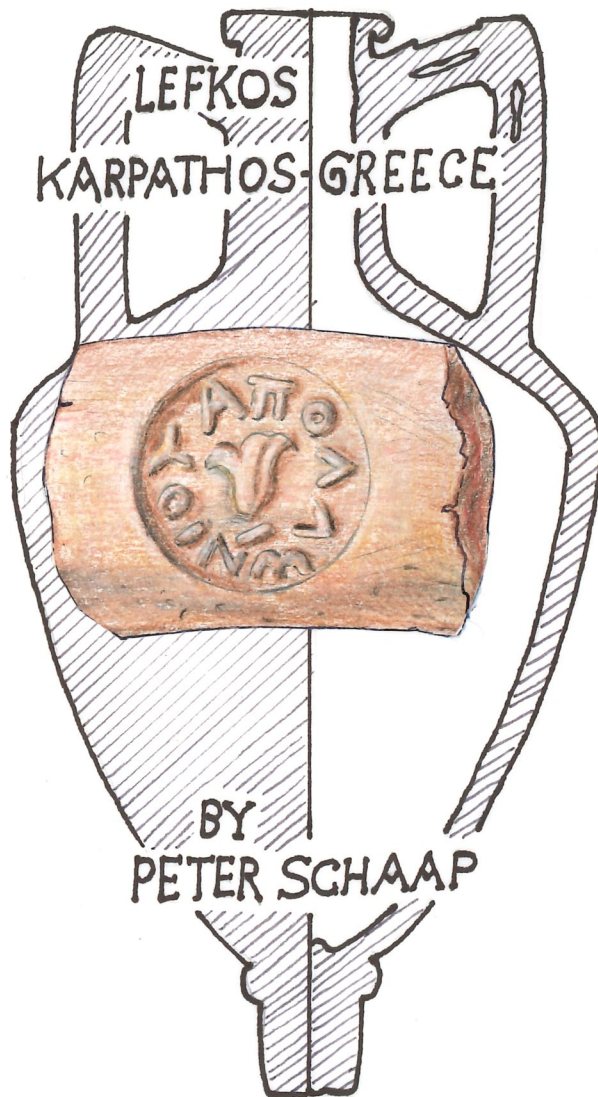


# HELLENISTIC POTTERY-STAMPS



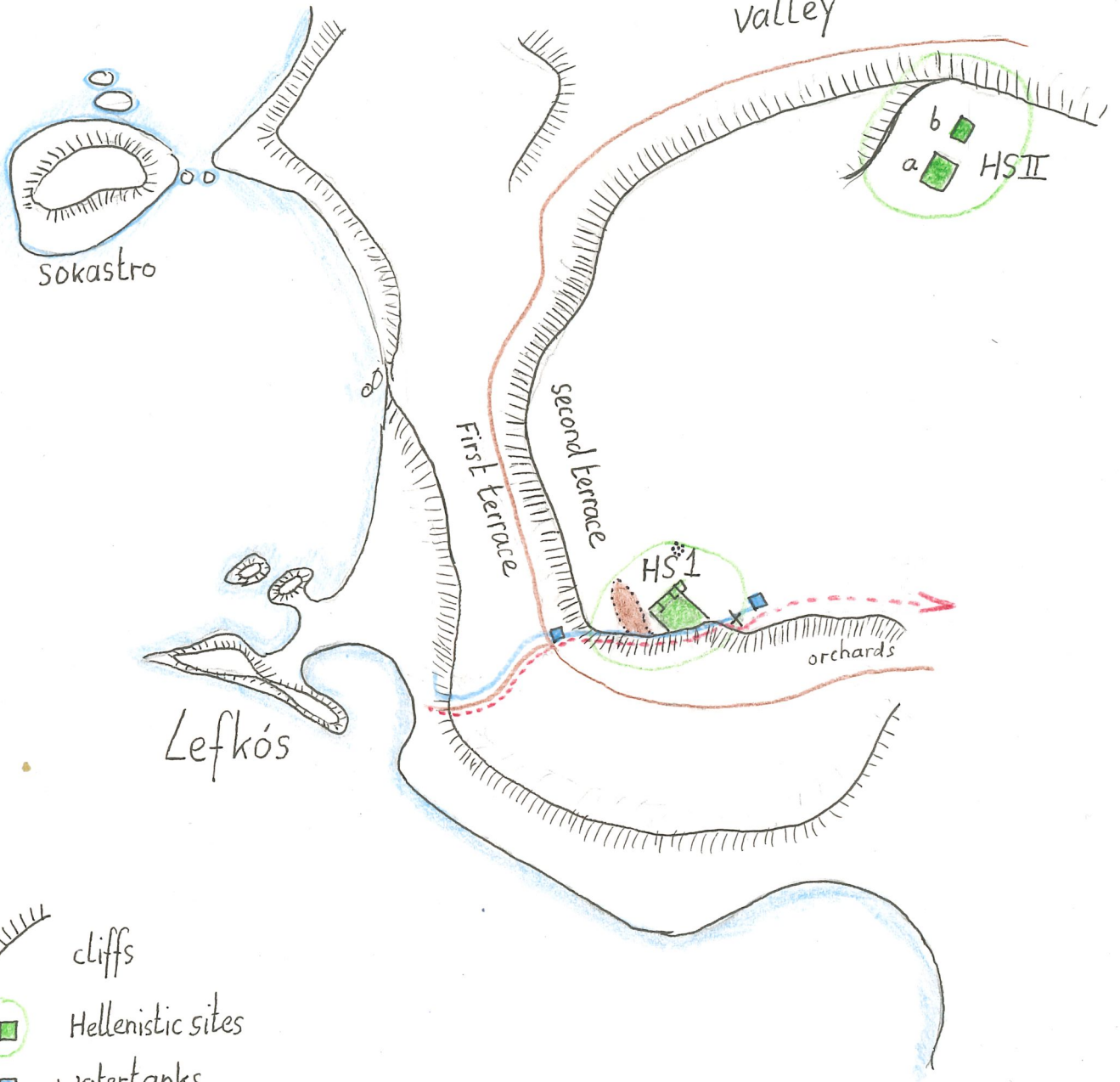
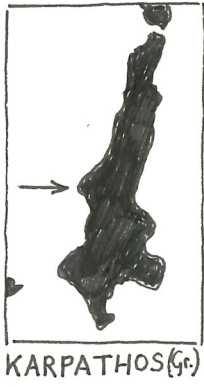
P.S.












Google earth

voet  
meter





-  cliffs
-  Hellenistic sites
-  watertanks
-  "Lions-gate"
-  dirt-roads
-  path (red dots) to Messochori
-  water pipe
-  'garbage-heap'
-  cave

HELLENISTIC POTTERY-STAMPSLEFKOS, KARPATOS, GREECEHELLENISTIC SETTLEMENT I (HS I)

On the Greek island of Karpathos, above the bays of Lefkos on the Second Terrace, along the footpath (red dots) to Messochori. HS I is the area around a big Hellenistic villa. 'the palace', It is about 45 meters wide and 100 meters long. It contains several rooms which have been cut out of the living rock. This area was originally a stone-quarry, possibly dating from the Mycenaean time (pottery-fragments from that period can be found in and around the building). Parts of the quarry stretch from south to north of the palace for at least 300 meters. The biggest of the three rooms at the western side (the middle one), stretching roughly from south to north along the back-wall (probably the main hall), has parts of a mosaik-floor left, made of round and split stones that are masoned with the flat side up. Broken pottery-handles smooth the edges of this floor along the rock-wall. Part of the floor changes height by use of simply adapting the angle of the flat surface one stone up, and back again, so that a simple ridge was created. Some evidence of a similar mosaik-floor can be found around HS II as well.

In the area around the building, I have found many pottery-stamps made by potters and for eponyms from Rodos and some local as well. At least of one of them\* there is conclusive evidence: a person, male or female, with the written name Attinas (see the HS I 2Ae-stamp in the catalogue). In either case the name ATTINAS is clearly written with an error: the double T. The stamps are all made on the handles of amphoras, with one exception (see the HS I 6Aa-comment). These handles have either a smooth curve, or a more or less straight angle. The stamps are round, rectangular or sometimes square in shape. I found no stamps in the palace itself. The majority was found at the western terrasses, bordering the palace, where the ground slopes slightly for about 200 meters. These are mainly stamps of type 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, in rather big amounts, with almost all the other types lacking!

Some stamps, almost exclusively of type 7 and further, were found on the southern and eastern slopes, clearly further away on the western side and even on the First Terrace, both on the south and the east side. All the stamps are surface-finds.

The whole area is scattered with shards of earth-ware from different periods, ranging from Mycenaean pottery to glazed medieval shards and broken bottles from modern shepards! Most remains can however be dated to Hellenistic period.

Apart from the broken earthware, one also finds much evidence of a one time kiln (mainly on the western side) and an iron-melting oven. Whether the latter is from the Hellenistic period, I don't know. Parts of the inside of the pottery-kiln are scattered around. Melted and glazes fragments: failiors. These fragments are shiny, deep grey (almost black) or green. One piece shows several dishes or bottoms from pots melted on top of eachother. Also bits of iron-clumps are present.

\* Since 2009, another name: LYKINOS can also definitvely be connected with Lefkos. A failure-piece with again a melting of a breaking-point, bearing the last part (NOY) of his name was found near the Palace-ground. I gave it the number: HS1\*3Db

In august 2000 the history of the site was a few thousand years enlarged by the finding of a meso/neolithic scraper, about 3,5 cm in cross section. It was more or less round, and made from a flake of grainy brown, local flint. I found it not far from the edge of the southern terrace, next to the second shepard's hut from the palace. (on the First Terrace many more artifacts can be found of flint and obsidian).

A proof of amphora-production-activity at the site, although an anonymous one, is a large piece from the belly of an amphora, about 30cm wide, that I also have on photograph. (See photograph of EVIDENCE 1) It is lying on one of the terrasses. It has collapsed in the kiln. The top part then slid twice over the bottom-part, half-melting, and in this position was hardened. It looks like a modern relief of a bird-wing. The piece is attracting much attention from visitors, obviously. Over the years it has wandered to and fro over the fields. It is green and spongy, and the thought that it could have been imported from Rodos is an absurd one.

In '96 I found an interesting failure from the kiln. It was a stamped handle, bearing the legend: ATTINAS (nr. HSI 2Ae) The fragment shows clear signs of overheating, even melting (!) where it broke down in the kiln. The photographs in this catalogue (See photo's of EVIDENCE 2) make this a doubtless fact. The fragment proves that that this amphora, bearing the name Attinas, was produced at the vicinity, either from (imported) Rodian or Karpathian clay. No-one would import what was absolutely useless material like that. After opening the kiln, it was simply thrown away. Another example I saw in '94. It also bore the stamp of ATTINAS. It was spongy and dark green, completely folded double, because of again a melt-down. This fragment obviously never was imported either.

The rock in the Lefkos-vicinity is rich on coprolytes: fossilised dinosaur-dung, which very well could have been recycled for iron-broze objects such as a fibula and a forged nail I found.

Another interesting piece is a fragment of what could be a pottery-wheel which came from a collapsed terrace-wall at the western side. The fibula was found, again at the foot of a collapsed earth-and-stone wall. In july '95 I found a small fragment of very dark blue glass, only partly opaque, almost like Egyptian glass, a part of a handle of some sort of jar, vase or drinking-glass, with grooves on it, near the southwest corner of the palace.

To the north-northwest, about 20 meters from the corner of the building, at the other side of a stone wall that cuts square through the terrasses and ends them, lies on the rock-floor s true garbage-heap of pottery-shards. It is here that the first stamp was found: a very clear stamp of the first type by the producer or eponym FILOXENOS. This stamp is not in my possession and not included in this catalogue.