EPilogue

Concerning Kommos's relationships with other areas outside of Crete, Vance Watrous's paper charted a switch from chiefly eastern to western connections from LM II A1 to LM II B, a phenomenon not noted elsewhere on Crete before, but, if shown to have parallels at other sites as, for instance, perhaps at Chania (= Kydonia) could be of major historical importance. Italian wares from Chania have just been examined by B. Hallagher (1985). Watrous also brought up the question of metal working and trade in metals as a pivotal one that must be considered in depth when the Kommos metals are analyzed and the molds, crucibles, ingot fragments and prills are examined from the point of view of their original contexts. In the discussion that followed his paper, Harriet Blitzer, who has been studying the metal industry at Kommos, also pointed out that large crucibles from the southern area indicate bronzeworking on a massive scale within Building T during LM I with work continuing during LM II A2 - LM II B, but now with smaller crucibles being more usual and those being used on the hillside and hill top to the north. As a warning, however, that such a reconstruction of metalworking activity has to await a more final dating of contexts, I should mention here that, to my knowledge, crucible fragments were found in the levels of reuse of Building T and not those of its primary phases.

Maria Shaw's paper explored, among other matters, the possibility that Minoan building P may have been connected with shipbuilding and ship storage. So far there is not enough tangible evidence to show that this is true, but if excavation there reveals no physical impediments to such a use (e.g. a contemporary blocking wall or colonnade on the west), and hopefully provides diagnostic small finds or floor features, then a new element may have been introduced in our knowledge of Aegean seafaring. Should this be the case we will have new, positive evidence for the continuing debate about the so-called Minoan "thalassocracy" and the possible interrelationships between the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean at the time. There seems little doubt, in any case, that Building P (and part of T) were used for storage, and their position next to the harbour can hardly have been accidental. It is even worthwhile to consider that grain may have been stored here, perhaps in sacks awaiting local distribution for export, for according to the Knossian Linear B tablets "Da-wo", a site near Phaistos, thought by some to have been Hagia Triadha, was a centre where great masses of grain were collected (Bennet 1985:247).(1) Kommos could be "Da-wo", but might also (as per La Rosa, above) simply have served as an outlet for trade promoted through Hagia Triadha.

Philip Betancourt's attempt to explore the "triangle" of the three great Minoan settlements in the Messara during the period MM I - LM II B, reasonably suggested that their characters and relationships were quite different in MM, LM I, and LM III times. He even suspected that Building T at Kommos may have been part of a palace during LM I, an intriguing suggestion, but one far
from certain, although the remains involve a large court partially bordered on at least three sides by monumental construction.

We are most grateful to Vincenzo La Rosa, whose broad analysis of the "triangle", made from the point of view of someone who has intimate connection with Phaistos and Hagia Triadha, was particularly timely. Not only did he refer to unpublished opinions of earlier excavators, but he proposed that after LM I there was a peaceful transfer of power from Phaistos to Hagia Triadha, with Kommos serving as the commercial harbour of Hagia Triadha, a suggestion implying that La Rosa believes that Hagia Triadha could not have served as a major harbour. La Rosa also notes the absence of large-scale, neopalatial settlement at Phaistos, an occurrence that could foreshadow a later transfer of power to Hagia Triadha. It is important for us to note, also, that by adopting the sequence of Late Minoan periods followed by the English excavators at Knossos, he is accepting a sequence previously doubted by some of his predecessors in the Messara, but shown now to exist stratigraphically at both Kommos and Hagia Triadha.

The most important aspect of the conference, however, was to introduce consideration of the Messara's dynamics during some eight hundred years of its history (mm I _ LM IIIIB). Our own hope is that those presentations and discussions, made available through this publication, may invite and encourage major future studies of these relationships.

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NOTES

1. Fortunately, the date of the Linear B tablets need not be resolved in order to posit that Building P may have been used for storage of grain. Bennet incorrectly notes that T was reused in LM III -- actually only J was reused while the interior of T was abandoned, being succeeded by P on the south. This does not affect his argument, however.

After the conference, during a talk for the Aegean Seminar at New York University, I proposed that probable Minoan exports were (as per E. Barber's comment at the conference in Toronto) grain, oil, textiles and wood. During the question period that followed Robert Stieglitz kindly pointed out that, according to one of the tablets from Ugarit, Kaphtara (probably Crete) actually did export oil, grain, as well as fermented beverages (Schaeffer 1955:107-108). I note here that the king reigning then (Ammistamuru II) is thought to have been active circa 1270 B.C. (CAH II(2):1040), when Building P, most likely intended for storage of material in connection with the harbour, was still in use.
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