

INTRODUCTION

Late Cypriot IIIC pottery has long been frustrating for those unfamiliar with Cypriot archaeology of the 12th century BC. This is partly because of the use of different terms for what were thought to be different wares of different dates, but which are now recognised as belonging together (STEEL 2004, 193), and partly because the picture is confused through an imbalance in the publication and illustration of the excavated material. None of the fifteen relevant excavations is adequately published in all the respects necessary for an understanding of the Late Cypriot IIIC pottery, which in turn would provide information on the history of the phase. Some excavations, such as those of Dikaïos at Enkomi from 1948-58, have been well published as regards stratigraphy, but only a very small proportion of the Late Cypriot IIIC pottery is illustrated and this only in tiny photographs; there are almost none of the line drawings necessary for good identification of the pottery (DIKAIOS 1969-71). Publication of another set of excavations, those at Hala Sultan Tekke from 1971-79, not only has an almost complete lack of line drawings, but there is also no overview at all of the stratigraphy, which is fragmented through various detailed and less detailed reports (SIMA 45. Hala Sultan Tekke 1-12). Even the recent report on the Sinda 1947-48 excavations does not publish the pottery stratigraphically, and also has almost no line drawings (FURUMARK and ADELMAN 2003; ADELMAN 2003). The excavations at Kition (1959-1980), Maa (1979-86) and Pyla-Kokkinokremos (1981-82) are well published as regards stratigraphy and photographic illustrations, but, due to constraints of space, again lack the significant number of pottery drawings necessary for a productive study of the ceramics (KARAGEORGHIS and DEMAS 1985; KARAGEORGHIS and DEMAS 1988; KARAGEORGHIS and DEMAS 1984). Line drawings are vital as details which are not apparent in a photograph, such as the shape of the lip or the base, can influence the date of the vessel.

There is only one published synthesis of Late Cypriot IIIC pottery, that of Kling written during the 1980s (KLING 1989). The synthesis is very useful in giving the history of the relevant excavations on Cyprus, in providing the stratigraphic background to the pottery and in sorting out terminological overlaps (see especially KLING 1989, 6-89), but justice is not done to the pottery itself. There are no sherd drawings and photographs; instead, shapes to which sherds belong at each site are presented in lists and with a standard drawing for each shape, while motifs on the sherds are represented by general illustrations; for example, the same running spiral illustration is used for all sherds which have this motif with no recognition that some of the spirals run anti-clockwise instead of in the usual clockwise direction; yet this is a chronological feature with East Aegean parallels (MOUNTJOY 2004, 189-200). It is unclear how much pottery Kling was actually able to handle; certainly access to the c. 6000 lots of Enkomi material from the Dikaïos excavations, which was then stored in the Cyprus Museum, was limited. Since Kling's study was published, much new work on the LHIIIC stratigraphy at Mycenae (FRENCH 2007a, 2007b, 2009, FRENCH and STOCKHAMMER 2009), Tiryns (VOIGTLÄNDER 2003, PODZUWEIT 2007, STOCKHAMMER 2008) and Lefkandi (EVELY 2006) has refined the picture of LHIIIC on the Greek mainland in turn enabling Aegean-style IIIC pottery in the Near East to be more closely assigned.

The Aegean-style IIIC pottery from Cyprus needs to be examined with particular reference to the 'missing' IIIC Early phase known as Myc.IIIC:1a, a term arising from Furumark's 1944 definition of the Cypriot pottery phases (FURUMARK 1944, especially 259-65); this term is now out of date as a result of the recent work in Greece mentioned above (see discussion JUNG 2006, 190-91). The definition of this missing phase and thus of the origins of the earliest Aegean-style IIIC pottery in Cyprus is of particular importance because of its relationship to the movement of peoples after the collapse of the palace

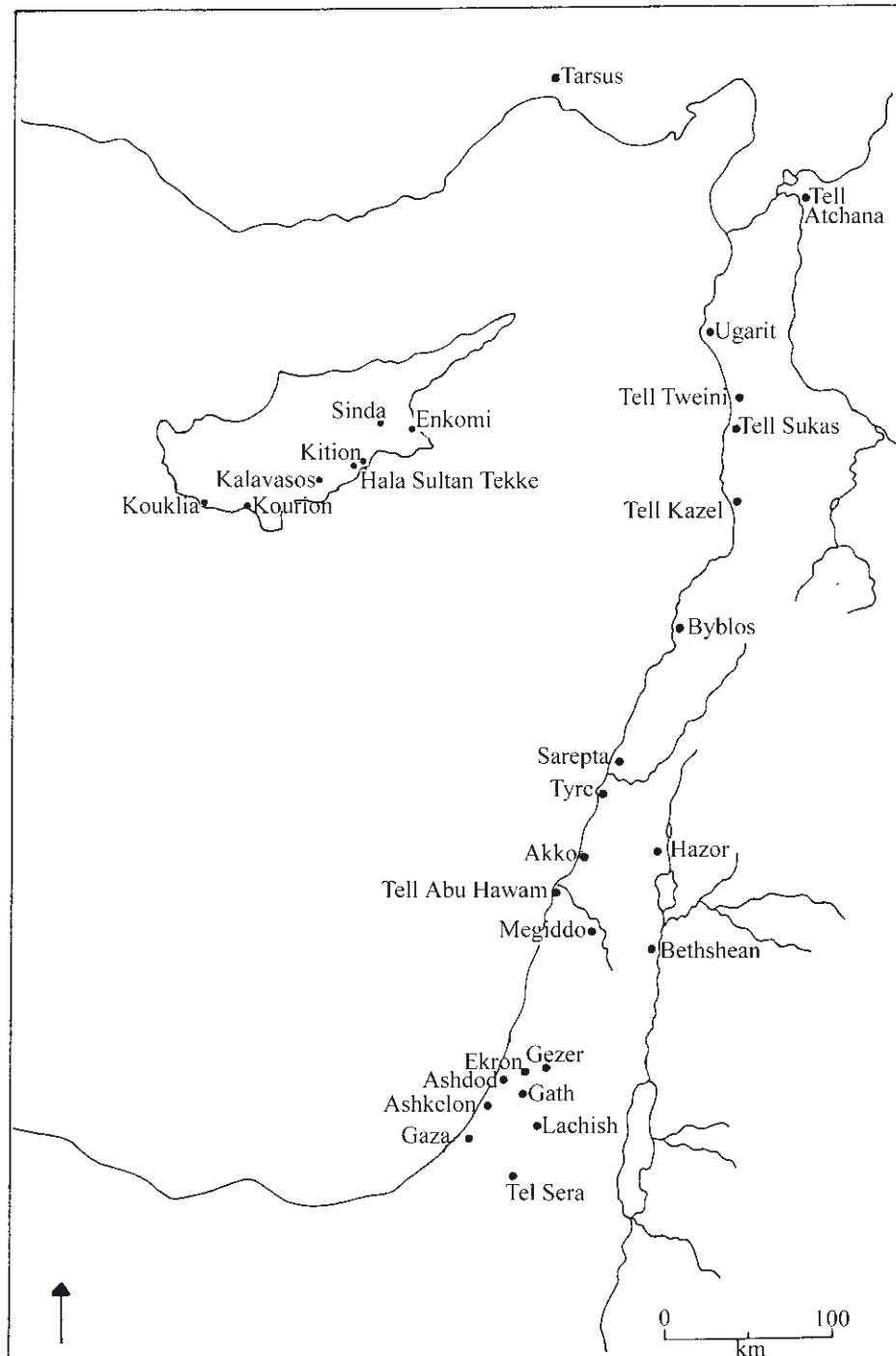


FIG.1 Cyprus and the Levant (After MOUNTJOY 1993, 177 fig.404).

economies on the Greek mainland; it is also important to the development of Aegean-style IIIC pottery in the Levant, particularly that of the Philistines, as there are many parallels between Philistine Monochrome pottery and Late Cypriot IIIC Early pottery. This phase is difficult to identify in Cyprus with the result that many scholars implicitly regard the following phase, Furumark's Myc.IIIC:1b phase, in Cyprus and in the Levant as belonging to the earliest phase of IIIC. The problem is compounded by the fact that the Greek mainland parallels to much of the pottery (especially the Philistine pottery) date to LHIIIC Middle, not to the early part of LHIIIC Early (see FRENCH 1998, DEGER-JALKOTZY 1998, 117-22). The recent work of French on the LHIIIC stratigraphy at Mycenae has divided LHIIIC Early into two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2 (FRENCH 2007a). This finer division assists in the interpretation of the missing IIIC Early phase, that is Phase 1, on Cyprus.

A finer definition of the Late Cypriot IIIC phases which follow the missing phase, that is LH IIIC Early Phase 2, IIIC Middle and IIIC Late (in Greek mainland terms) is necessary, as the blanket terms IIIC:1b and LCIIA currently in use cover a period of about 75 years. Furumark's term IIIC:1b is out of date, as noted above, and is already starting to be abandoned in Israel (see DOTHAN and ZUKERMAN 2004, 1-54, DOTHAN, GITIN and ZUKERMAN 2006, 71-175). A finer definition of the Late Cypriot IIIC phases would enable a more precise dating of the destructions and abandonments at the various Late Cypriot IIIC sites. This in turn would offer a yardstick for stratigraphy in the Levant (Fig.1).

In the light of the information gained from an in-depth study of the Late Cypriot IIIC pottery it is worthwhile to examine the first phase of Philistine pottery, the so-called Monochrome pottery, which is particularly close in its use of shapes and motifs to Late Cypriot IIIC. An examination of the Monochrome pottery from the three excavated sites of Ekron, Ashdod and Ashkelon is needed to show which Aegean shapes and motifs are used and how they relate to Cyprus and other areas. This aspect of the material is important as it should allow chronological correlations to be made and borrowings from the Late Cypriot IIIC repertoire to be highlighted. A finer definition of this pottery might also allow the stages of arrival of different groups of people to be isolated at the different sites. The subsequent Bichrome pottery, which took over from the Monochrome, also needs to be considered to ascertain how the Philistine Aegean-style pottery shapes and motifs developed in relation to Late Cypriot IIIC Middle pottery.

For ease of study of the different aspects of the Cypriot and Philistine IIIC pottery the book is arranged in two parts, the first larger part for Cyprus and the second smaller for Philistia. The Cypriot part opens with a discussion of the 'missing' Myc.IIIC:1a phase. The component parts of the missing phase are immediately presented in order to familiarise the reader with these categories of pottery, since they are referred to throughout the book. They comprise the Levanto-Helladic class, the Simple Style, the Rude/Pastoral Style and the fourteen Bowl Types. There follows a discussion of the stratigraphy and the IIIC pottery at each site in geographical order round the island beginning with Enkomi and moving southwards. The section on Enkomi is by far the largest, since it is the most comprehensively excavated site with a continuous stratigraphy through IIIC and a massive amount of material. The Cypriot section closes with an overview of the pottery: local types native to the island are examined separately; then the pottery from Enkomi is discussed on its own, since this large amount of stratified ceramic material offers a yardstick for pottery at other sites; the pottery from the other sites is then discussed as a unit.

The Philistia section starts with Ekron, which is the most extensively excavated of the three main sites, followed by Ashdod and Ashkelon. A section on imported Aegean-style pottery at Bethshean, which NAA has assigned to Cyprus, is also included, as there are examples of semi-complete shapes which are not well represented on the island. An overview of the Philistine pottery is followed by a comparison of the pottery from Cyprus and Philistia.

CHRONOLOGY (Table 1)

A number of different absolute chronologies have been published for the 12th-11th century BC in Greece and the Levant (for example most recently, WENINGER and JUNG 2009, 416 fig.14, SCHNEIDER 2010, 402, STOCKHAMMER 2014, 208 fig.22.1). The respective datings depend partly on whether a high, middle or low Egyptian chronology is taken, partly on the length allotted to the stratigraphic phases at Mycenae and Tiryns and partly on whether a high or low internal chronology is followed in Israel. The Egyptian chronology used here is based on Kitchen's low Egyptian chronology (KITCHEN 1987, 38-40, 52 Tables 5,6), the Mycenae stratigraphic phases (with some input from Tiryns), and the date of c. 1175 for the destructions in Israel at the end of the LBA, this date in turn being based on the defeat of the Sea Peoples in Rameses III Year 8. A date of c. 1185 is taken for the destructions on Cyprus at the end of LCIIIC (FRENCH and ÅSTRÖM 1980) in line with the date of the destruction of Ugarit (SINGER 1999,

Argolid	Cyprus	Enkomi	Sinda	Egypt	Ekron	Ashkelon
1210 LHIIIB2 Late	LC IIC	Level IIB		1213 Mereneptah 1203	Field I IX	22
1200				1194 Siptah 1188		Egyptian silos, fortification wall 21
1190 Destruction LHIIIC Early 1 (Ugarit)		Destruction	Destruction	1184 1176 Year 8	VIII	
1185 1180 1175					1175 Destruction VIIB 9D-C Linear	20B Silo, U558
Destruction LHIIIC Early 2	LC IIIA	Level IIIA	II	Rameses III	VIIB-VIIA 9B4 construction	20B floors
1170				1153		
1160					9B4 Floors kept clean	20A
1150		Destruction	Destruction	Rameses IV-VI 1136	VIIA 9B4 Occupation During 9B3-9A 1135 Egyptian withdrawal	19
LHIIIC Middle 1 (Developed)		Level IIIB Early	III		Transitional Phil 1/ Phil 2 Bichrome	19
1140		Destruction	Abandoned			18
1130 LHIIIC Middle 2 (Advanced)	LC IIIB				VIB-A	
1120						
1110						
1100 Destruction						
1090	LC IIIB	Level IIIB Late			VC-VA	
1080 LHIIIC Late						
1070						
1060 Submycenaean		Destruction		Dates Kitchen 1987		
1050		Level IIIC				

TABLE 1 Chronology of the Cypriot and Philistine sites.

729-30 and n.427). This chronology should be regarded as temporary; it will certainly be refined or changed as new archaeological information appears.

NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS (NAA) (MOUNTJOY and MOMMSEN 2015)

A NAA programme on Late Cypriot IIIC fine wares from ten Cypriot sites has been carried out by the author with H. Mommsen in Bonn. Chemical profiles were obtained for six of the ten sites to add to the profile of Sinda, which was obtained a few years ago

(MOMMSEN and SJÖBERG 2007). NAA has highlighted trade from Cyprus to the Levant and Egypt. Kition/Hala Sultan Tekke has proved to be a prime mover in the exportation of goods, much more so than Enkomi. However, very little NAA analysis has been carried out in the north Levant; recent analyses include samples from Tell Djinderis (MÜHLENBRUCH *et al.* 2009), Tell Kazel (BADRE *et al.* 2005, JUNG 2006) and Tell Tweini (unpublished). More analyses might reveal that Enkomi was active here rather than in the south Levant.