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SANIDHA - MOUTTI TOU AYIOU SERKOU:
A LATE BRONZE AGE SITE IN THE TROODOS FOOTHILLS
(PLATES III-VI)

INTRODUCTION

The small village of Sanidha in Limassol District lies in the southern foothills of the Troodos Mountains, near the eastern end of the range, ca. 11 km. north of the southern coast of the island (Fig. 1). From the archaeological point of view the area is unknown; Catling¹ reports the existence of a few Bronze Age settlements and cemeteries in the coastal region in the vicinity of Pyrgos and Moni villages, and a Middle Bronze Age cemetery near Ephtagonia ca. 5 km. NW of Sanidha. No sites have been reported in the Sanidha area, and a glance at the maps accompanying Catling's valuable article immediately shows the paucity of known sites all along the southern Troodos foothill region. It was therefore of considerable interest to learn of the existence of White Slip sherds in the vicinity of Sanidha². Although the artifacts collected by the writer during an extensive surface survey of the site remain to be analysed in detail, the significance of the site is such that it merits a prompt, if brief and distinctly preliminary, publication.

THE SITE

The locality *Moutti tou Ayiou Serkou* lies at an elevation of ca. 520m., 1.15 km. NE of the centre of Sanidha village (elevation ca. 645m). (Fig. 2)³. It is reached from the village by a track which starts at the SE edge of the village from the Asgata road near the Telephone Call Box, and which descends quite steeply until it becomes more level when it approaches the area of the site. White Slip sherds are to be found over an area measuring ca. 675m. (ENEWSW) x 325m. (NW-SE), but further survey might indicate the existence of additional outlying scatters; the area of the site may be provisionally set at ca. 20 hectares.

The topography of the site area is very varied, comprising flat arable fields (sometimes terraced), cultivated slopes and moderately steep eroded, nowadays uncultivated, slopes. Several small seasonal stream beds with quite steeply sloping sides bisect parts of the area. The densest concentration

1. H. W. Catling, "Patterns of Settlement in Bronze Age Cyprus", *OpAth* 4 (1962), EBA sites 114 and 141; MBA sites 55 and 129; LBA sites 186-187.
2. The writer is most grateful to Mr. Ph. Michaelides and family, residents of Vasa village, for drawing the attention of the directors of the Vasilikos Valley Project and the Kalavassos *Kopetra* excavations to the existence of Late Bronze Age ceramics near Sanidha in August 1988. They kindly showed the location of the site to Murray McClellan, Marcus and Sue Rautman, Alison South and the writer on 13th August, 1988. The writer undertook a detailed survey of the site area from the 19th to 24th September, 1988. This article constitutes a preliminary report on that survey; the ceramics and other artifacts collected have only been examined, and a full study of the material remains to be undertaken. The artifact photographs accompanying this report are by Alison South to whom the writer is also indebted. Further details of the site and the material found will be published in the Vasilikos Valley Project volumes covering the field survey of the Vasilikos valley (*Vasilikos Valley Project 9-10: The Field Survey of the Vasilikos Valley I-II* to be published in *SIMA*).
3. Map references:
1:5,000 Topographical Series, Sheet 48/XXXII (available as sunprint only in August 1988): (36SWD) 184525 (Plot 120).
Cadastral Plan: Sheet XLVIII. 56. Plot 120 and adjacent area (named *Mutti tou Ayiou Serkou*).

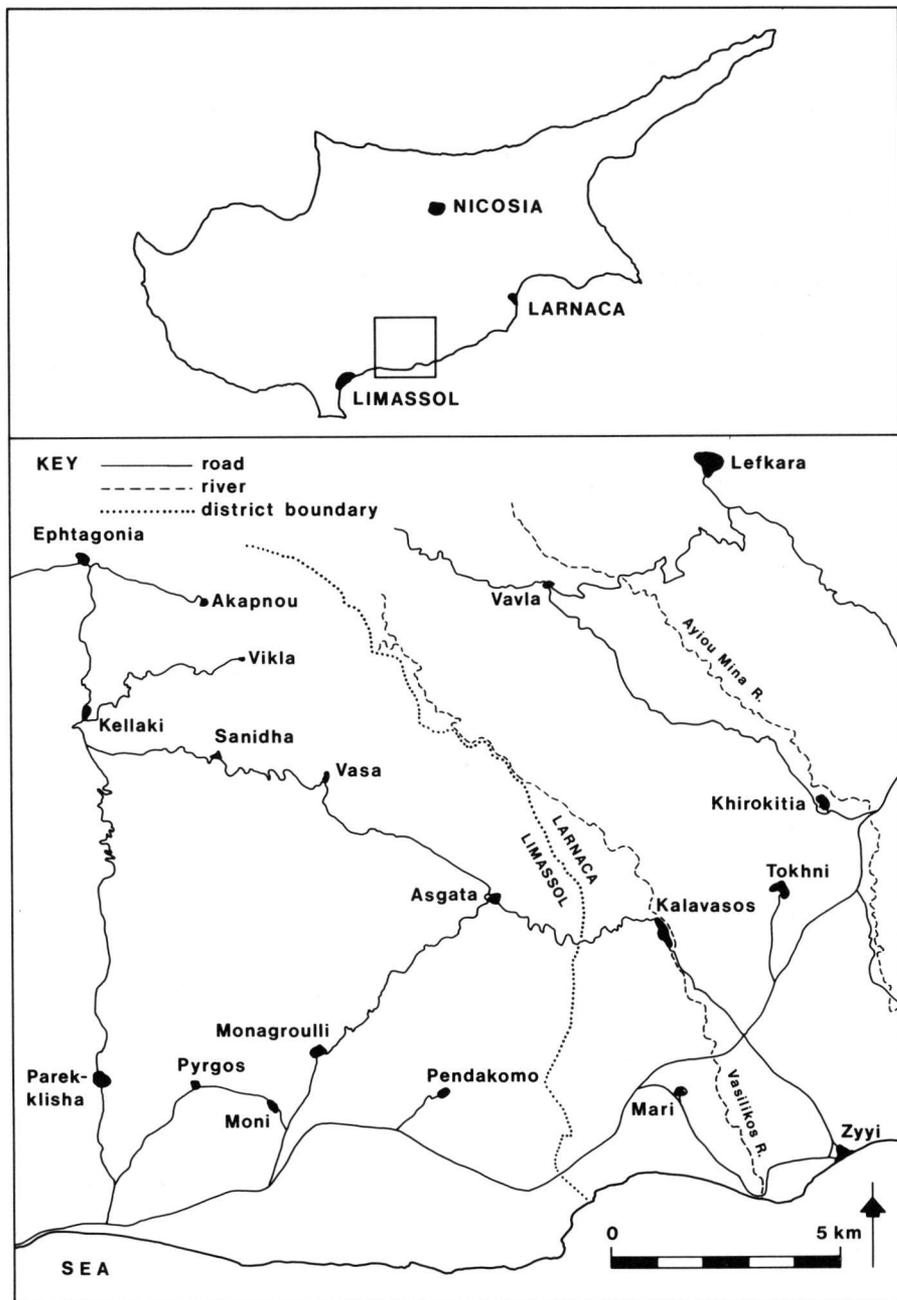


Fig. 1 Map showing the location of Sanidha village.

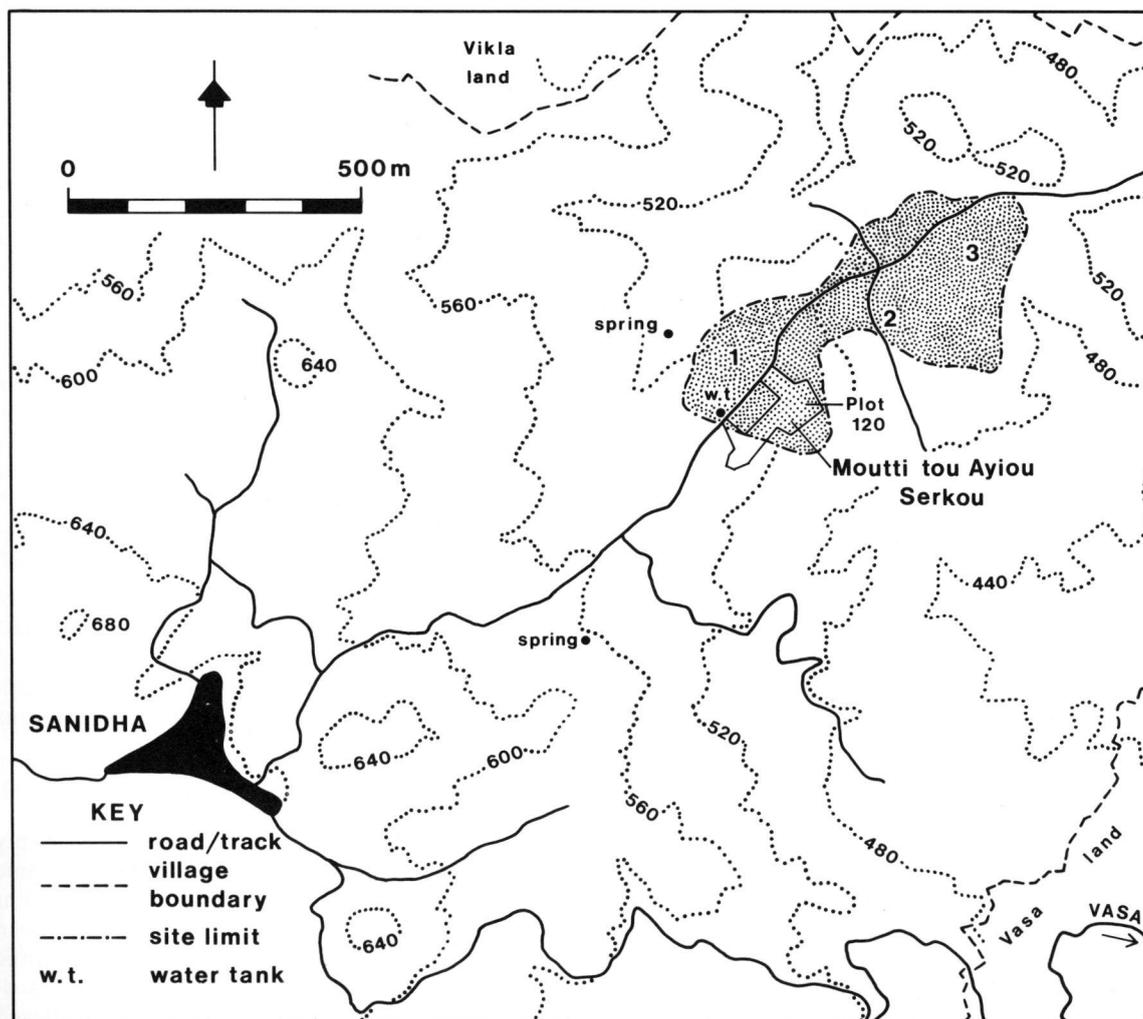


Fig. 2 Topographical map of the Sanidha *Moutti tou Ayiou Serkou* region. The site area is stippled. Contours are in metres. Key to other localities (numbered) within site area: 1) Skalaes; 2) Photinaes; 3) Khartsin tou Rinou. After the sunprint of the 1:5,000 Topographical Series map, Sheet 48/XXXII, of the Department of Lands and Surveys with the sanction of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. State copyright reserved.

of White Slip sherds occurs in Plot 120, a flattish saddle between two small but prominent hills (pl. IIIa). The terrain slopes down moderately steeply from the saddle to the SE. To the NW of Plot 120 the ground slopes downwards more gently. There is a fine view from the saddle south-eastwards over the area of Vasa village (pl. IIIb), and the site is overlooked by the eminence on which Sanidha is located. The saddle and the lower east side of the site are clearly visible from the Vasa-Sanidha road (pl. IIIa).

The vegetable in the different sectors of the site is as varied as the topography. Parts of the site area are terraced; olive trees occur widely together with lesser numbers of carob trees, and cereals are grown on many plots. Elsewhere there are stands of pine trees, and some unused plots are covered with dense, hostile, thorny vegetation which almost precludes examination of the ground surface. A small grove of almond and citrus trees and a melon growing area occur within the site boundaries, and vines are also grown in the near vicinity of the site. The area appears to be well watered although the exact location of the water supply in antiquity is uncertain. There is a modern concrete water tank adjacent to the saddle, but this is fed by a pipe from higher up towards Sanidha village. A spring is marked on the Cadastral Plan close to the SW end of the site (on the west side of Plot 70), and water is still obtained here by pumping. The region around Sanidha is indicated as an area of plutonic rocks with frequent springs on the *Hydrogeological Map of Cyprus* (Geological Survey Dept., Nicosia, 1970), and it may not be coincidental that the site is located in one of only two comparatively small areas of the island so designated (the other area being the uppermost regions of Troodos). The average annual precipitation is 500-550mm⁴. Geologically speaking the Sanidha area is predominantly Uralitic-gabbro, with small occurrences of Trondhjemites, Granophyres, Microgranodiorites and areas where Pyroxenites are dominant⁵.

The present condition of the site is comparatively undamaged, apart from the terracing of some plots in the distant past, a small amount of recent terracing and regular ploughing. The ground surface of parts of Plot 120 has recently been disturbed by the removal by machine of a thin layer of topsoil which has been heaped around the bases of the olive trees. This may account for the greater density of artifacts noted in this part of the site. The dirt track from Sanidha runs through the site, and sherds were frequently noted embedded in it.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE SITE

The earliest occupation or utilization of the site pre-dates the Late Bronze Age, and is probably to be ascribed to the Middle Bronze Age on the evidence of small amounts of hand made monochrome wares (probably belonging to the general Red Polished category) found in Plot 115 and the adjacent area of 116 right at the SW end of the site area shown in Fig. 2. The site seems to have been small at this time. The very large Late Bronze Age component of the site may be dated on ceramic evidence to LC II, probably LC IIB (1400-1325 B.C.), perhaps a century earlier than the Kalavassos-Ayios Dhimitrios settlement⁶. No evidence was found for utilization of the site in LC I. Scattered

4. *Average Annual Precipitation Map (1941-70) of Cyprus*, Meteorological Service, Nicosia (1972).

5. Map accompanying T.M. Pantazis, *The Geology and Mineral Resources of the Pharmakas-Kalavassos Area*, Nicosia (1967).

6. The writer is most grateful to Dr. Pamela Russell who provided this information following a brief examination of the ceramics in November 1988. For the latest preliminary report on the Kalavassos Ayios Dhimitrios excavations see A. South, "Kalavassos Ayios Dhimitrios 1987: an important Ceramic Group from Building X", *RDAC* (1988), 223-228 with references to previous publications. For the first volume of the final excavation report, which includes discussion of the ceramics from several areas of the site, see A. South, P. Russell and P. S. Keswani, *Vasilikos Valley Project 3: Kalavassos-Ayios Dhimitrios II. Ceramics, Objects, Tombs, Specialist Studies*, Göteborg (1989).

Archaic sherds and one black glazed sherd were found, but the next major period of occupation of part of the site dates to the Late Roman period (5th century A.D.)⁷; The settlement of this phase was not as large as the Late Bronze Age site, but the surface of some plots is very densely covered with ceramics (fine wares and pithos sherds), roof tile fragments and other artifacts and debris of this date. A few post-Mediaeval glazed sherds were also found on the site.

SURFACE SURVEY OF THE SITE

The surface survey was conducted by the writer in accordance with the plots marked on the Cadastral Plan (Sheet XLVIII. 56). The survey commenced with examination of Plot 120 where Slip sherds were initially found by the Michaelides family; in view of the very large quantity of sherds still remaining in this plot, the main part of the plot was divided into five contiguous strips (A-E), A-D measuring 15m. in width and E 25m. wide. A considerable quantity of the best preserved White Slip sherds had already been collected prior to the survey. Nevertheless, the remaining quantities of White Slip and other related types of sherds were very large, and the sherd density here is greater than on at least most of the other plots within the boundaries of the site. This density may result from the recent disturbance of the field surface and the removal of some of the topsoil. Similar disturbance of the surface of other plots might also reveal the presence of the same quantities of artifacts elsewhere on the site. A thorough, representative collection of artifacts was made from Plot 120, but complete collection was not attempted.

Following completion of the survey of Plot 120, the adjacent area was methodically covered plot by plot until sherds became too sparse to indicate the continuation of the site. Notes were made on each individual plot, and most plots were also collected individually. Large plots were usually subdivided into separate units and artifacts were collected accordingly. As the size of the Late Bronze Age site became apparent, shortage of time and lack of assistance necessitated that the quantity of artifacts collected be reduced, and in the final stages of the survey only the best preserved or more unusual sherds were retrieved. A full statistical analysis of the density of artifacts on the surface of the various plots cannot, therefore, be made from the material collected, but a further more labour-intensive and longer-lasting survey might reveal meaningful artifact distributions which were not apparent to the writer.

Details of the various plots and the artifacts found will be published in the Vasilikos Valley field survey volumes, and it will suffice here to state that the Late Bronze Age site covers the following plots: 70, 97 (E side), 99, 102, 103 (N half), 104, 110 (S half), 111 (S half), 112-113, 114 (NE end), 115 (NE tongue and NW part of main plot), 116 (N end), 119-121, 122? (vegetation too dense to survey properly), 123-124, 526, 536, 537, 538 (E half) and 539 (S side). Artifacts of the Late Roman period occur in many plots, but the densest concentration, including pithos sherds and roof tile fragments, was located in plots 70 (SE part), 110, 111 (SW end), 112-113, 114 (NE end) and 123-124, to the north of Plot 120. The locality name *Moutti tou Ayiou Serkou* was chosen for the site since that is the designation for Plot 120 and the adjacent area; however, by the end of the survey it was seen that the site also covered much of the localities Khartsin tou Rinou, Photinaes and Skalaes named on the Cadastral Plan.

ARTIFACTS OF THE LATE BRONZE AGE

1. *Ceramics*

The quantities of Late Bronze Age sherds observed on the surface of the various plots varied

7. The Roman component of the site was kindly dated by Dr. Marcus Rautman.

considerably. Comparatively few sherds could usually be seen in plots covered with dense vegetation and those covered with a very heavy Late Roman overlay. However, the unreliability of surface indications is shown by the occurrence below (south of) Plot 536, at the NE end of the site in a vegetation-covered but eroded area, of a concentration of White Slip sherds with 40-50 per square metre. Without the erosion of this area, surface sherds would have been far less numerous. Even in plots with dense surface coverage of Late Roman artifacts and debris, a scatter of White Slip sherds was usually encountered. In Plot 120, the surface of which has recently been disturbed, the quantities of White Slip sherds are very large indeed, and it was possible to observe 50 or more sherds within a circle with a diameter of ca. 2m., and this after the best preserved White Slip sherds had already been collected on previous occasions. The density of sherds here is far greater than that seen by the writer on the surface of any other Late Bronze Age site in Cyprus, and contrasts markedly with the paucity of Late Bronze Age fine wares on the surface of Kalavassos *Ayios Dhimitrios*. The sherds are all comparatively small, and complete vessels or complete profiles were not found.

The most surprising aspect of the Late Bronze Age ceramics at the Sanidha site concerns the proportions in which the various wares occur. The predominant ware is White Slip; several thousand sherds were collected, and many more remain on the site. The next most numerous category comprises sherds of a ware which is the same as White Slip but without any traces of slip on either face. Very few Base Ring sherds were found; all sherds of this ware were collected, but the yield from the entire site only amounted to less than 25. No Mycenaean sherds at all were found, and no definitely Late Bronze Age pithos sherds. The only pithos sherds noted on the site were either of clear Late Roman type, or of types which do not resemble the pithoi from *Ayios Dhimitrios*. Sherds of the less common Late Bronze Age wares were also absent from the site. While it is possible that some sherds of the coarser monochrome Late Bronze Age wares were not recognized, especially if they were abraded and in poor condition, and perhaps found mixed with later ceramic types, these could not form a major component of the ceramic repertoire at Sanidha.

According to a brief examination of the ceramics by Pamela Russell, the White Slip material is classic White Slip II, and she dated the White Slip material to LC II, probably LC IIB; no White Slip I sherds were found on the site. Red cores are more frequent in the Sanidha White Slip sherds than in those from *Ayios Dhimitrios*, and the variety of shapes at Sanidha is greater than in the *Ayios Dhimitrios* settlement. The most frequently occurring shape is the hemispherical bowl with wishbone handle (pl. IVa and some in IVb), but there are also a number of tankard and krater rims, flattened and everted bowl rims, lug and loop handles and other unusual shapes (pl. IVb and Vb). The painted decoration varies in standard of execution from careful, neatly painted lines to extremely sloppy and careless workmanship. The White Slip is often quite thick, and it was applied thickly enough to cover considerable unevennesses in the underlying surface. The condition of the sherds also varies from those with both faces well preserved to sherds on which only limited traces of white slip remain, the original surfaces of both faces having been lost through abrasion. The writer's experience at Sanidha and in the Vasilikos valley has enabled him to recognize White Slip sherds which have lost almost all of their slip, and it seems clear that the ceramic type described above as the same ware as that of White Slip but without the slip represents a different category and not just abraded White Slip sherds. A small number of wasters, complete with slip and painted decoration, was also found on the site, deformed in firing to the extent that they would presumably not have been usable (pl. Va). One pair of bowl sherds was found with the sherds firmly adhering to each other as if the bowls had been stacked one inside the other during firing, and which could not subsequently be separated. Another small White Slip sherd was found with burnt clay firmly adhering to its exterior face.

Sherds of the ware which is the same as that of White Slip but with both faces unslipped occur frequently on the site in the same areas as true White Slip sherds; they are not as numerous as White Slip sherds, but they still form a substantial proportion of the Late Bronze Age ceramic collection. The shapes are the same as those of the White Slip vessels. Their surfaces are somewhat rough with frequent narrow linear grooves which may have been intended to assist in the adherence of the slip which was to be applied subsequently. Sherds of this type have not been found at Kalavassos *Ayios Dhimitrios*, and their existence may be taken to indicate at least the slipping of the vessels at the Sanidha site.

2. Stone Artifacts

A small amount of chipped stone material was noted on the site, mainly in the form of flakes and the occasional amorphous lump of chert. Well formed implements were not encountered. Ground stone implements and fragments thereof occurred only in small quantities, comprising querns of varying size and the occasional grinding stone. While some of these probably date to the Late Bronze Age, at least one of the quern fragments was found in association with Middle Bronze Age ceramics (in Plot 116) and probably dates to this earlier period. No noticeable concentrations of ground stone artifacts occurred anywhere on the site. One very large complete saddle quern was noted (but left *in situ*) in Plot 124 in the centre of the site, under a carob tree beside the track, no longer in its original location.

3. Other artifacts

One small desurfaced pierced clay weight, only half preserved, was found in the NW part of Plot 120. Two small fragments of slag or slag-like material were found in different parts of the site; these may well date to the Late Roman phase of occupation of the site, and there is no evidence at all for any extensive Late Bronze Age metallurgical activity.

4. Clay "Bricks"

Fragments of clay "bricks" (pl. VIa-b) containing small to medium sized pebbles and with numerous impressions of vegetable matter on their exteriors occurred in a number of plots, especially in the disturbed area of Plot 120 where they appeared to be clearly associated with numerous White Slip sherds. The "bricks" have a rough but quite flat bottom, and an intentionally smoothed upper surface. In shape they resemble plano-convex bricks used at widely different times in the ancient Near East (e.g. PPNA Jericho and Early Dynastic Mesopotamia); in cross section they are seen to have a curved top, and the sides may be fairly vertical or completely curved. The tops are also curved when seen in longwise section although the central portion of the top may be fairly flat with pronounced curvature only at and near the end. In plan the "bricks" are of an elongated oval shape.

No complete "bricks" were found; the longest fragment retrieved measured ca. 15cm. suggesting that the length of a complete brick might have been ca. 30cm. Another fragment which seemed that it might be virtually complete as to its length measured only ca. 20cm. long, tending to indicate that there may have been a variety of "brick" sizes. Two of the more complete fragments of larger bricks measured 8.5 and 9cm. in height and 12.5 and 14cm. in width at the base at their broken sections. The surface colour varies from dark grey through medium brown to light orange, and some "bricks" with a dark exterior have a pink core. Perhaps the most important feature of the "bricks" is that they usually display abundant evidence of firing or burning, and some of the more thoroughly baked examples could safely be washed in water without any damage.

The "bricks" do not occur in very large numbers anywhere on the site, but they are most numerous in the recently disturbed parts of Plot 120. Once again surface distribution may not

be an accurate guide to sub-soil occurrence. The purpose of these "bricks" is unknown, but the available evidence suggests that they served some function which rendered them liable to a high degree of burning. The most likely explanation at present is that they were used in the construction of kilns or ovens, but excavation would be needed to resolve this problem.

INTERPRETATION OF THE NATURE OF THE SITE IN THE LATE BRONZE AGE

The salient features revealed by the survey relevant to the nature of the site in the Late Bronze Age are as follows:

1. White Slip sherds occur in very large quantities on the site and the surface ceramics are overwhelmingly of White Slip type to the virtual exclusion of other Late Bronze Age wares. Such a distribution pattern does not resemble that of a settlement site.
2. The occurrence of considerable quantities of sherds which resemble White Slip in shape and ware but which have no White Slip suggests that vessels were at least being slipped at the site. Their absence at a settlement such as Kalavassos *Ayios Dhimitrios* may be highly significant in this regard.
3. There is no evidence to suggest a metallurgical significance of the site, and the location would in itself seem to be unsuitable for such a purpose in view of the lack of nearby significant metallurgical resources.
4. The site area is large, but it has no obvious strategic importance and it is not on an important route; this lack of strategic importance suggests that the site was located for a special function, and the large size implies that the main activity on the site was undertaken on a considerable scale, if not for a long period of time.
5. The occurrence of numerous fragments of fired or burnt "bricks" indicates that the firing of some material may have formed part of this special function. This idea is reinforced by the abundant timber resources which must have been available in the site area.

On the assumption that the site was located for a specialized purpose, various possibilities may be examined. The agricultural potential of the area is somewhat limited and agriculture can scarcely have provided the *raison d'être* for the location. An industrial purpose seems most likely. Metallurgy appears to be ruled out for the reasons cited above⁸. The small number and very limited repertoire of ground stone artifacts do not suggest that these artifact types were important to the main activity being undertaken at the site or that they were manufactured there. On the other hand the quantities of White Slip pottery, the lack of other standard Late Bronze Age ceramic wares and the evidence for the firing of some material all point to ceramic manufacture as the major function of the site. The area was rich in timber for fuel, and was probably well supplied with water. The location of any nearby clay beds remains to be ascertained, and the nearest published clay source known to the writer is that mentioned by Bear⁹ "half a mile south of Kellaki village" adjacent to the Kellaki-Limassol road, used for the manufacture of gabbro and diabase. Analysis of the clay indicates that it is composed primarily of montmorillonite with very little kaolin and mica and a trace of thuringite (similar in structure and composition to chlorite)¹⁰.

8. The only reference to the occurrence of significant metallic minerals in the Sanidha area known to the writer is that by Bear (*infra* n. 9, 105, 117--118) concerning chromite deposits in the Vasa-Sanidha-Vikla region).

9. L. M. Bear, "The Mineral Resources and Mining Industry of Cyprus", *Bulletin of the Geological Survey Department* 1 (1963), 144-145.

10. *ibid.* Table 53.

In their technical studies of White Slip ware¹¹, Courtois and Velde isolate the piedmont and mountainous regions of Troodos as the area of manufacture of at least much of the White Slip ceramics, especially White Slip II. In her earlier report Courtois specifically mentions the central Troodos and the Kellaki region (ca. 3 km. WNW of Sanidha) with reference to a type of core which includes fragments of ultrabasic rock (serpentinized olivine-gabbro). Pantazis¹² states that the largest occurrence of gabbros in this region (including olivine-gabbro) is an elongated outcrop extending from Dhieron in the west to SE of Sanidha. Analyses of the core temper of four White Slip II sherds indicated the presence of amphibole, clinopyroxene, calcic feldspar, quartz, tremolite and fragments of intrusive (plutonic) rocks. Pantazis' report indicates that all of these minerals are to be found in varying quantities in the general area of Sanidha. Turning to the analyses by Courtois and Velde of the slip clay type of White Slip II sherds, chlorite was found to be the main constituent. Again according to the report by Pantazis, the occurrence of chlorite is frequently mentioned with reference to the rocks which comprise the Troodos igneous complex, but it is unclear to the writer whether large enough deposits of chlorite exist in the Sanidha area to supply the needs of the Late Bronze Age potters. Analyses of the slip temper of White Slip II sherds indicated the use of quartz and calcic feldspar, both of which were also used as core temper and are available in the region. It therefore seems that all of the minerals necessary for the manufacture of White Slip II pottery were probably available comparatively locally in the vicinity of the Sanidha site, but it remains to be determined whether the local availability of one particular mineral dictated the choice of the location of the site. Detailed geological investigation of the site area from the archaeological point of view remains to be undertaken in conjunction with a ceramic technologist.

Little is known of the methods and processes involved in the manufacture of White Slip ware since relevant evidence has not been found on excavated sites to date. In view of the amount of excavation undertaken at the major Late Bronze Age centres of Cyprus, this in itself suggests that the manufacture of White Slip ware may have been carried out predominantly at sites such as Sanidha in the mountains or foothills of Troodos rather than at the large urban centres in the coastal region. If the interpretation of the nature of the Sanidha site presented here is correct, the ceramic evidence, although based solely on surface survey, does provide some additional information concerning the manufacture of White Slip II vessels.

It is a reasonable assumption that the wares of White Slip type at Sanidha but which lacked the white slip were destined to be slipped, and this would seem to be supported by the lack of such wares at the settlement of Kalavassos *Ayios Dhimitrios* and probably other settlement sites. It therefore seems clear that White Slip vessels must have been fired twice, both before and after being slipped and painted. No unslipped wasters were found at Sanidha, but a small number of slipped and painted wasters did occur. The number of wasters is smaller than that which might be expected at a site where White Slip vessels were fired, but the value of this observation, based only on surface collection, is uncertain. It is possible that the unslipped core vessels were made in one place, fired and then transported to another location for slipping and painting, although this would seem unlikely unless all of the required materials for both stages could not, for some reason, be assembled at the same manufacturing centre. The observation by Courtois and Velde¹³ that variations occur in the core material which seem to be independent of the slip might also be taken to indicate the possibility of different locales for the initial

11. L. Courtois, "Note préliminaire sur l'Origine des différentes Fabriques de la Poterie du Chypriote Récent", *RDAC* (1970), 81-85; L. Courtois and B. Velde, "Petrographic and Electron Microprobe Studies of Cypriot White Slip Ware (Late Bronze Age)", *Revue d'Archéométrie* 3 (1980), 37-43.
12. Pantazis (*supra* n. 5), 94.
13. Courtois and Velde (*supra* n. 11), 38.

manufacture and subsequent slipping of the vessels although such variation can clearly be interpreted in different ways.

In summary it may be stated that, on the evidence of unstratified surface sherds, the Late Bronze Age component of the site at Sanidha *Moutti tou Ayiou Serkou* probably represents a White Slip II manufacturing centre at which vessels were slipped, painted and fired even if the core vessels were not initially made there. The site was first occupied in the Middle Bronze Age, but the lack of Proto White Slip and White Slip I wares suggests that the site was not a ceramic centre in the earlier part of the Late Bronze Age. Only in Late Cypriot II did it come to serve this function. All available evidence indicates that it was large, but that it was also short lived; the reasons for its abandonment are unknown. In the Late Roman period the surface remains indicate the existence of a small settlement which covered a far smaller area than that previously utilized in the Late Bronze Age. Following the Late Roman occupation the site must have reverted to agricultural use, and this has persisted until the present day.

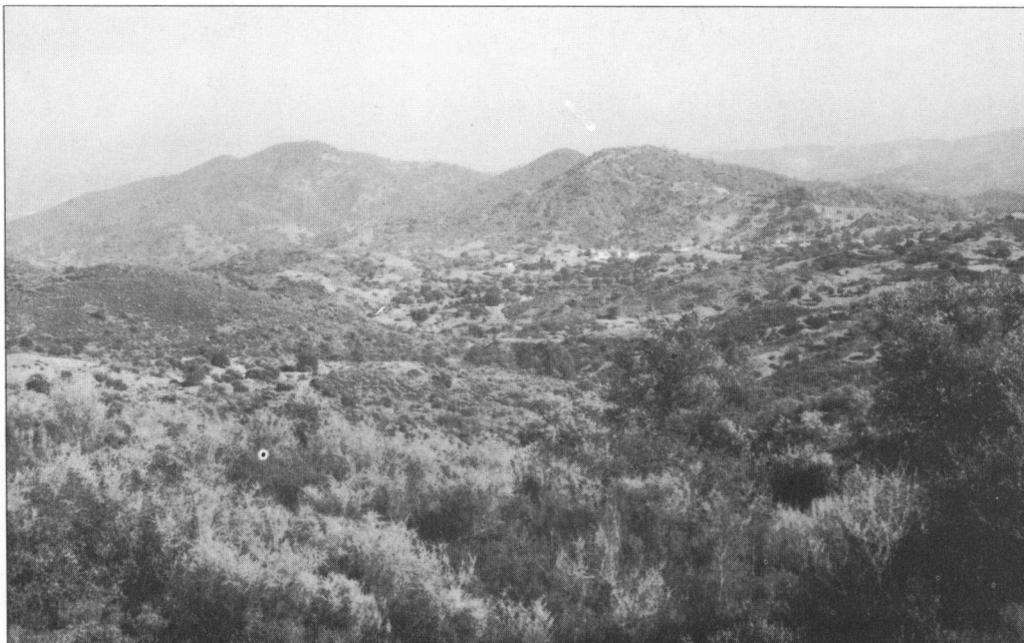
Dr. Ian A. Todd
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ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

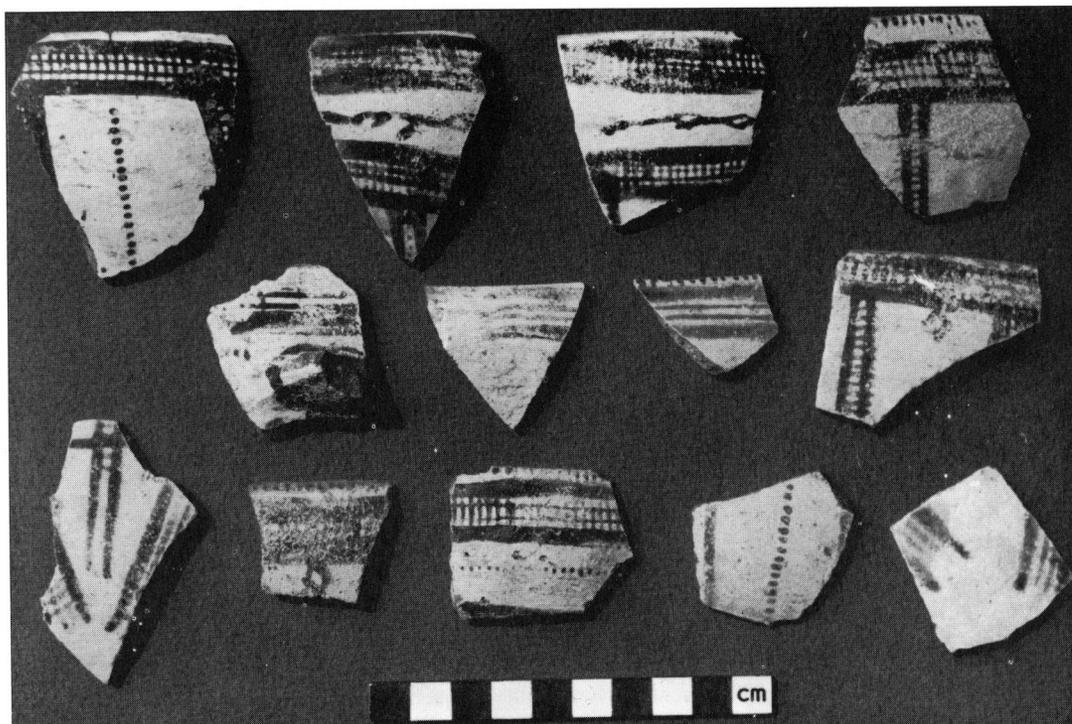
Από επισκόπηση στην περιοχή Μούττη του Αγίου Σέρκου του χωριού Σανίδα μπορούμε να υποστηρίξουμε, βασισμένοι σε επιφανειακά όστρακα, πως αυτή αντιπροσωπεύει κέντρο αγγειοπλαστικής του τύπου White Slip II. Στο κέντρο αυτό τα αγγεία, που είτε γίνονταν εδώ είτε όχι, καλύπτονται με λευκωπό επίχρισμα, ζωγραφίζονται και ψήνονται σε καμίνια. Τα πρώτα κατάλοιπα του οικισμού ανάγονται στη Μέση Εποχή του Χαλκού, η απουσία όμως αγγείων του τύπου Proto White Slip και White Slip I συνηγορεί πως αυτός δεν ήταν κέντρο αγγειοπλαστικής στα πρώιμα χρόνια της Ύστερης Χαλκοκρατίας. Μόνο στην Ύστερο-Κυπριακή II περίοδο γίνεται τέτοιο κέντρο. Όλες οι υπάρχουσες μαρτυρίες δείχνουν ότι ήταν μεγάλος οικισμός, αλλά η διάρκεια ζωής του λιγότερη. Οι λόγοι εγκατάλειψής του δεν είναι γνωστοί. Στην Ύστερη Ρωμαϊκή περίοδο, επιφανειακά ευρήματα μαρτυρούν την ύπαρξη μικρού οικισμού, πολύ μικρότερου από αυτόν της Ύστερης Χαλκοκρατίας. Μετά τη Ρωμαϊκή περίοδο η περιοχή χρησιμοποιήθηκε για γεωργικούς σκοπούς και αυτό συμβαίνει μέχρι τις μέρες μας.



a. Sanidha *Moutti tou Ayiou Serkou* from the Vasa-Sanidha road, from the SSE. Plot 120 lies below the arrow to the left of the small hill.



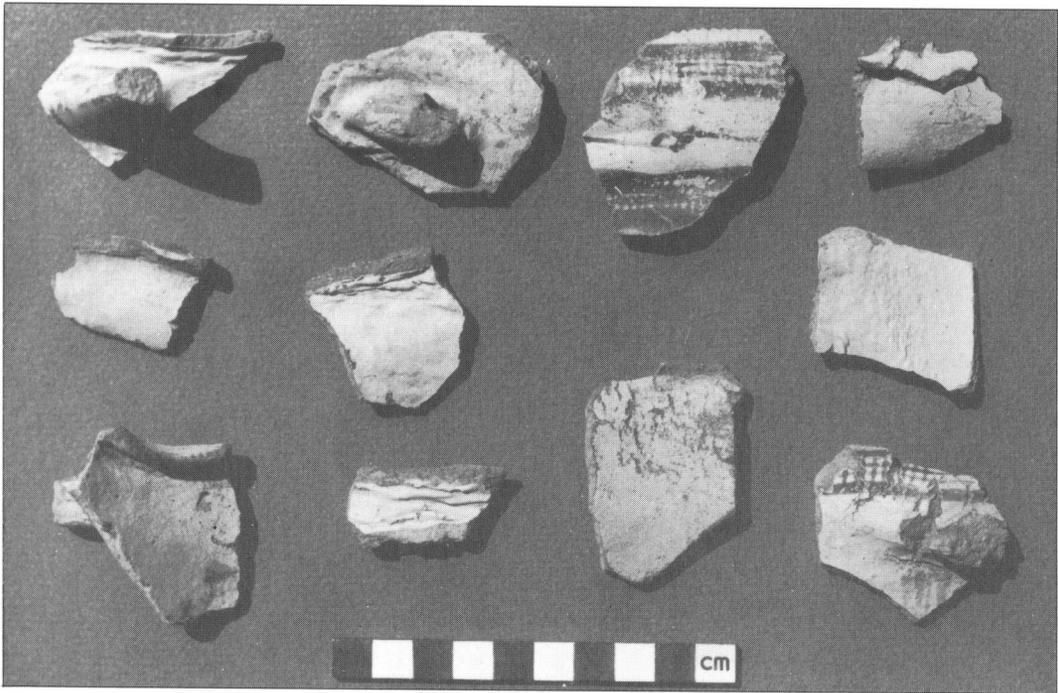
b. Sanidha *Moutti tou Ayiou Serkou*: view from site to Vasa and the SE.



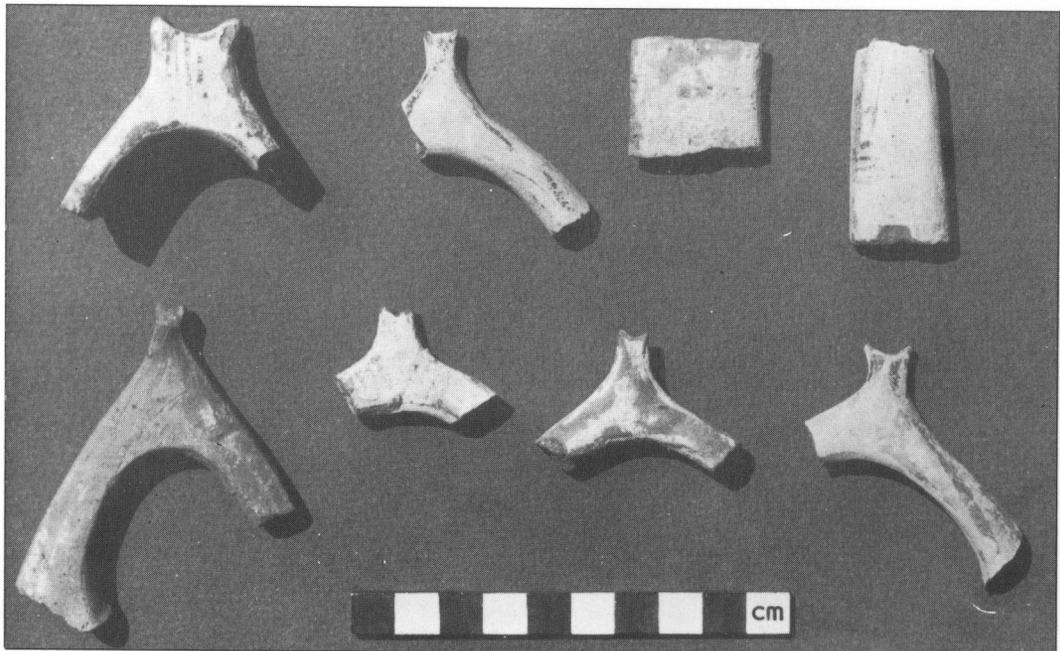
a. White Slip II bowl sherds found at Sanidha.



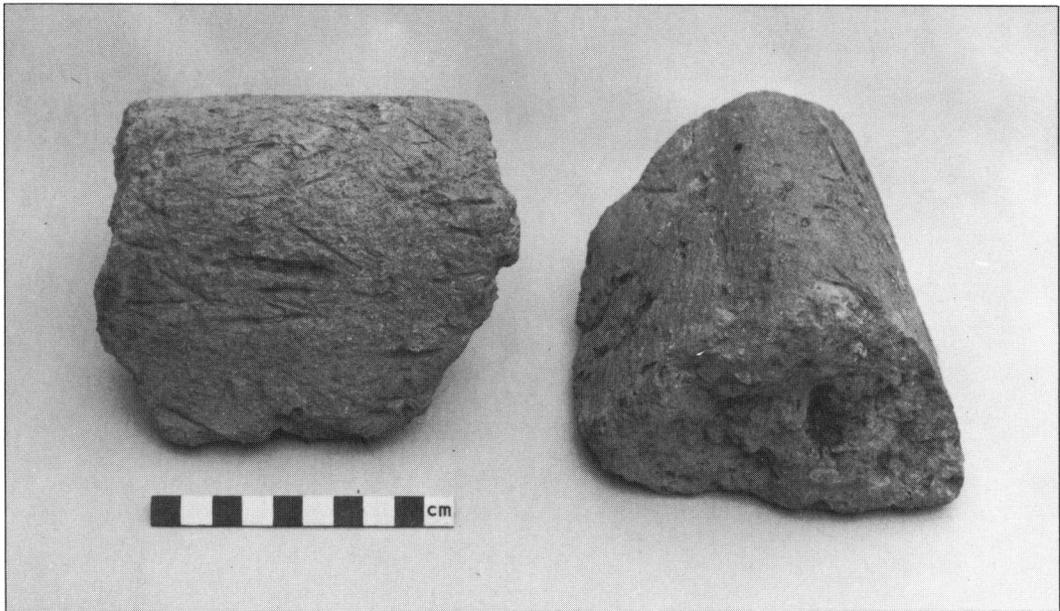
b. Various White Slip II sherds found at Sanidha.



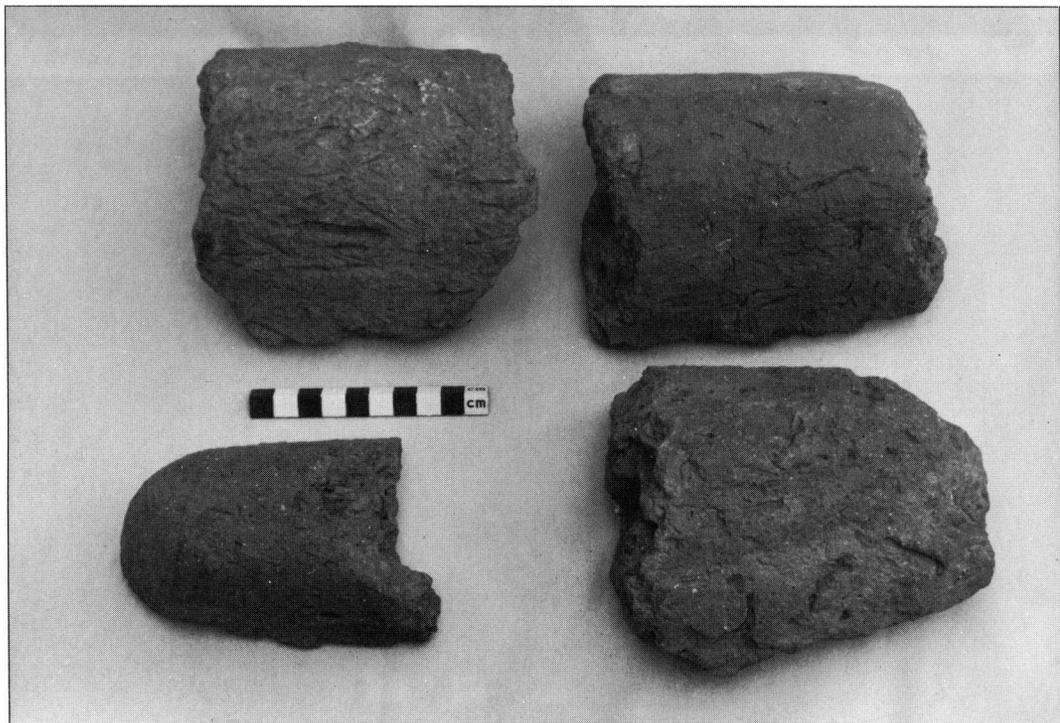
a. Deformed White Slip II sherds found at Sanidha.



b. White Slip II handles found at Sanidha.



a. Clay "bricks" found at Sanidha.



b. Clay "bricks" found at Sanidha.