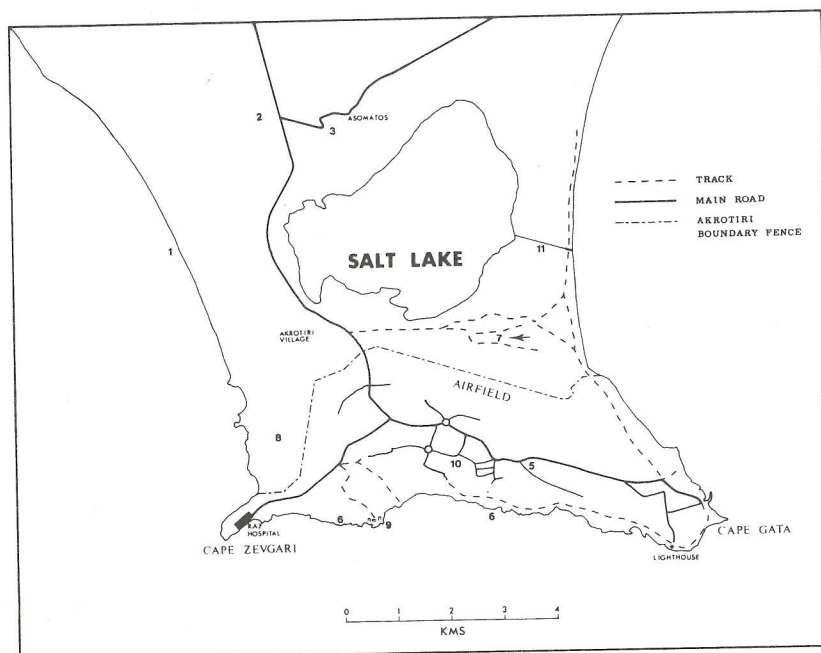


ancient
KOURION
area

CHAPTER XXXI



Sites on the Akrotiri Peninsula

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Roman or Hellenistic shipwreck | 7. St. Nicholas of the Cats |
| 2. Phassouri Plantations | 8. Katalymata ton Plakoton |
| 3. Asomatos | 9. Dreamer's Bay |
| 4. Trakhoni Vounaro (see Map 3) | 10. Pano and Kato Katalymata |
| 5. Lania rock-cut chambers | 11. Venetian canal |
| 6. Sarcophagi and tombs | |

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF THE AKROTIRI PENINSULA

Note: See also Map 3 for reference. Other than authorised military and civilian personnel, intending visitors to the sites within the boundaries of the British military airfield should seek prior permission from The Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force Akrotiri. Access to the site of St. Nicholas of the Cats which is outside the military area is only possible during normal working hours of the plantation in which it is located.

General I

The south coast is 10 kilometres from Episkopi.

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General Description

The Akrotiri Peninsula is the only large promontory on the south coast of Cyprus. Roughly 12 kilometres north-south and 9 kilometres east-west, it is flanked by Akrotiri Bay to the east and Episkopi Bay to the west.

On a geological time-scale it is a fairly recent addition to the coastline, the first sandstones and grits being laid down during the Pliocene period, between 7 and 2 million years ago. Initially, a small island was formed south of the mainland; then, over succeeding millennia, as a result of the seaward development of spits from the mouths of the Kouris and Garyllis rivers which eventually reached the offshore island, an area of sea-water was isolated as a salt lake.¹

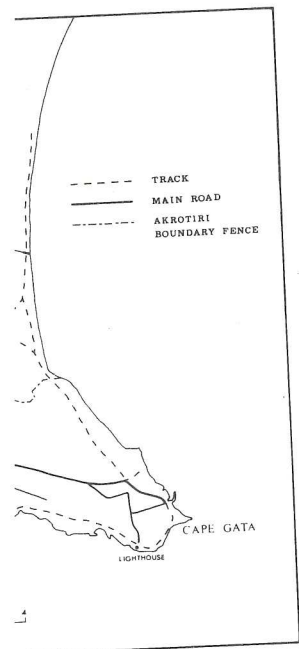
For descriptive purposes it may conveniently be divided into three areas: southern, central and northern.

The southern area, the original island, rises from the shallow waters of the Mediterranean, in cliffs of sandstone and marl, to a maximum height of 64 metres above sea level. The coast terminates in two capes—Cape Gata to the east and Cape Zevgari to the west. These capes take their modern names from “Capo delle Gatte” (The Cape of the Cats) and “Zevgari” (Pair), possibly a type of plough drawn by a pair of oxen (Goodwin 1977: 721). Within this southern area is concentrated the greatest proportion of archaeological remains.

Although the east coast, fronting onto Akrotiri Bay, contains the sandy beaches of Lady's Mile and looks innocuous enough in summer, in winter it bears the brunt of the easterly storms and provides a less than ideal anchorage. Along the curve of Episkopi Bay, the cliffs become low headlands, sloping to sea level at the mouth of the Kouris River some 2 kilometres west of Cape Zevgari. Between April and November the prevailing westerly and south-westerly winds blowing into this bay give rise to a heavy onshore swell, particularly during the afternoon when a steady Force 3 wind may be expected.² They are not the waters in which the master of an ancient ship, able to sail against the wind only with the utmost difficulty, would wish to find himself close to shore. Even today, shipping rounds the Peninsula at a respectable distance, giving a wide berth to the rock-strewn shallows. Two modern wrecks emphasise the dangers of becoming caught on a lee shore.

¹ Stanley Price, N. P. 1979. Early Prehistoric Settlement in Cyprus. *British Archaeological Reports (BAR)*.

² Information from 10 Port Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport.



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Nicholas of the Cats
Katalymata ton Plakoton
Steamer's Bay
Kato and Kato Katalymata
Venetian canal

REMAINS OF PENINSULA

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CHAPTER XXXI

In the mid-1970s, a mechanical excavator, scooping out the gravel beds west of the Salt Lake, brought to the surface several objects which were later determined to be from a Hellenistic or Roman shipwreck (1) (see also Map 3). The wreck lay approximately 150 metres inland from the present shoreline, and amongst the objects recovered was

... a remarkable statuette, which unfortunately had lost its head (Fig. 124). This statuette represents a draped female figure set upon a rectangular base. Her right hand rests on a tree trunk and she holds a bird (a dove?) in her left, whilst a headless, winged Eros rests on her right shoulder. This statuette is derived from the 5th century BC 'Valenti Venus', or Venus with one foot resting on a tortoise. The addition of an Eros on the shoulder is reminiscent of the cult statue in Julius Caesar's temple in Rome.³

Inland, the southern part of the Peninsula is covered by the remains of the so-called Akrotiri Forest, consisting of spiny burnet, lentisc, juniper and spruce. A more accurate description would be of maquis vegetation rather than true forest. It provided ideal countryside for the wild-boar hunting that was so popular here as late as the 18th century, although in more recent times the area has been "ruled by the goat".

The Akrotiri Salt Lake dominates the low-lying centre of the Peninsula. Roughly 4 kilometres \times 4 kilometres, it was once an open channel—possibly navigable—separating Akrotiri Island from the mainland to the north. Exactly when it ceased to be an open waterway is one of the unsolved problems of the Akrotiri Peninsula; however, the Late Roman pottery reported at a considerable depth beneath the sand and gravel deposits⁴ indicates a relatively late date for their accumulation, and therefore an equally late date for the closure of the lake. (The problem is not eased by the errors of early cartographers. In many cases the Peninsula is so distorted that it appears to show a large lagoon open to the sea on the eastern side, when what is intended is a depiction of the curve of Akrotiri Bay. Constant copying of earlier maps perpetuated this error.)

A map drawn by Oliua in 1638⁵ is the earliest to show an inland lake with a possible canal running southeast to Akrotiri Bay. This is echoed in modern maps which depict the "Remains of a Venetian Canal" (11) running east-west across the silted-up eastern arm of the lake. The line of this is still visible on the ground. It is approximately 8 metres wide, and the facing blocks can still be

③ Karageorghis, V. 1978. Chronique des Fouilles à Chypre. *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique (BCH)*, 102, p. 887, fig. 19b.

4. Bear, L. M. and Morel, S. M. 1960. The Geology and Mineral Resources of the Agros-Akrotiri Area and the Aspiou-Akrotiri Area. *Geological Survey Department Cyprus*, Memoir No. 7.

5. Stylianou, A. and J. 1980. Following references to old maps will be from this volume unless otherwise stated.

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seen for a short stretch on the eastern side, between the lake and the sea. Since the Venetians ruled Cyprus from 1489-1571, it would seem unlikely that the lake was open to the sea in their time. Possibly the canal was used as an access for shallow draft vessels which were to be laid up for the winter in the sheltered waters of the lake. However, Villamont,⁶ visiting the area in 1589, recorded that fish entered the lake from the sea "through one little entrance" implying, perhaps, that it was by this time an artificial fishery or fish hatchery. Interestingly, possible confirmation of Villamont's observation is given over 200 years later in a map published in London in 1802 which shows the approach to "The Harbour of Limassol in Cyprus". Here the Salt Lake is shown with a narrow channel opening into Akrotiri Bay, and the appellation "Fish Pond". This map, itself, is a copy of even earlier French maps on which the Salt Lake is noted as "*Etang*" (Pond).

Down to the 19th century, cartographers continued to depict the Salt Lake with a narrow entrance on the eastern side, although the English traveller and author Pococke, on his circumnavigation of the island in 1738, found no barrier to his mule-train. His relatively detailed map, with his route shown by a dotted line, clearly indicates that he travelled down the modern Lady's Mile, across the Peninsula and rejoined the mainland via the western side of the lake. In fact, the Salt Lake was of so little note to him that he failed to show it at all! The map produced after the Admiralty survey of 1849, by HMS Volage, is the first accurate representation of the Salt Lake, and shows it completely landlocked.

The Salt Lake bears comparison with its better-known counterpart at Larnaca, formed by the same geological processes, although it has not been subjected to the same commercial mining. However, at the end of the 19th century Enlart wrote that until recent times they exploited the salt in the area.

Down to modern times the *havara* from the edges of the lake was used as an aid when roofing the traditional, mudbrick Cypriot houses. The *havara* was mixed with the mud which formed the surface of the flat roof and prevented grass and weeds from sprouting after the winter rains.

Had a mid 16th century proposal been acted upon, the Salt Lake and the Peninsula might have been the scene of a bloody encounter at the time of the Turkish incursions. Sir George Hill (1948: 863) notes

... A suggestion was at one time made that a fortress (to which almost all the nobles of Nicosia should be removed) should be constructed at Akrotiri, on the

6. Cobham 1908; Villamont 1587.

CHAPTER XXXI

lake of Lemesos, making an island of the spot by connecting the lake with the sea. There was, however, no water supply, and Savorgan gives other military objections to the proposal, though he would not disapprove of a fort with a few guns behind the point of Cape Gata, to prevent enemy ships from lying off there.

It was decided to fortify Nicosia instead, which resulted in the subsequent siege and the reported deaths of 20,000 inhabitants on 8th September 1570.

Today, 10 metre thick beds of gravel and shingle west of the lake are being commercially exploited and transported to construction projects in other parts of the island, whilst the lake itself is an ornithologist's paradise. As the winter rains flood the lake, thousands of migrating birds—particularly the flamingo—are to be found within its environs. North of the lake, on reclaimed ground that was once a swampy morass, stand the extensive vineyards and citrus plantations of Phassouri (2) which were originally laid down in 1931 by the Cyprus-Palestine Plantation Company.

The Archaeological Remains

It was almost inevitable that during the cultivation of the plantations some archaeological finds would be recorded, although, somewhat disappointingly, all that officially came to light were some terracotta figurines in the style of those already familiar from the nearby City site of *Kourion* (*Curium*).⁷

Within the plantations, on the Limassol road, stands the small village of Asomatos (3). One kilometre east of here, H.W. Catling⁸ recorded a Late Bronze Age cemetery and settlement (1650-1050 BC), which until very recently represented the earliest habitation so far discovered on the Peninsula. Other than this, the sole archaeological evidence for any occupation of the Peninsula earlier than the Hellenistic period, ca. 325 BC, was one stone axe found in the vicinity of the church of *St. Nicholas of the Cats* in 1943. It must be said, however, that the Peninsula, generally, has attracted little archaeological attention, possibly because of its comparative remoteness before the Kolossi-Akrotiri road was built, and its former evil reputation as a haunt of snakes and mosquitoes.

It was the imminent construction of the large British military base and airfield, south of the Salt Lake, in the mid 1950s, which resulted in an archaeological survey being carried out on behalf of the Department of Antiquities. The reports of the late Colonel J. S. Last, then Antiquities Advisor to the military authorities, and

7. Young, J. and S. 1955. *Terracotta Figurines from Kourion in Cyprus*. Philadelphia.

8. Catling, H. W. 1963. Patterns of Settlement in Bronze Age Cyprus. *Opuscula Atheniensa* IV. (41)

Mr. A.H.S. Megaw, Director of the Department of Antiquities 1936-60, remain the only archaeological record of the area. It must be stressed that the survey was primarily concerned with identifying architectural remains over which no military building would be permitted.

In 1954, Last identified 18 sites within and adjacent to the boundaries of the base. Analysis of coins, pottery, glass fragments and architectural remains enabled him to establish that the area south of the Salt Lake was reasonably densely populated from the Hellenistic period to the end of the 7th century AD.⁹ Seven years later, Megaw confirmed these findings and suggested that the occupation period ended with the Arab incursions of the 7th century AD, which had resulted in the final destruction of the *Kourion Basilica*¹⁰ (see Chapter XXII).

Several of the sites were delineated by yellow boundary markers, and development for military or civil purposes forbidden. With few exceptions, practically all the surveyed sites have disappeared under scrub; only the boundary posts remain to mark their location. The most visible remains of those referred to in this chapter are, within the confines of the base, the rock-cut chambers of *Lania* (5) (Fig. 125), and the sarcophagi and tombs along the southern cliffs (6) (Fig. 128). Outside the base boundaries, the remains of the *Monastery of St. Nicholas of the Cats* (7) (Fig. 129) lie in the plantations to the north of the airfield, whilst piles of rubble, fragments of marble, broken column bases and capitals, mark the site of the basilica which was once central to the Late Byzantine settlement of *Katalymata ton Plakoton* (8) to the west. A fine mosaic floor awaits excavation here.

Additionally, since these surveys were carried out, the winter rains of 1973-74 exposed foundation walls along the low headlands above *Dreamer's Bay* (9) and further discoveries have been made which significantly alter the concept of an area uninhabited before Hellenistic times.

In the winter of 1980-81, artifacts dating to the Aceramic Neolithic period (7000-6000 BC) were noted on the hill of *Trakhoni Vounaro* (4), directly east of the junction of the M1 and the *Kolossi-Akrotiri* road (see Chapter II). Within the base area, pottery, flint and ground stone artifacts of the early Chalcolithic period (3900-2500 BC) have been found in some quantity, whilst a tooth of a pygmy-elephant and bones of pygmy hippopotami, both of which seem to have become extinct in Cyprus by the Neolithic period, have been discovered eroding out of the southern cliffs. These

9. Last, J. S. 1954. *Inspection Report*.

10. Megaw, A.H.S. 1961. *Inspection Report*.

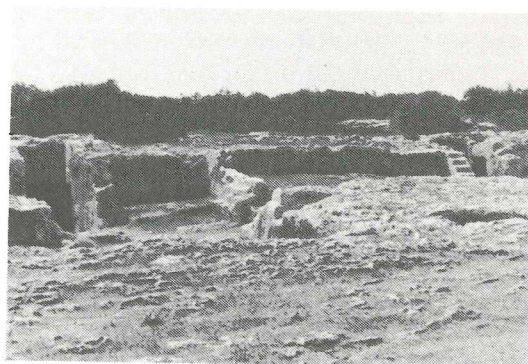


Fig. 124: Statuette of a woman "Venus", found during gravel excavations (Department of Antiquities Cyprus)

Fig. 125: Lania rock-cut chambers looking south (author)

bones may be associated with flint artifacts and deposits of edible sea-shells (*monodonta turbinata* Born), but are, as yet, not fully interpreted.

Although the earliest proven architectural remains in the southern part of the Peninsula are no earlier than Hellenistic (cf. Last), it now seems probable that these latest discoveries, in conjunction with other sites in the vicinity, give a continuous span of human occupation along this part of the southern coast from the earliest period of Cypriot prehistory to the present day.

Visible Remains

At *Lania* (5) (Fig. 125), opening off the site of an ancient quarry are two subterranean chambers, purportedly used for cult purposes during the Graeco-Roman period. The western chamber, now collapsed, is the slightly smaller of the two, although it and the splendidly preserved eastern chamber, which measures 24 metres \times 11.5 metres \times 3.5 metres, were seemingly built to a common plan and a common orientation, almost due north-south. The chambers were formerly divided into three aisles, entrance to the central aisle being gained through an imposing main door, whilst the ante-rooms which flank the main entrance gave access to the side aisles. Within the chamber, the eroded stumps of pillars cut from the living rock mark the former division of the aisles. Holes in the roof served to admit light, and also allowed the escape of smoke from torches

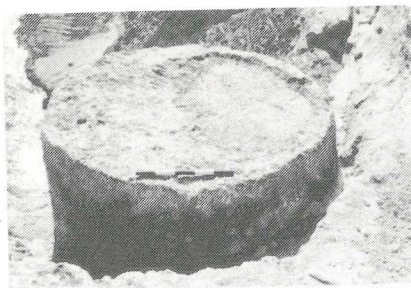


Fig. 126: Unfinished millstone: note the sea below (author)

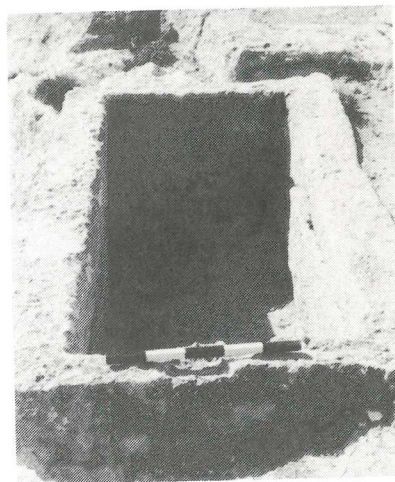


Fig. 127: Stone sarcophagus (author)

which formerly illuminated the interior. The roof of the western chamber collapsed, possibly through simple structural failure. The extra thickness apparent in the construction of the roof of the eastern chamber may be noted.

Along the southern cliffs, between Capes Zevgari and Gata, are numerous traces of ancient quarrying, the eroding remains of a burial ground, and over 120 chamber tombs (6). The evidence for quarrying varies. Small areas from which individual blocks or millstones (Fig. 126) have been removed, as well as large ones where the entire face of the cliff has been scarped, can be seen. For a short stretch, the wheel ruts of the carts which once hauled away the stone can still be traced.

To the west of *Dreamer's Bay* (9), many chamber tombs are visible in the limestone ridge which curves north-south across the area.

To the east, towards Cape Gata, several rectangular sarcophagi, or coffins, may be seen cut into the rock (Fig. 127). All have long since been looted and all have lost the stone lids which once sealed them. A recent count (November 1980) revealed 125 chamber tombs and 57 sarcophagi, of which 52 are intact and 5 are partially eroded on the extreme edge of the cliff. The consistency of the measurements employed in their construction is remarkable. Cut to a simple rectangular plan, they average 2.2 metres \times 1.15 metres \times 80 cms internally. The maximum variation in any measurement is 8 centimetres.

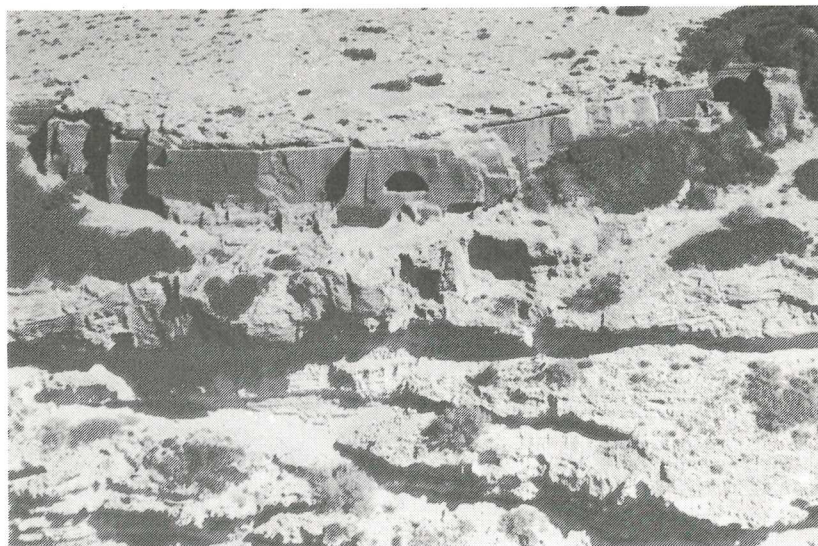


Fig. 128: Tombs along the cliffs of the south coast, Akrotiri Peninsula: note the cuts from stone quarrying (Royal Air Force)

A little further to the east of the main group of sarcophagi, in an area where the vertical quarrying is very noticeable (Fig. 128), are 4 tombs cut into the face of the cliff. Here, semicircular niches afford a view of the sarcophagi within. One tomb stands alone, facing out to sea; 3 are cut back into an alcove forming three sides of a square and were once approached by a flight of steps descending from the cliff top on the eastern side (Fig. 128 right). Identical tombs and sarcophagi are found in the quarry at the eastern corner of the *Kourion* acropolis, just above the *Ayios Ermoyenis*-*Kourion* beach road (Map 2). One sarcophagus located within a *mandra*, sheepfold, still has its lid, albeit partially displaced (Chapter XXVI, Fig. 115). More ornate versions of the niched tombs are to be found elsewhere on the island, notably at *Ktima*, *Kition* and *Aphrendrika*, in the built tombs of the Hellenistic and Roman periods.¹¹ Comparative dating from these examples, supported by the recent discovery of a lamp fragment found beside one of the Akrotiri sarcophagi and identified as 4th century AD, supports the view that the cemetery was in use in Late Roman/Early Christian times.

The steady erosion of the cliff, with the resulting loss of an unknown number of tombs and sarcophagi, makes it impossible

11. Vessberg, E. and Westholm, A. 1956. *The Swedish Cyprus Expedition (SCE)* Vol. IV Part 3. Lund.

to estimate the original size of the burial ground—and the size of the settlement it served. Certainly, those laid to rest in this superb location must have represented only the more affluent amongst the community. The ordinary villagers would have found their last resting place in a hurriedly dug grave in Mother Earth.

The foundation walls above *Dreamer's Bay* (9) seem to comprise 3 buildings. The easternmost building, the best preserved, is rectangular, 24 metres \times 8.75 metres, with an internal dividing wall along the centre of its long axis. Perhaps they were used as storage buildings or warehouses, for their very size seems to preclude a domestic use. Analysis of a random sample of the heavy deposits of sherds which surround them showed a preponderance of material from the 5th and 6th centuries AD, which accords very well with Last's estimate of the occupation period of this part of the Peninsula.

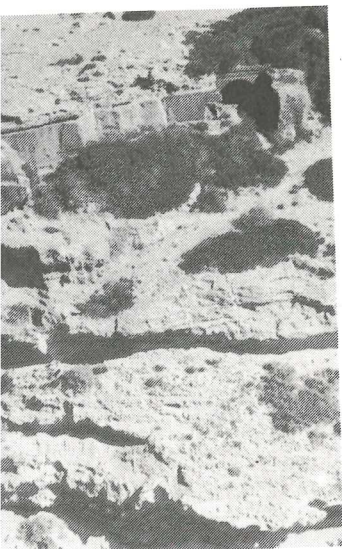
St. Nicholas of the Cats (7) (Fig. 129)

Despite all the signs of early and continuous occupation of the Peninsula, Medieval visitors to the area were decidedly unimpressed. There are many references to sickness and slothfulness; much grumbling about the "tainted and poisonous air"¹² and horrified comments about the multitude of serpents underfoot. There was, however, one place they felt bound to visit—the *Monastery of St. Nicholas of the Cats*.

Traditionally, the monastery was founded by Basilian monks sent to the island by the Emperor Constantine, ca. 325 AD, although the present ruins date only from the 13th-15th centuries. Almost every Medieval traveller was attracted to it by the legend of the cats, seemingly engaged in constant battle with the snakes. The cats are said to have been introduced there by St. Helena of the Cross, as she also did at *Stavrovouni Monastery*.

At this place there is a Greek monastery which rears an infinite number of cats which wage unceasing war with these snakes. It is wonderful to see them, for nearly all are maimed by the snakes; one has lost a nose, another an ear; the skin of one is torn, another is lame; one is blind of one eye, another of both. And it is strange that at the hour for their food, at the sound of the bell, all those scattered in the fields collect in the said monastery. And when they have eaten enough, at the sound of the bell, they all leave together and go to fight the snakes.¹³

Enlart suggests that the earthquakes of 1567 and 1568 AD may have contributed to the demise of the monastery, which was certainly abandoned shortly after the Turkish occupation of the island in 1571. The site seems to have suffered considerable destruction



coast, Akrotiri Peninsula: note the

main group of sarcophagi, in is very noticeable (Fig. 128), iff. Here, semicircular niches in. One tomb stands alone, an alcove forming three sides l by a flight of steps descend- ide (Fig. 128 right). Identical e quarry at the eastern corner he *Ayios Ermoyenis*-Kourion us located within a *mandra*, lly displaced (Chapter XXVI, the niched tombs are to be at *Ktima*, *Kition* and *Aphren-* enistic and Roman periods.¹¹ ples, supported by the recent beside one of the Akrotiri sar- / AD, supports the view that

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56. *The Swedish Cyprus Expedition*

12. Cobham 1908, Affagart 1534.

13. Cobham 1908, Suriano 1484.

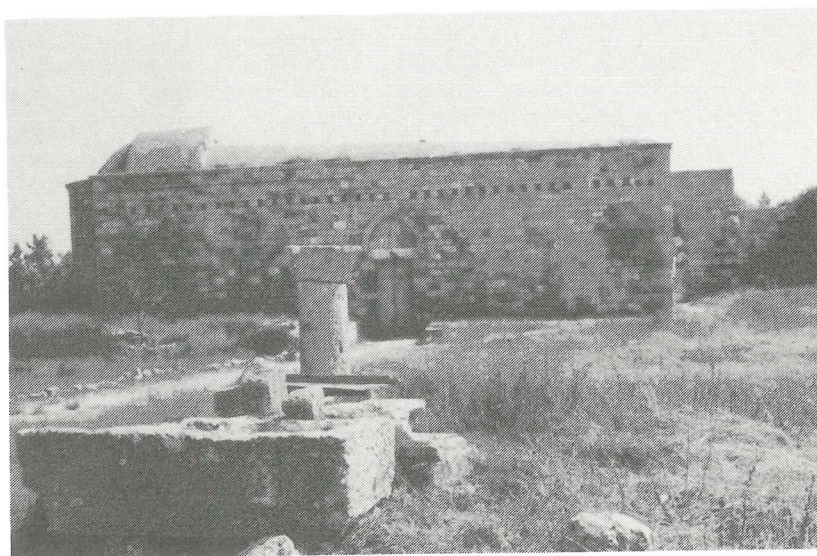


Fig. 129: General view of the church of St. Nicolas of the Cats: note the well in the foreground (author)

in the last century, for Cesnola saw, "... the commanding ruins of a large Byzantine Greek convent, with a church in a tolerably good condition ... erected in the centre of a square, measuring 385 yards each way ...".

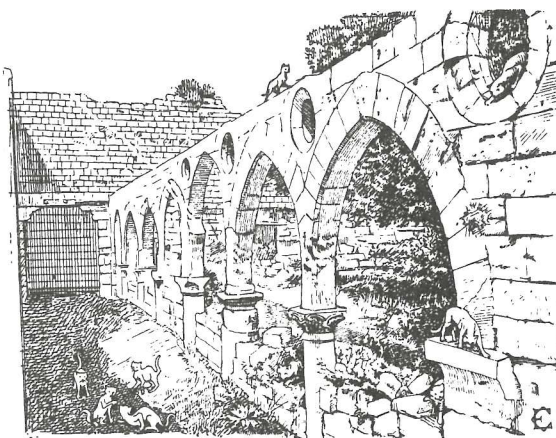


Fig. 130: The cloister of St. Nicolas of the Cats (from Enlart 1899, Fig. 299)

At the turn of the century, Enlart sketched the surviving arches of the cloisters (Fig. 130)—of which only one remains—and commented that they

... were never vaulted. They were made of seven arcades with pointed tops placed on marble columns made up of Roman debris of various kinds. Three arches are higher than the others. They have circular holes (oculi) at the sides. An unusual similar construction can be seen at St. Jean, in Rhodes, although there the oculi are of a different shape. (Enlart 1899: 463).

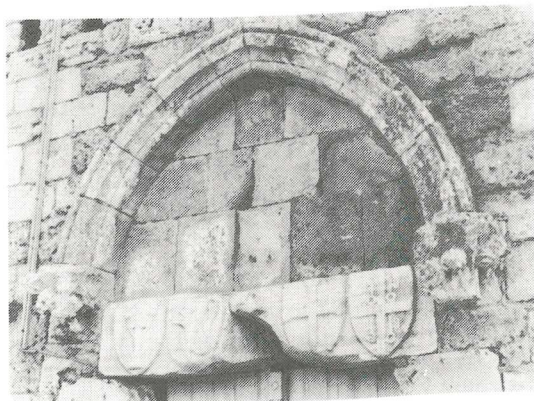


Fig. 131: Entrance to the church of St. Nicolas of the Cats. The inner two coats of arms represent the Lusignan royal badge (author)

More recently, Gunnis (1936: 157) drew attention to the "remarkable lintel" (Fig. 131) above the main door of the church, although he went on to say, "the interior of the church is a mournful sight—the floor dug by treasure seekers, the iconostasis destroyed, and all the icons mouldering to dust". Happily, the building is in better condition than when he described it. A new floor has been laid and seating for approximately 50 worshippers installed.

The modern visitor to the site has little to fear from the "serpents and noxious animals", for the increase in hunting, the agricultural development of the area and the noisy activity of the neighbouring airfield have driven them to more secluded parts of the Peninsula. They are still to be found in fairly large numbers on the golf course at Cape Zevgari.

The Problem of Kourias (Curias)

The geographer Strabo, describing the island from east to west in AD 23, lists the important places along the coast. After "Kition"

and "Amathus", each instantly identifiable, he mentions, "... then the promontory or peninsula Curias, seven hundred stadia from Thronoi. Then Curion, a city with a harbour, built by the Argives".¹⁴ Note that he differentiates between "Curias" (Kourias) and "Curion" (*Kourion*).

The location of "Kourias" or "Curias" was to bedevil cartographers and travellers for the next 1800 years.

A 15th century copy of a Ptolemaic map of AD 160 shows the Akrotiri Peninsula as "Curie Extrema", with a city, "Curiu", correctly located to the west, across Episkopi Bay. Poracchi in 1567, admittedly quoting oral traditions, wrote, "Curias, an ancient city, lay in the middle of C. delle Gatta, two leagues and a half from Piscopia; there is a lake to the north of it full of salt water with quantities of fish" (Cobham 1908: 164). But in a previous sentence he had already described that "Curias, another royal capital, was near the sea-coast where now stands Piscopia".

If "Curias" did exist on the Peninsula, there are only two possible locations, *Katalymata ton Plakoton* (8) and the adjoining sites of *Pano* and *Kato Katalymata* (10) in the middle of the British base. Although on the evidence of the surface finds *Katalymata ton Plakoton* (8) was the richer and the later of the two sites, it in no way rivals the riches of *Kourion*, and it is inconceivable that any major archaeological remains escaped discovery during the construction of the military base. One is left with the conclusion that earlier cartographers and writers were sadly in error, and that "Curias" and "Curium" were one and the same, with the Peninsula never being settled above the level of a large village. Perhaps conclusively, an English map of the 19th century shows Akrotiri village in its correct location with a site "Kuri" where more modern maps now show *Katalymata ton Plakoton*; whilst Goodwin (1977: 29) notes that Akrotiri village was known as Kuri when it was held as an early feudal estate.

From Strabo in AD 23, many men, travellers, cartographers and a few archaeologists have commented on the Akrotiri Peninsula. Each in his time has contributed much factual and some fanciful information. One may hope that this brief chapter will show that the Peninsula—in the light of recent discoveries—still has much to contribute to the archaeology of Cyprus. Time alone will tell.

H. C. HEYWOOD

14. Cobham 1908, Strabo 23 AD.

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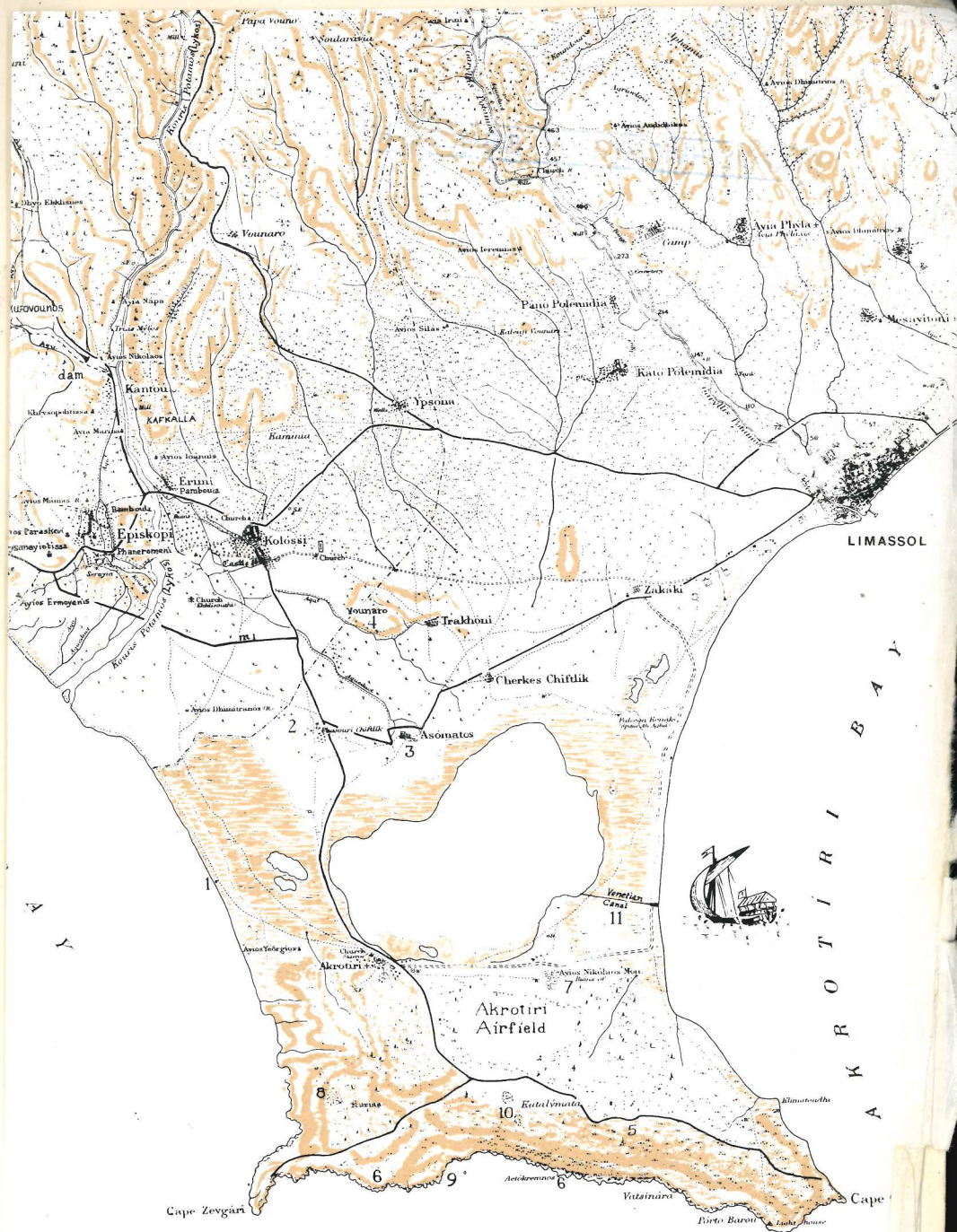
up of AD 160 shows the
th a city, "Curiu", cor-
Bay. Poracchi in 1567,
'Curias, an ancient city,
eagues and a half from
t full of salt water with
it in a previous sentence
other royal capital, was
copia".

there are only two pos-
) and the adjoining sites
iddle of the British base.
ids *Katalymata ton Pla-*
e two sites, it in no way
ceivable that any major
during the construction
conclusion that earlier
ror, and that "Curias"
with the Peninsula never
llage. Perhaps conclusi-
shows Akrotiri village in
ere more modern maps
ilst Goodwin (1977: 29)
Kuri when it was held

travellers, cartographers
l on the Akrotiri Penin-
ch factual and some fan-
s brief chapter will show
nt discoveries—still has
Cyprus. Time alone will

H. C. HEYWOOD

e forum).
 le on three or
 over an altar.
 x church that
 the clergy).
 ices filled with
 ark in ancient
 divided areas
 ne building.
 l is made.
 open space sur-
 ter formed the
 oxidized pyrites.
 ted strands.
 larger body and
 1.
 cient city.
 se of the springs,
 ved a three-fold
 il-shaped mouth.
 straw.
 chrysotile, varying
 steatite.
 decorated bronze.
 1 a rag or brush.
 entral perforation,
 nd spinning yarn.
 k with a colonnade
 nans to scrape the
 at the bath.
 n part of a mosaic.



MAP 3: The Greater *Kourion* Area and the Akrotiri Peninsula



An Archaeological Guide
to the
Ancient Kourion Area
and the
Akrotiri Peninsula

For ten millennia the environs of *Kourion* have been continuously inhabited. Nowhere else on Cyprus has such an archaeological sequence been found in so compact an area. The following sites, ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Medieval period, are included in the text

Sotira Teppas
Erimi Pamboula
Sotira Kaminnudhia
Episkopi Phaneromeni
Episkopi Bamboula
Episkopi Kaloriziki
Kourion Sanctuary of Apollo
Kourion Stadium
Kourion City
At Meydan Basilica
Episkopi Ayios Ermoyenis
Episkopi Saraya

and are described in many cases by the excavators themselves.

Additional chapters are on the Akrotiri Peninsula, the Environment, Earthquakes, the Cult of Apollo, Epigraphy, Mosaics, the Ancient Water Supply, Perforated Monoliths, Kourion Museum. Also, there is a Pottery Index, Glossary and Chronological Table. This is more than a Guidebook. It is an introduction to the archaeology and cultural history of the island as a whole.

