The Marble Finds from Kavos and the Archaeology of Ritual
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Edited by Colin Renfrew, Olga Philaniotou, Neil Brodie, Giorgos Gavalas & Michael J. Boyd

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Cover image: The Special Deposit South from the southeast (foreground) with Dhaskalio in the background. Inset: (front) Head 351, from Trench D2, layer 1; (back) Torso 25055 from Trench RA, layer 14.

Frontispiece image: Torso, waist, pelvis and upper legs of folded-arm figurine of Spedos variety (30028 from Area P on Kavos).

Edited for the Institute by James Barrett (Series Editor) and Anne Chippindale.

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Frontispiece: Torso, waist, pelvis and upper legs of folded-arm figurine of Spedos variety.

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## Abbreviations

cm  centimetre  
D.  diameter  
g  gram  
H.  height  
km  kilometre  
L.  length  
m  metre  
mm  millimetre  
PPL  plain polarized light  
SEM-EDS  Scanning Electron Microscopy with Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy  
SEM-BSE  Scanning Electron Microscopy with Back Scattered Electron imaging  
SF  special find  
T.  thickness  
W.  width  
Wt  weight  
XPL  cross polarized light

Unless otherwise stated, the scale for finds is in centimetres.
Preface
Colin Renfrew & Michael J. Boyd

The status of Kavos on Keros as the earliest maritime sanctuary in the world is documented by the present volume, which includes (in Part A) the full publication of the marble finds from the Special Deposit South at Keros. These constitute the largest assemblage of Early Cycladic sculptures and vessels ever recovered in a controlled excavation, although they were all found in fragmentary condition. They add significantly to the already substantial corpus of finds from well-documented contexts in the Cycladic islands. They open new possibilities for the study of the production and the use of the rich repertoire of Cycladic artefacts of marble and thus to the understanding of ritual practice in Early Cycladic societies. The marble sculptures from the looted Special Deposit North at Kavos that have been recovered in systematic excavations will be discussed in Volume VII.

Also included here (in Part B) are chapters offering our concluding assessment of the roles of the settlement on Dhaskalio and of the two Special Deposits at Kavos. The publication The Settlement at Dhaskalio constitutes Volume I of the present series, while Kavos and the Special Deposits forms Volume II. The Pottery from Dhaskalio and The Pottery from Kavos, Volumes IV and V respectively, both by Peggy Sotirakopoulou, will complete the publication of the 2006 to 2008 excavations of the Cambridge Keros Project.

The existing and projected volumes of the Cambridge Keros Project are as follows:


Here we present first the marble sculptures and vessels recovered from the Special Deposit South, which are fully described and illustrated in the chapters which follow. Their contexts are given in detail in Volume II where each is listed in the detailed tables accompanying chapter 4 of that volume. There the tables are organised by trench and then by layer number, each sculptural or vessel fragment being listed by its special find number, which is unique to the excavation. The other finds from the Special Deposit South are all dealt with in detail in that volume, with the exception of the pottery, whose publication will form Volume V. The weathering of the marble finds is discussed by Maniatis & Tambakopoulos in chapter 11 of Volume II. Various features of the contexts of the finds are analysed by Michael Boyd in chapter 12 of Volume II. The potential joins noted among the sculptures recovered from the Special Deposit South are all dealt with in detail in that volume, with the exception of the pottery, whose publication will form Volume V. The weathering of the marble finds is discussed by Maniatis & Tambakopoulos in chapter 11 of Volume II. Various features of the contexts of the finds are analysed by Michael Boyd in chapter 12 of Volume II. The potential joins noted among the sculptures recovered from the Special Deposit South are discussed in appendix 13B of Volume II and those among the marble vessels in appendix 13A (see further Chapter 4 in this volume). The lack of joins observed between finds from the Special Deposit North and the Special Deposit South is noted there. The characterisation of the marble used to produce the sculptures and vessels from the Special Deposit South is discussed in Chapter 5 of the present volume.

The finds, among the various categories, from the settlement at Dhaskalio and from the two Special Deposits at Kavos are then compared and contrasted in Part B. This allows the differing functions of the settlement and of the Special Deposits to be brought into focus, and the intensity of their use during the different phases of activity in the early bronze age to be considered further. An attempt is then made, in Chapter 10, to set the ritual functions of the sanctuary on Keros into the wider context of early ritual practice in the Aegean and beyond.
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