EXCAVATIONS AT CEOS

The adyton of the temple at Ayia Irini, on the island of Ceos. Successive floor levels may be seen above the fragmentary terracotta statues.

Above: Torso of terracotta statue wearing Minoan dress, from adyton of temple. Below: One of the terracotta statues from the temple. The body was found on the original floor, the head (with headdress missing) in the later shrine of Dionysos. It is here partially reconstructed. Preserved height 0.99 m.

A closer view of the broken terracotta statues of goddesses or their attendants, found on the floor of the adyton, the most sacred part of the temple.

Left: Fragment of Mycenaean stirrup-jar found in temple, showing a procession. Above: Fragment of wine jar from a room in the settlement at Ayia Irini, with graffito in Linear A characters.

ΕΙΚ. 208. Αγία Ειρήνη, Κέα. Μικρογραφική τουχαγραφία και
πετόνα αγάλματα βεστιών (Μουσείο Ιουλίσος).

Γ. Δελφες, Ειρηνικής Πραγματικός: Αρχαιολογικός, Μέρος Γ': Εικόνες,
Fig. 1. Part of Northwest Coast of Keos. (Adapted by R. L. Holzen from British and Greek maps). Contours approximate. Interval 10 m.

On information from our foreman and one of the local workmen in 1968 we explored the surface of a lofty perch on a great outcropping of rock about two kilometers due east of Kephala, beyond the bay of Otzias. Locally it goes by the name of Paoura (Πάουρα = Πάουρα?). A conspicuous ridge of rock descends gradually to it from still higher ground on the south; to the north the descent is steep to the sea and on the east there is a sheer drop to a modern quarry half the way down. Otzias provides a sandy beach and a partly protected cove where small craft can lie (Pl. 81, b-c). Closer to Paoura is a tiny indentation at the foot of a ravine, approachable from the sea in fair weather. The climb from either landing place is a weary one. We were told that water flows in winter from a spring below the ridge, not far from the site; in summer it is now dry.

People settled at this picturesque, remote and unsheltered spot in very early times. Potsherds and obsidian on the surface are like those found at Kephala. Here and there one can make out the lines of walls, some straight, some curving. On the western side of the northern extremity a large expanse of native rock is nearly level; perhaps once occupied, it is now bare. In it there are a few small cavities which may have held the ends of upright timbers.

The setting is magnificent, and it offers near-perfect security from pirates, if it can be imagined that marauders might be attracted by so humble a village. One wonders whether there were other reasons why people chose to live there.

Troullos

A rounded hilltop some 500 m. northwest of Ayia Irini, called Troullos (Fig. 1), was investigated in 1966. Remains of ancient construction had been observed there previously, and its commanding position had suggested that it would serve well as a station from which ships could be watched and signals be given by semaphore to the town on the harbor (Pl. 82).

On the summit, some 65 m. above sea-level, there appears to have been a nearly rectangular enclosure measuring ca. 11.50 m. on the north end and 15 m. on the west side (Fig. 13; Pl. 83). Projections are seen at the southwest corner and on the east side, where there may have been doorways. The southeastern corner is wholly lost and the rock is exposed. The northern part of the enclosure is paved with large irregular slabs of local marble; elsewhere there are remains of coarse plaster flooring. From this floor rises a drum-shaped structure, ca. 5 m. in diameter, of rough stone masonry with a filling of earth and rubble. It is preserved to a height of 0.80 m. Outside the building and tangent to its west wall is another drum, 6 m. in diameter, of similar construction. Off the northeast corner of the enclosure run walls that make up a separate building with one room (2.25 m. by 4.75 m.) and quite possibly a second room, or porch, adjoining. There were accumulations of potsherds on the floors.
Fig. 13. Buildings at Summit of the Troullos (after the survey by L. E. Cotsen).
A trench excavated across the inner drum, roughly east and west, exposed bedrock around 63.85 m. above sea-level. Debris seen in the trench consisted of earth and dense masses of small stone chips. Among them were found two large slabs of white marble, nearly round, 0.45 m. to 0.50 m. in diameter and about 0.10 m. thick. They lay aslant and were almost certainly not in place (Pl. 83, c).

Objects found in and around the buildings on the Troullos include the following:

**Pottery**

Total, 3.5 tinfuls; 95% local coarse wares. Pl. 84, f. Spout of a plain sauceboat of E. H. type, heavy, undecorated. Two handfuls of sherds of Matt-painted wares and bits of a black burnished one-handled Cycladic cup, probably all of the Middle Bronze Age. Twenty sherds of a jug or jar in hard buff fabric with decoration in brown lustrous paint: horizontal bands at base, small dots on body, neck coated: probably L.H.I. In coarse ware: 149 conical cups represented, one deep with rim turned out, the rest of plain shapes common at Ayia Irini in the period of L.M.IB/ L.H.II; fragments of jars and pithoi; 12 legs of tripod pots; pieces of two crucibles with traces of copper.

**Bronze**

Thin strips, probably blades (of razors?): Inv. K6.248, 252, 255, 256 (Pl. 84, e); the first and third apparently complete, 0.068 m. and 0.075 m. long, tapering from width of ca. 0.01; Inv. K6.371 in fragments with total length of 0.11, maximum width 0.018. All with thickness of 0.0004-0.0007.

U-shaped object: Inv. K6.372: 0.037 by 0.048, 0.003 thick at middle of curve, tapering to ends, one of which is looped, the other missing. A carpet needle?

**Stone**


Ladle: Inv. K6.93 (Fig. 14; Pl. 84, a, b); blue-green, heart-shaped, most of rim missing; length 0.144.

Libation tables: Inv. K6.98 (Fig. 14; Pl. 84, c); blue-green, fragment; diameter of round depression ca. 0.16. Inv. K6.378 (Fig. 14; Pl. 84, d); dark gray, chipped; a miniature, 0.033 by 0.037, 0.02 high.

**Obsidian**

Five chips.

This collection of objects indicates that people frequented the place from the Early Bronze Age onward but that the chief period of building and occupation was that seen also in the *floruit* of the town at Ayia Irini. The conjecture that the
Troullos was used as a watch tower is neither confirmed nor denied by the form of the buildings. One may observe that the stone vessels suggest religious practices and that the central structure may well have been a shrine (perhaps to a god of storms?). If that were the case, however, it would still not preclude the posting of watchmen who signalled the passage of ships. Such a combination of activities would be reasonable enough; one thinks of the scout who was posted on the tomb—presumably a high tumulus—of Aisylus at Troy (Iliad, B, 793).

Fig. 14. Stone Vessels from the Troullos (M. R. Popham).

Other Explorations

It seems quite possible that Ayia Irini, with its favorable position on the principal harbor, was the site of the chief settlement of the island in the Bronze Age. Almost surely, however, there were others. On numerous excursions members of
the staff have looked for signs of early habitation, but whereas archaic Greek pithos fragments, black-glazed sherds, and Roman pottery have been seen at many places, pre-classical remains are rare. J. E. Coleman records bits of obsidian at Perlevos and another hilltop west of the bay of Otzias, on a "tourlos" near Ormos Orkos, at Ovraikastro on the coast below Karthaia, on the mountain Ayios Theodoros in the south, and at a place a short distance inland from Mavramboli on the northwestern shore. Since natural sources of obsidian have not been found on the island, one concludes that the substance was imported, probably from Melos and presumably in pre-classical times, though it may well have been used here in later periods also.

In the summer of 1966 T. M. Mathews, attached to our expedition, spent more than a month on the island, visiting the sites of the Greek cities and reviewing the historical and epigraphical evidence of the classical period. He too looked for signs of earlier occupation, but without further success.
a. Top of the Troullos, center, as seen from Ayia Irini.

b. View from the Troullos, toward Korissia. Compare map, Fig. 1.

c. View from the Troullos toward Ayia Irini, Vourkari, and Chora (Ioulis).

a. Drum within the Enclosure.


c. Marble Slabs buried in the Drum.

d. Room Northeast of the Enclosure. Kephala in the Distance.

a. and b. Ladle K6.93.

c. Table of Offerings K6.98.

d. Miniature Table of Offerings K6.378.


Objects from the Troulos

f. Potsherds.