the vicinity of ancient Idalion that is

referred to by the Cyprus Survey,<sup>5</sup> and which may be identical with one of the many sanctuaries listed by Max Ohnefalsch Richter (in the following MOR).<sup>6</sup> MOR only mentions it briefly in his two books (*Cultusstätten* and *Kypros, the Bible and Homer [KBH]*), indicating that the sanctuary site (that he only visited after local peasants found stone heads of female figures) is very close to the spot no. 21 on his map (fig. 1; cf. *infra*)<sup>7</sup>. Here, he also locates four stone built chamber tombs, later indicated by a brown line in order to specify them as “built tombs with Hellenistic and late Phoenician influence”, according

\* | Several persons and institutions assisted in various ways in the completion of this contribution. I would especially like to thank (in alphabetical order) Archives Nationales (Pierrefitte-sur-Seine), Lucie Bonato (Paris), Department of Antiquities (Nicosia), Giorgos Georgiou (Nicosia), Gauthier Gillmann (Amiens), Steven Götz (Berlin), Will Kennedy (Athens), Thomas Kiely (London), Michalis Michael (Nicosia), Musée de Picardie (Amiens), Anna Satraki (Nicosia), Anja Ulbrich (Oxford), Guillaume de Vogüé (Paris) and Okcan Yıldırım Türk (Berlin).

1 | Also Pamboula, Panboula and other variants; for a linguistic explanation see Goodwin 1984, 1254 s.v. Pamboulos and, slightly more adventurous, Ohnefalsch-Richter 1893, 235–236; cf. also Menardos 1907, 316.

2 | For a concise overview see e.g. Yon 2006, 18–29; cf. Kiely – Fourier 2012; see also the contribution by Sabine Fourier in this volume.

3 | Kiely 2010 with further references.

4 | Bolger 1988.

5 | Ulbrich 2008, 323–324 ID 8a; Papantoniou 2012, 376 no. 59. 380 no. 50.

6 | Ulbrich 2008, 323 ID 8; cf. Ohnefalsch-Richter 1891, 20 no. 38; Ohnefalsch-Richter 1893, 20 no. 38.

7 | The entire map, of which fig. 1 here is an extract, is illustrated as fig. 3 in the contribution on MOR’s work by S. G. Schmid in this volume.

# The Excavations of Max Ohnefalsch Richter in the Necropoleis of Idalion

Caroline Huguenot

»On sait que la très riche collection d'objets chypriotes rassemblée autrefois à Berlin, Staatliche Museen, qui provenait essentiellement des fouilles d'Ohnefalsch-Richter, n'a jamais donné lieu à la publication d'un catalogue d'ensemble, même sommaire. Ceci est d'autant plus regrettable que les événements de la seconde guerre mondiale ont amené à la destruction ou la disparition d'une partie – difficile à évaluer – de ces objets, puis le partage de ce qui a subsisté entre les Staatliche Museen de Berlin-Est et le nouveau musée, plus petit mais très riche, installé depuis 1960 à Berlin-Ouest.«

Masson 1971, 446

The ancient city of Idalion, capital of one of the city-kingdoms of Iron Age Cyprus, consists of the main western acropolis on the *Ampileri* hill, the eastern acropolis on the *Moutti tou Arvili* hill, and the lower town, which extends north of the hills in the sector called *Petrera* (figs. 1a-b), corresponding to the area within the city walls. Between the two acropoleis lays the valley *Paradision*, which leads southwards to Larnaca, and northwards to Nicosia. During the Geometric or Archaic period, the city was delimited by a wall,<sup>1</sup> which is now almost completely destroyed, but the layout of which

is quite well documented along its entire length, mostly thanks to Max Ohnefalsch-Richter's (MOR) investigations (fig. 2), and lastly to prospections carried out by the American Expedition lead by P. Gaber (Lycoming College).<sup>2</sup> Extensive cemeteries lie directly in the peripheral areas, ranging from Geometric times until the Roman period.

The geographical situation of Idalion, as well as the rich contents of its cemeteries and temples, attracted antiquarians from the middle of the 19th century onwards, among them, in chronological order, Melchior de Vogüé and Edmond Duthoit, then

\* | Abbreviations of unpublished sources (for others see the bibliography at the end):

GStAPK, Ohnefalsch: Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Acta Ohnefalsch

Zentralarchiv, SMB, Z: Zentralarchiv, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, IV-Nachlass Zahn. Designates the archival structure and numbering of the scientific estate of Robert Zahn, holding most of the archival material related to *Tamassos and Idalion*. See the contribution of S. G. Schmid in this volume. The numbers following "Z" indicate different documents.

I have to address my gratitude to Prof. Dr. A. Scholl, Director of the Antikensammlung (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin), for having given me the authorization to study the material from these excavations, as well as to S. Brehme, who did her best to collect relevant archival information. My warmest thanks also go to B. Ebelt-Bochert (Archäologisches Zentrum), who recently was in charge of registering the relevant archival material and helped me in finding old files. I am also very grateful to Dr. D. Pilides, former Curator of Museums at the Department of Antiquities, for letting me carry out investigations in the storage rooms of the Cyprus Museum, and to its staff, who with patience and devotion helped to make my research successful. I am also indebted to D. Israel for the realisation of the map on fig. 15.

1 | See *infra* for more details regarding its chronology.

2 | See the contribution of V. Woelfel in this volume.

# A Window into Mortuary Practices and Ritual at Early Iron Age Idalion: Locus 20 in the Necropolis of Idalion-*Platia*

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Anna Georgiadou – Artemis Georgiou – Anna Satraki

## INTRODUCTION: CHALLENGES IN RECONSTRUCTING THE ANCIENT TOPOGRAPHY OF IDALION FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

Almost a century of both organised and emergency archaeological investigations at Idalion, along with the endeavours of a “mischievous pastime”<sup>1</sup>, have rendered the ancient town’s topography quite tangible (fig. 1). Nuclei of the Late Bronze Age have been identified both on the hill of *Ampileri* and in the lowlands to the north. These clusters continued to be occupied in the Iron Age. *Ampileri* and *Moutti tou Arvili*, the two hills that dominate the landscape to the south of the modern village, provided unquestionable evidence that they functioned as focal points of administrative and sacred character within the urban fabric of the Iron Age city. *Ampileri* accommodated the city’s administrative seat and the Athena temenos, located on the top of the hill, while *Moutti tou Arvili* was the “religious” acropolis.<sup>2</sup> Ongoing archaeological fieldwork has been gradually revealing critical data, which indicate that the area between the two hills and the Galias River to the

north was occupied during the period spanning from the end of the Late Bronze to the Iron Age. This is based on the excavation of sacred and secular areas as well as of burial grounds.<sup>3</sup>

However, serious limitations and shortcomings of the extant archaeological record are still hindering our comprehensive knowledge of the urban configuration of Idalion during the Late Bronze Age horizon and also the “era of the kingdoms” that corresponds to the Cypro-Geometric (CG), Cypro-Archaic (CA) and Cypro-Classical (CC) periods. Tomb 1, which dates to the Late Cypriot (LC) IIC period, was excavated in the 1970s by the Joint American Expedition.<sup>4</sup> To date, this mortuary assemblage remains the earliest context uncovered in the area where the urban nucleus of the Iron Age city-kingdom of Idalion was to develop. Other LC tombs were excavated by Ohnefalsch-Richter and Peristianis at *Petrera* and *Agios Georgios*, but information concern-

1 | Goring 1988. On the early excavations at Idalion in the 19th century see Cesnola 1877; Gaber 2008, 52–54; Schmid – Horacek 2018.

2 | See Hadjicosti 2017.

3 | For a detailed synthesis see Satraki 2018.

4 | Schulte-Campel 1989; Adelman 1989.

# From Survey Chains to Satellites: Using GIS to Unite the Historic Excavation Maps of Idalion

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Valerie Woelfel

## ABSTRACT

The ancient city-kingdom of Idalion on Cyprus has been excavated for over 150 years. During this time, archaeology has changed tremendously and so have the maps created by archaeologists. This paper follows the process of using GIS to digitize maps from the earliest excavators to the most recent. The goal was to create a combined map of the excavated areas, and also to explore options for research based on this series of maps. A major challenge was the

lack of information on earlier maps compared with the extensive data recorded on the more recent ones. One consistent element was architecture, which was used to make the combined map. Judging the accuracy of the maps was done through researching the excavators and their cartographers and confirming the results with GPS when possible. The process generated multiple research possibilities for the use of the series of excavation maps from Idalion.

## INTRODUCTION

Maps tell a story in a way that the written word does not. With a single glance the viewer can see patterns and connections that are hidden when only words are used. But maps can also lie, often when it is not the intention of the cartographer. Poorly designed maps can be misleading, and every map is the result of decisions about what to include and what to leave out, what to emphasize and what to relegate to the background. These choices come from the map maker's priorities and biases expressed through the technology of their day and the skill of the cartographer. Historic maps can be especially challenging in a field like archaeology, which has

changed dramatically over time and the purpose of maps has changed along with it.

At a site like Idalion, with its long history of excavation, there is also a long history of maps. The development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Geographic Information Science (GIScience) has opened up new possibilities for mining information from old site maps, but these maps need to be understood in their context as much as any artifact collected from the site. A series of maps starting from the 1860s is well known from Idalion and have been regularly published. They can usually be found in the history of excavation sections



# Idalion in its Environment: Settlement Patterns in the Gialias River Valley

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Pamela Gaber

## ABSTRACT

Regional differences on Cyprus have been a subject of scholarly discussion since the 1980's. The physical environment in each locale impacts socio-economic and socio-political developments. Is there a factor upon which we have not focused enough attention? The clear differences between the rivers in mountain valleys and the Gialias river system in the Mesaoria plain suggest a new avenue of examination. Clearly the inland cities developed differently from the coastal cities. Could the extreme differences between the rivers of the plains and the rivers of the mountain valleys be one factor that influenced this differential development? It appears that they very well could play a part in that variation.

It is the rivers of the Mesaoria Plain that concern us here. The Gialias river is joined by the Alykos and the Pediaios rivers before flowing into Ammochostos Bay. Together, these create a riverine system flowing through a broad, relatively flat countryside from the foothills of the Troodos Massif and meandering to the sea in contrast to the fast-flowing mountain streams in the west and south. The meanders and whorls visible today in the broad plains of

the Gialias river system must have changed many times over the millennia. Nevertheless, the basic routes connecting the copper-bearing pillow lavas (at the base of the Troodos Massif) to the sea must basically have remained the same.

One of the important ways in which the Mesaoria plain river system differs from the mountain rivers is that, in a hot dry summer, the river beds often appear dry. In point of fact the water is not far below the surface, but it is not visible and the river beds afford travelers a clear route to the sea. In Dali, for instance, in the 1970's one could often see men leading laden donkeys down the bed of the Gialias river toward the village of Potamia, the next village to the east. In ancient times – particularly when the island was more heavily forested – the clear river routes must have been even more important for the transport of goods. During years when the rivers were flowing all year round, goods could have been floated, even more easily than carting them or transporting them on donkey back.

There is evidence that copper production in Cyprus grew before 2000 BCE, which would be an added impetus for sites to develop inland near the

# Resources, Technological Innovations and Networks in Central Cyprus during the Cypro-Archaic Period

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Giorgos Georgiou

This paper examines the relationship between site location, resource exploitation, technological innovation and political management in central Cyprus during the Cypro-Archaic period. The location chosen for founding Idalion during Late Cypriot IIC might be the result of a negotiated political agreement between an inland and a coastal political centre (Nicosia and Kition), aiming to secure equal access to two geographically separate resources, copper mines and a maritime port for both. During

the Cypro-Archaic period, the emergence in central Cyprus of a local limestone – until then economically insignificant – as a new resource appropriate for monumental statuary, the introduction of technological innovations for making bronze statuettes and mass-produced terracotta figurines, new figurative imagery, intensified connectivity and exploitation of water resources, all are discussed as examples of how geography changes in new socio-economic and ideological contexts.

## INTRODUCTION

In archaeology, considering geography<sup>1</sup> as a factor which affects social change, is mostly a 20th century development. As the major concern at the time was ethnicity and nationalistic narratives, early European archaeology spent considerable time and effort using specific types of artefacts as evidence of population migrations.<sup>2</sup> In these theories, geography and the environment were just the indifferent scenery of migrations and culture diffusion. After World War I, it became clear to various archaeo-

logical circles that artefact analysis alone could not elucidate questions about the mechanisms of social transformation.<sup>3</sup> Theoretical concepts derived from geography and social sciences were then used as ancillary means for understanding social transformation and change.<sup>4</sup>

The introduction of concepts from geography to Cypriot archaeology is closely connected to the notion of *regionalism*<sup>5</sup> as an interpretative tool for understanding social change during the Early and

1 | As well as other related sciences such as environmental studies and geology.

2 | Trigger 1989, 135.

3 | Trigger 1989, 244.

4 | Trigger 1989, 18. 249–250. 279–286.

5 | For the development of the concept, see Georgiou 2007, 37–44.

# The Topography of Copper Production in the Iron Age City-Kingdom of Idalion

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Vasiliki Kassianidou

## INTRODUCTION

The island of Cyprus lies at the crossroads of the Eastern Mediterranean, and throughout history was an integral part and significant player in the trade and cultural networks of the Old World. This is not solely because of the island's geographic position but also because of its natural resources, particularly the abundant copper ore deposits. These are often lauded in the ancient sources.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, by Late Antiquity Cyprus became synonymous with copper: the Latin word *cuprum* derives from *aes cyprium*, Cypriot copper, the term used by Pliny in his book *Natural History*<sup>2</sup> to describe the pure metal rather than one of its alloys.<sup>3</sup> Modern geological studies show that the metal rightly takes its Latin name from Cyprus. The foothills of the Troodos mountains include some of the richest copper ore deposits in the Mediterranean.<sup>4</sup> They are found within the pillow lava geological formation, which

forms a ring around the Troodos foothills.<sup>5</sup> There are a number of mining districts, which were extensively exploited both in antiquity and in modern times (fig. 1).<sup>6</sup> Together with the information provided by ancient sources, results from archaeological surveys and excavations in the mining regions over the last fifty years as well as excavations all over the island and beyond, on land and under the sea, enable us to reconstruct the history of copper production on the island.

The physical evidence for ancient exploitation derives from the two main stages in the production of metal. The first is the collection of the metalliferous ore through mining, often underground, and the second is the extraction of the metal from the ore through smelting. In the last 100 years, during which the modern mining industry has been active after more than one thousand years of aban-

1 | For an extensive discussion of the ancient sources referring to Cyprus's mineral wealth see Gaudry 1862, 246–256; Engel 1841, 45–58; Hadjioannou 1973, 397–427; for a compilation of English translations of all the ancient Greek and Latin sources referring to Cyprus in general see Wallace – Orphanides 1990.

2 | Plin. NH, XXXIV.2–4.

3 | Engel 1841, 43; Rickard 1930, 285.

4 | Constantinou 1982, 15.

5 | Constantinou 1992b, 334–335.

6 | Bear 1963; Constantinou 1992a; 1992b; Kassianidou 2000.

# Defining the Rural Environs of Ancient Idalion: A Fuzzy Landscape Archaeological Approach for Determining Idalion's Resource Potential

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Will M. Kennedy – Daniel Knitter

## INTRODUCTION

At least since the late 8th and until the late 4th/early 3rd century BCE, the island of Cyprus was controlled by several autonomous polities (often labelled as 'city-states' or 'kingdoms'). While the formation of the Cypriot Iron Age kingdoms at the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age remains disputed,<sup>1</sup> it becomes clear that – following external geopolitical turbulences and dramatic internal socio-political changes by the 12th century BCE – independent polities effectively ruled over the island during the defining Cypro-Archaic (750-480 BCE) and Cypro-Classical periods (480-300 BCE). It was only with the Ptolemaic conquest of the island in 305/294 BCE and the abolishment of the autonomous polities that the island was governed as one geographical unit under one central ruler.<sup>2</sup>

Most prominently, the stele of the Neo-Assyrian king Sargon II (c. 707 BCE) found in ancient Kition mentions seven Cypriot kingdoms. Nearly 40 years later, however, a prism of Sargon's successor, Esarhaddon, lists ten kingdoms on the island for 673/672 BCE.<sup>3</sup> Other polities are either mentioned only in later historical sources or attested by later archaeological, numismatic or epigraphical evidence dating from the 6th-4th centuries BCE.<sup>4</sup> However, in some cases, archaeological evidence suggests that certain polities not mentioned in the Assyrian sources, may even reach as far back as the 8th century BCE as well.<sup>5</sup>

Despite this problematic 'historical elusiveness'<sup>6</sup> of the Iron Age polities, the sources nevertheless clearly indicate a time of overall political instability (although with important region-specific vari-

1 | Whether Cyprus was ruled by a central power in the Bronze Age and the issue of continuity into the Iron Age is most recently discussed by Knapp 2023, Meyer – Knapp 2021; Knapp – Meyer 2020 or Mantzourani *et al.* 2019.

2 | Cf. e.g. Iacovou 2021; 2018; the contributions in the 2013 issue of the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* (no. 370), particularly Counts – Iacovou 2013 and Iacovou 2013a as well as Knapp 2023; Meyer – Knapp 2021; Petit 2019 or Körner 2017.

3 | Cf. e.g. Iacovou 2002, 81–83.

4 | E.g. Satraki 2012; 2010.

5 | E.g. Iacovou 2013a, 2002; Satraki 2012; 2010.

6 | After Iacovou 2013a.

# Organising the Territory of a City-Kingdom: The Rural Sanctuary of Kataliondas *Kourvellos* in its Local and Regional Context

Julien Beck – Patrizia Birchler Emery

Much has already been suggested about the role of rural sanctuaries as supra-regional political markers in Iron Age Cyprus at the time of the city-kingdoms,<sup>1</sup> but little is known of their function at the local or regional level: how were they linked to the socioeconomic realities of part, or all, of a city-kingdom's hinterland?



**Fig. 1** | The rock knob at the top of Kourvellos hill with excavated trenches at its base.

Kataliondas *Kourvellos* is located approximately 20 kilometres south of Nicosia, in the typical pillow-lava environment of the eastern Troodos foothills.<sup>2</sup> The site itself centres on an unusual rock knob at the top of a small hill (fig. 1), a geological curiosity that can be seen from far away, and thus a well-known landmark in the area.

The site was initially known for its widespread scatter of flint tools and flakes, belonging to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic, but in recent years a number of later finds were also reported there, including Cypro-Geometric tombs, slag, and Cypro-Classical pottery.<sup>3</sup>

In 2010 and 2011, excavations carried out by the University of Geneva at the base of the rock knob confirmed that Kataliondas *Kourvellos* was not only occupied in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic, but also in the Cypro-Archaic (if not earlier), and Cypro-Classical periods, by a rural sanctuary.<sup>4</sup> In its last phase of occupation, during the 4th century BCE, finds include pottery and metal weapons, as well as rock-cut features (such as vats<sup>5</sup>), and other architectural

\* | We wish to thank the organisers of the Berlin workshop, as well as W. Fasnacht (Zürich), G. Bobov (Sofia), Th. Christoforou (Mathiatis) and P. Chavaz (Geneva).

1 | Fischer 2001; Fourrier 2013; Papantoniou 2012; Papantoniou 2013a; Papantoniou 2013b.

2 | See Birchler Emery – Beck in this volume fig. 1.

3 | Buchholz 1987; Buchholz 1992; Buchholz – Ender 1992; Morrison – Watkins 1974; Watkins 1979.

4 | Beck 2012; Beck 2017; Beck – Birchler Emery 2020.

5 | Birchler Emery – Beck in this volume fig. 2.

# Kataliondas *Kourvellos*, a Rural Sanctuary Between City-Kingdoms

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Patrizia Birchler Emery – Julien Beck

Kataliondas *Kourvellos* lies in the lower Troodos foothills, about 20 kilometers south of Nicosia, 12 kilometers west of Ancient Idalion and 10 kilometers east of Tamassos (fig. 1). The site itself is located on the top of a small hill at the base of an unusual geological feature – a rock knob that stands out until today as an obvious landmark in the surrounding landscape.<sup>1</sup>

Excavations by the University of Geneva in 2010–2011 revealed that the site was occupied during two periods: the Pre-Pottery Neolithic and the Iron Age, from the Cypro-Geometric/Cypro-Archaic to the end of the Cypro-Classical period.<sup>2</sup>

Neither the recent excavations, nor the survey led in 1972 have shown evidence of occupation at the base of the rock knob between these two periods.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, after the abandonment of the site at the end of the 4th century BCE, the place was never settled again. This is a rather surprising fact, as Hellenistic and Roman occupations have been identified in the area around the rock knob.<sup>4</sup>

The excavations at the base of the rock knob led to the discovery of quadrangular structures, pits, walls and niches, all cut or carved in the bedrock.<sup>5</sup>

The study of the finds allowed to ascertain that the rock-cut structures date from the Iron Age and to identify the site of this period as a small sanctuary.<sup>6</sup> The finds consist mainly in pottery sherds, although there are also two terracotta figurines, a spindle whorl, a few lamps, and several metal objects (in bronze, iron and lead: weapons, knives, nails, plaques, rods and one bronze coin, fig. 2).

The evidence for the beginning of the occupation in the Iron Age site consists in thirty pottery sherds, one spindle whorl and two fragments of figurines, a horseman and the upraised arm of another figure. The sherds belong to different vases, they are all about the same size (maximum 7 x 5 centimetres), most of them are White Painted ware, some Bichrome and only one Black-on-Red: the earliest one could be Cypro-Geometric but all others, as well as the figurines and the spindle whorl, belong to the Cypro-Archaic period.

Afterwards, there seems to be a gap in the 5th century as no sherd can be surely dated from the Cypro-Classical I period. The majority of the pottery from the later phase consists of Plain White ware of the 4th century: the sherds are not as frag-

1 | See the contribution by Beck – Birchler Emery in this volume, fig. 1.

2 | Beck 2012; Beck 2017.

3 | Morrison – Watkins 1974.

4 | Beck – Birchler Emery, in this volume.

5 | Beck 2012.

6 | Beck – Birchler Emery 2020.