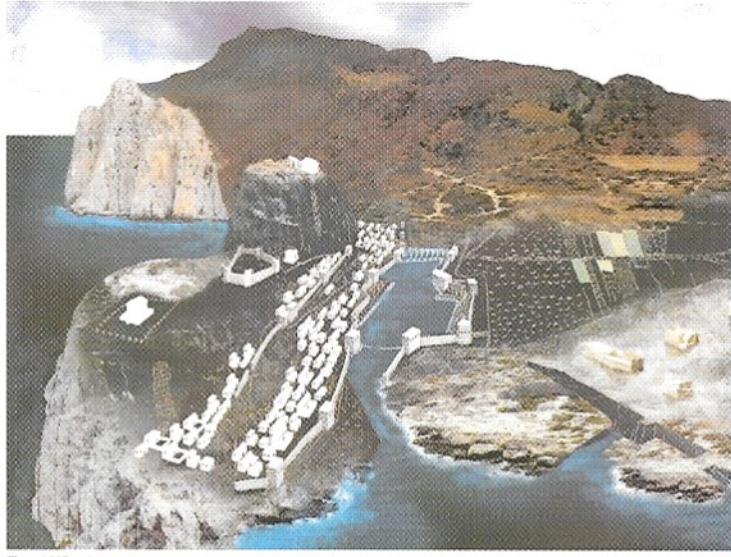


ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF PHALASARNA



Ex. 1 / Fig. 1

The ancient city of Phalasarna is located in the middle of the west coast of Crete, at Koutri cape (fig. 1). Finds from the surrounding area prove that the city was already inhabited in the Minoan period and in the Archaic and Classical years. The city was at its peak between the middle of the 4th c. B.C. and 67 B.C., when it was destroyed by the Romans, most probably because it turned to piracy and its harbour went out of use. There are, however, traces of reuse of the site, and indications of habitation in Roman times exist on the opposite side of the bay. Earthquakes in 66 A.D. and mainly in 365 A.D. destroyed the city, raised the land approximately 6,6 meters higher and turned the harbour into dry land, buried under tons of landfill. Rescue excavations first took place in 1966 and the systematic archaeological research began in 1986. The ancient harbour, the city and the necropolis are gradually unveiled.

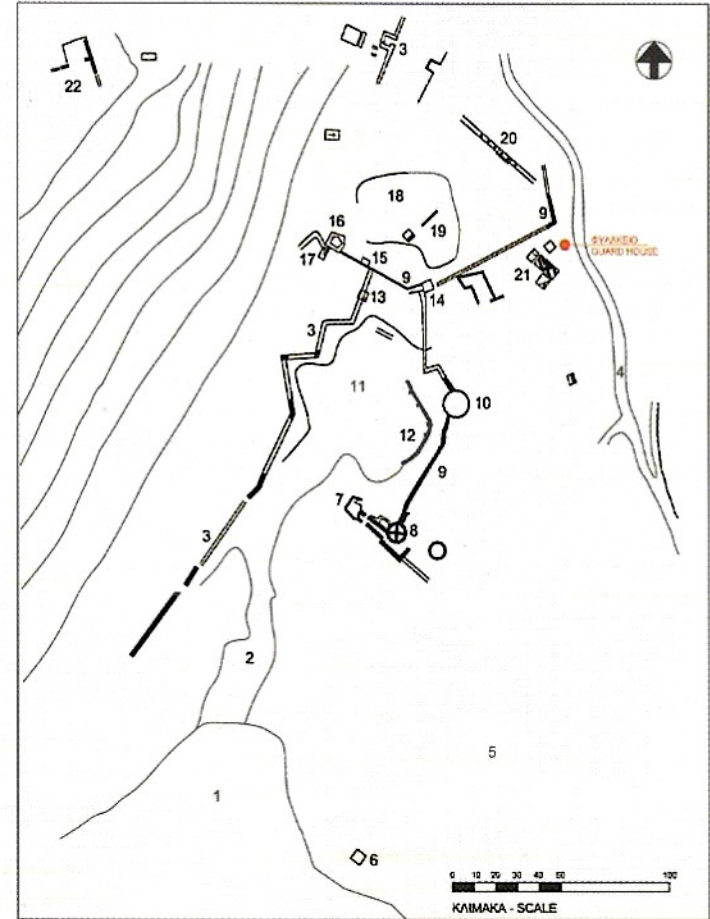
Phalasarna was one of the most powerful naval cities of Crete in the Hellenistic period. Minting began in the second half of the 4th century B.C. with a female head (Diktyнна or the nymph Phalasarna) as the primary image (fig. 2a, fig. 2b). It was a fortified citadel with a southward orientation. Ruins of temples, probably consecrated to the goddess Artemis-Diktyнна, exist on the top of the ridge. 550 meters of the city walls are still intact, doubled in some places, and date to the second half of the 4th century B.C. (fig. 3). Phalasarna had an enclosed military harbour fortified by an extension of the city walls. The harbour fortification had four towers, linked by walls and quays. The south-east tower saved up to 4,5 meters in height and 9 meters in diameter, is best preserved (fig. 4). Two cross-walls divide its interior into quadrants. The tower is dated around the end of the 4th century B.C.

The harbour was built in and around a lagoon 7500 m² in size linked to the sea via two channels. The shallower channel was used for circulation of sea water or for small boats. Excavations have revealed blocks of built quay with mooring stakes (fig. 5). To the north, a second smaller artificial basin probably has to do with the ancient shipyards, which have not yet been excavated. A pavement leading from the harbour to the acropolis

was discovered next to the second basin, as also five small cisterns (fig. 6). Their use has to do with the public baths in the 4th-3rd c. B.C., while later in the 2nd-1st c. B.C. they were used for clay washing in a context of workshop activities.

At the south area of the harbour across the coast lie the ancient quarries, where the large rock-cut "throne" stands (fig. 7, fig. 8). Near the quarries there is also a rock-cut fish-tank 25 m² in size. The necropolis is situated outside the city walls, it covers a large area south and east of the harbour and dates from the Archaic to the Hellenistic period. The tomb types include pithos burials, pit graves, cist graves, and rock-cut graves with built monuments (fig. 9). Imported and local red-figure and black-figure vases were among the funeral offerings.

(Plan and photos: courtesy of the excavator Dr. Elpida Hadjidaki)



ΥΠΟΜΝΗΜΑ - LEGEND

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Θάλασσα / Sea | 12. Προκυμαία / Quay |
| 2. Δίαυλος / Channel | 13. ΒΔ προκυμαία / NW quay |
| 3. Οχυρωματικά τείχη / Fortification Walls | 14. ΒΑ τετράγωνος πύργος / NE square tower |
| 4. Αγροτικός δρόμος / Earth-road | 15. Βωμός / Altar |
| 5. Λατομεία / Quarries | 16. ΒΔ πύργος / NW Tower |
| 6. Ιχθυοδεξαμενή / Fish tank | 17. Δρόμος και δημόσια λουτρόα / Road and public baths |
| 7. ΝΔ πύργος / SW tower | 18. Δεύτερη λεκάνη / Second Basin |
| 8. ΝΑ κυκλικός πύργος / SE round tower | 19. Αναλημματικός τοίχος / Retain wall |
| 9. Τείχος / Wall | 20. Νεώρια (:) / Shipyards (?) |
| 10. Ανατολικός πύργος / East Tower | 21. Δεξαμενές (:) / Cisterns (?) |
| 11. Πολεμικό λιμάνι / Military Harbour | 22. Ερείπια ναού / Temple ruins |



Ex. 2α / Fig. 2a



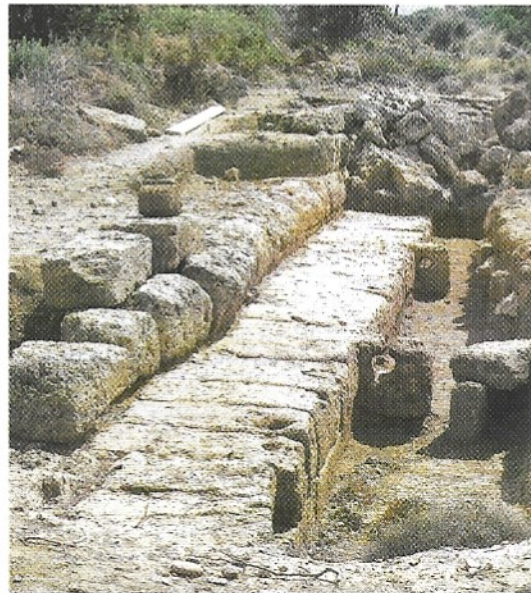
Ex. 2β / Fig. 2b



Ex. 3 / Fig. 3



Ex. 4 / Fig. 4



Ex. 5 / Fig. 5



Ex. 6 / Fig. 6



Ex. 7 / Fig. 7



Ex. 8 / Fig. 8



Ex. 9 / Fig. 9