

## HELLENISTIC SETTLEMENT II

HS II is an area, about a mile north of the palace (HS I). It contains two separate buildings, which have been dug inside the rock-floor: site 1. (see detailed sketch) and also the terraces right under site 1, the fields and the cliff-area to the north: respectively sites 2., 4. and 3. One of the buildings of site 1 (HS IIa), which lie on a high plane, overlooking a valley, with a still deeper, wide cleft, appears to have been a house, but it is much smaller than the palace: HS I; (about 10-15m, and 1,5 m deep at the western wall) although the construction with the floor beneath the surface is obviously Hellenistic.

The second construction (HS IIb) is a deep and rectangular trench, maybe 5-10 meters, going almost in north-south-direction, and over 2 meters deep. A stairway of 8 steps is leading down on the left side of the southern wall. In the right-hand side of the same wall, three broad, but flat and rather shallow niches have been chipped out in a vertical row. The purpose of these is unclear to me. The first impression is that they served to support beams, but on the opposite side no corresponding places of support exist. In the trench, on a place two-third from the northern wall, lies a boulder, that at one time came loose from the eastern wall. The walls are plastered with a layer of chalk, containing many tiny stones. In my view this building must have been some sort of storage-place, or a bath. Site 1. so far, yielded no pottery-stamps, although there is a scattering of shards.

Both buildings are situated on top of a not too steep, terraced cliff. Mainly on the middle terraces, half-way to the crest of the cliff, many pot-shards can be found (site 2). Where stone walls have collapsed, one can see layer on layer of shards. It is here that many of the early numbered stamps of the HS II-catalogue were found.

The position of the actual buildings, above a cultivated valley, about a mile from HS I, seems to suggest that these buildings were extensions from the palace. Connections are suggested by findings of corresponding pottery-stamps, among which a clear LYKINOS-stamp of the HS I 3B-type, (see HS II 9Aa in the catalogue) Perhaps from the later period of the palace. At the eastern part of site 4. I also saw 2 DEXIKRATES-stamps, one of them which was very clear that I photographed in 1998 (see\*\*\* at the catalogue), but left at the site (site 4) . This site is a fairly wide area, gradually sloping east-west, with some stone walls, mainly running about north-south. The presence of shards is clear, but not densely so. Still, I believe, the actual settlement (or rather more than one) may have been there. In the middle of this area a small house has been built since 2005, with a surrounding iron fence, right at the edge of the line where parts of an original floor seems to be visible. (a place where the rock-floor has been flattened) Near this place I saw some vague MAES and SOSTRATOS-stamps in 2009.

Along the cliffs at the western side, many damaged APOLLONIOS-stamps, type 2B can be found (I have seen at least six). However, they totally lack at the western side. There one usually encounters the names of MAEYS and DIONOS, and one very sharp round Appollonios-stamp with a small rose in the centre ( type 2B). Of these three names I have seen about five or six very vague or fragmentary ones through the years. Maybe at one point in time, the settlement moved east or west, so showing the order in which

certain potters were active.

Scattered all over this site are many loose mosaic-stones, like the ones in the floor of HS I. On a stone-heap, somewhere in the middle of the site, I saw a loose piece of mosaic-floor with several stones cemented together. These stones and the bigger piece may originate from HS II a and/or b (although I have seen no remains there) but also from another place, which still may lie buried somewhere at site 4.

Near the eastern edge of this site, west of the dirt-track and south-west of site 2 I found a small late-roman bronze coin in June 2002. Also I found many shards and tools of obsidian mesolithic source on site 4 in that same year. In 2005 I found a bronze clothing needle. A corresponding piece with a round knob I found in 2009.

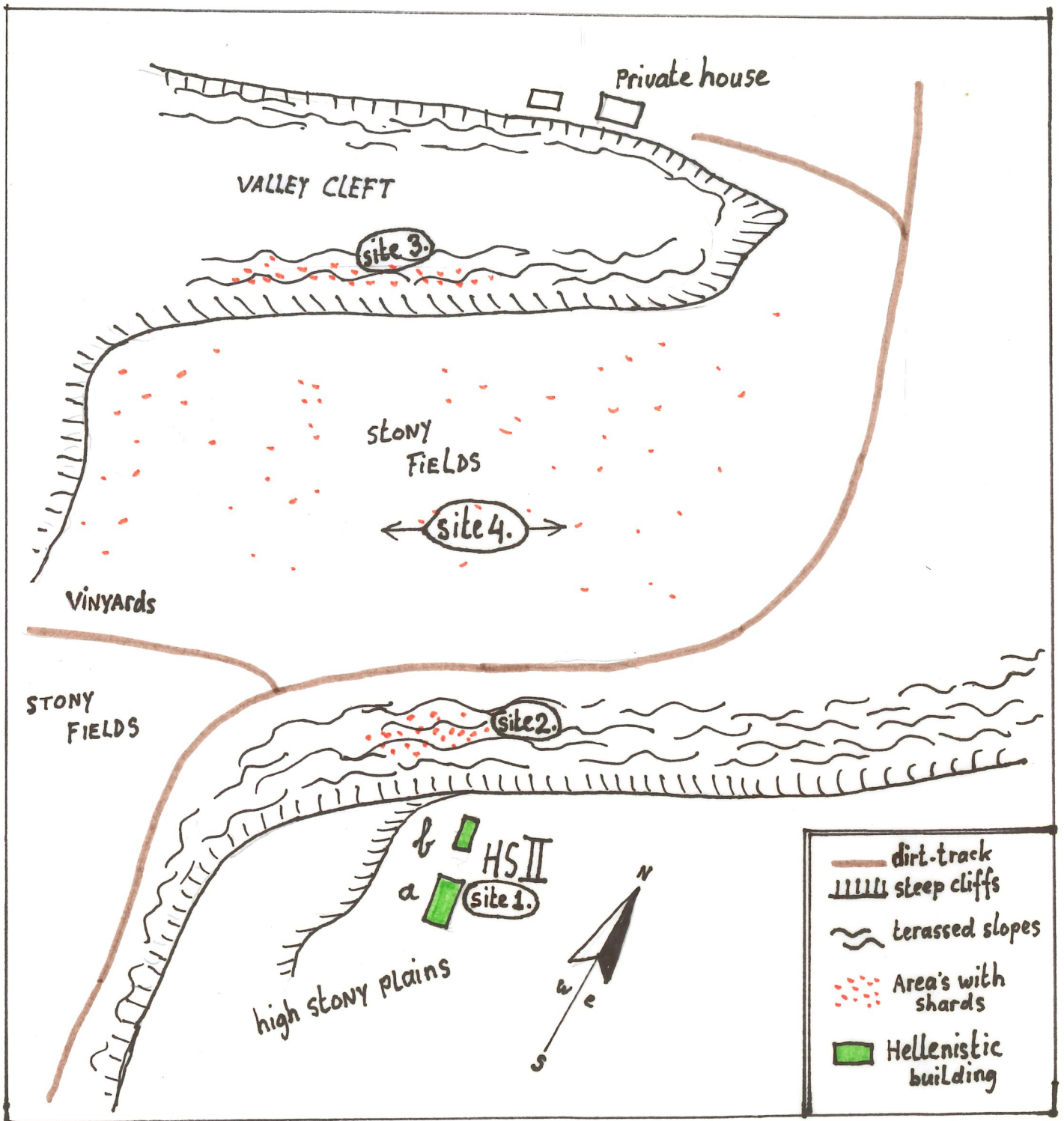
Present at site 4 are many pieces of a kiln, together with many pottery-failures, some of which are clearly parts of amphora's. Green, melted and spongy parts, that give evidence of amphora-making activity at or about this site. There were potters working here once, just like at HS I. Whether they left their names on amphora's, I do not know. Walking over the fields there, very early one morning, a suggestion dawned to me: maybe apart from examining the clay, one could compare fingerprints on failures with those on stamped fragments! Many of the finer examples still bear the prints of the potters.

The fact that so little names from HS II coincide with those found at HSI, one may presume that HS II used a different harbour, and/or may have been built in a later period; a period in which LYKINOS and DEXIKRATES were active, as the presence of their stamps at both sites are proven.

The southern cliffs if the valley-cleft produced another concentration of shards (site 3.) There has been some digging activity there in 2003. Maybe some building is planned here, but in 2009 nothing like that has happened. The shards came from the walls and terraced floors of this site 3. Again, at some places, shard upon shard can be seen sticking out of the wall; shards of amphora's, bowls and pots, till quite far towards the bottom. This site several stamps. However, the flat area's where one can search are small, but many more fine stamps should be present in the walls and under the floor of the neighbouring site 4.

A note must again be made about the connections between Rodos and Karpathos: It may very well be possible that both (neighbouring) islands, at the Hellenistic period, formed a unity, or Karpathos was a colony of Rodos, with Rodian eponyms having potters at work on Karpathos. In that case, some of the stamps with a rose or with the head of Helios could have been produced in the Lefkós-vicinity. It might also be possible that Karpathian land-owners in need of a potter, recruited one from Rhodes, hence the similarities in style, even the clay could be imported. I realise these possibilities are hypothetical, and very hard to proof, but there is the ATTINAS-evidence of HS I, and the fact that at least some other names as well are so far totally unknown in the scientific record: like FILOXENOS and XAIRIOS.

An official article about the finds in this catalogue might be a tremendous help in getting some university, perhaps in America interested in doing excavations. Till now the sites are open and attractive sites for souvenir-hunters. One thing is for sure: somebody there ordered pots and amphora's, and someone else made them. And both parties lived somewhere at Lefkós, Karpathos. See also the photographs of Evidence 3, a broken and melted handle (the straight part) from an amphora. Obviously discarded.



More detailed sketch of

HS II

and surroundings