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THE HISTORICAL TOPOGRAPHY OF KITION

BY
KYRIAKOS NICOLAOU

GÖTEBORG 1976
PAUL ÅSTRÖMS FÖRLAG

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PREFACE

The archaeology of Kition has remained obscure for a long time. The ruins of the city were seen and described by several earlier travellers from whom we learn much concerning the state of the ancient remains as they saw them. No proper study was undertaken, however, until quite recently, when it was decided to carry out a survey of the city.

It has long been known that the modern town of Larnaca - more particularly the area between Old Larnaca and Scala - occupies the site of ancient Kition (Fig. 1).

Systematic quarrying for the extraction of building material has been going on for centuries, so that at present

practically nothing can be seen above ground with the exception of broken fragments of pottery scattered about the surface in land still free of modern buildings, part of the Acropolis and of parts of the city-wall and of the ditch. As building expands rapidly, the identification and extent of the city become more and more difficult.

Looting, accidental discoveries and systematic excavations have brought to light much archaeological material, which is now in the Nicosia and Larnaca Museums, and in Museums in Europe and America or in private collections. Much of the earlier finds are so scattered that very little of it is known and still less

is published. Until all available material is located and published but especially until excavations on a large scale are undertaken,¹ our knowledge of the extent and wealth of the city of Kition will remain limited. It is a fact, however, that much new information has already been brought to light by the latest discoveries of the Department of Antiquities. Historical sources do, indeed, supplement the archaeological evidence but history too is sparing. A great deal of information derives also from the coins of Kition and from inscriptions. All these subjects will be dealt with in the following pages.

The present study is mainly archaeological. An attempt has been made to collect, to analyse and to classify all the available evidence that relates to Kition known to date. Several provisional reports of casual discoveries or of minor excavations are filed in the archives of the Cyprus Museum. A considerable amount of time and energy have been devoted to collating these largely unpub-

lished and sometimes confusing records in an attempt to clarify the extent and significance of this evidence as it has been reported over the years. Even so, it is not claimed that this research is exhaustive.

A further source of information comes from the published accounts of earlier travellers. Here again the task was not made easier since all the writers up to the end of the nineteenth century are usually vague in their descriptions, if not misleading. Better reports have appeared since, such as the results of the excavations carried out by the Swedish Cyprus Expedition,² which were of a limited scope, and the preliminary reports of the current excavations carried out by the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus.³

In order to supplement the information obtained from these sources a topographic study and an archaeological survey of the city and its immediate environs were carried out in 1958 by the Archaeological Survey Section

of the Department of Antiquities, then headed by Dr. H. W. Catling, assisted by the present writer. Subsequently I surveyed the site myself on several occasions. The line of the city-wall was traced throughout its course, while a survey of still uninhabited areas has yielded valuable information as regards the extent of the city, its density of occupation, its necropolis, and their relative chronology. The survey were also able to locate long forgotten sites, such as the sanctuary of Artemis Paralia by the Salt Lake and the Gymnasium.

Several maps, plans and drawings have been prepared. They were copied from earlier publications or prepared from sketches made on the spot through observation during the survey. The latter include maps which show the classification and distribution of various aspects of the ancient city. A separate chapter "Maps and Plans" has been included for the benefit of those particularly concerned with

the topography of Kition.⁴

The recent discovery of a Late Cypriote town, with a large proportion of Mycenaean objects, in the Kathari and Chrysopolitissa quarters, north and west of the Acropolis, respectively, has thrown much new light on the history of Kition. In the light of these discoveries the theory of the city's foundation, which was previously attributed to the Phoenicians, must now be abandoned.

The original objective of the 1958 Survey had been to prepare a report on unbuilt areas for acquisition by the State with a view of preserving them for future excavations. It was soon decided, however, to expand the work and to include it in a series of topographical and archaeological maps of all the ancient cities of Cyprus, which had been planned by the Archaeological Survey section of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus. The interest increased when at the time of the survey I had identified the northern sec-

tion of the city-wall at Kathari as Mycenaean.⁵ This and the discoveries that were soon to be made at Chryso-politissa induced the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus to undertake large scale excavations at both these sites. Much time has elapsed since these early ideas but the accumulation of material subsequently found and especially the recent discovery of the Mycenaean city and the great interest taken in the study of Kition after all these exciting discoveries have prompted me to proceed with the publication of a fuller account of this city, an idea which has been in my mind for some time.

Perhaps an explanation for the delay in publishing these researches is necessary. Since writing my first notes on the topographical and archaeological survey of Kition and on my going through the archives of the Cyprus Museum and of earlier publications I have left the Archaeological Survey Branch of the Department of Anti-

quities of Cyprus and have joined the staff of the Cyprus Museum. Other duties, therefore, as well as a long illness, plus the new discoveries made in Mycenaean Kition, may justify this delay. The latter excuse at least is of great importance because a new chapter has been added to the history of Kition.

I am most grateful to Dr. H. W. Catling, Director of the British School of Archaeology at Athens and former Officer in charge of the Archaeological Survey, mentioned above, for his participation in the field survey, for his constant advice and help, for reading my first notes and final manuscript, for making valuable suggestions and for improving its phraseology. The maps on Figures 2 and 15-18, showing the area of the Salt Lake and its transformation from a Late Bronze Age harbour to the present lake as well as the way the harbour of Classical Kition may have been blocked, were also prepared at his suggestion. Any shortcomings and especial-

ly the ideas expressed as to what extent Kition was a Greek or a Phoenician city naturally remain the responsibility of the author.

My thanks also go to Mr. A. H.S. Megaw, the former Director of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus and to the then Curator of the Cyprus Museum and afterwards Director of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, the late Professor Dr. Porphyrios Dikaïos, for much help and encouragement during the survey of Kition. Much encouragement also came from my wife who discussed with me various problems arising out of this publication. For this and for her devotion I dedicate this book to her as a minimum γέρας of esteem.

I must also thank Dr. V. Karageorghis, the present Director of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, for guiding me on many occasions round his excavations at Mycenaean Kition, for discussing with me various problems and for permission to reproduce here all the pictures

relevant to his discoveries. Due acknowledgement is also made to Monsieur Olivier Masson who has also read my earlier notes and the Chapter on Inscriptions and made valuable suggestions. Mr. M. Loulloupis, the Archaeological Survey Officer, very generously allowed me to publish the Early Bronze Age pottery in Plate XXII. Many other colleagues abroad gave me much help in one way or another. Acknowledgement for them is made in the relevant Chapters. A word of thanks is also due to the Geological Department of the Republic of Cyprus and in particular the Geologist Th. Pantazis and the technical staff for the supply of much useful information on the geology of Kition and for the preparation of the geological maps of the area of Kition and the Salt Lake (Figs. 15-18).

Last but not least my thanks are extended to Professor Dr. Paul Åström, Professor of Classical Archaeology in the University of Göteborg, who discussed this project with me on many occasions, for accept-

ing its publication in the series Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology and finally suggested it for submission to his University as a doctoral dissertation.

All the photographs of the site made during the survey of Kition or subsequently were taken by me. The objects from the old collections were photographed in the photographic studio of the Cyprus Museum. Those from the current excavations were reproduced from the photographic archives of the Cyprus Museum, while the photographs of the marble statue of Artemis Paralia and of the Stele of Sargon were provided by the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna and the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, respectively. The inscribed stele on Plate XXXVI, 4 has been reproduced by kind permission of Mrs. Theodora Z. Pierides, Larnaca, who also supplied me with much useful information regarding the identification of long forgotten locality names in her town.

With a few exceptions all

the figures and plates in this study are published for the first time. Such are the site views, sculpture and pottery appearing in the plates. Most maps and plans were prepared at my suggestion, unless otherwise stated or unless copied from earlier publications. The drawings of tombs, of aqueduct remains, of the sketch plan of the Bamboula Hill, made in 1914 by Father H. Vincent and others were reproduced from the files of the Cyprus Museum and as far as I am aware they are all inedited.

To members of the technical staff of the Cyprus Museum I owe much: All the objects were photographed by St. Nicolaides, the photographer; Chr. Polykarpou, the draughtsman, drew or copied all the maps, plans or other drawings; help was also rendered by the chief draughtsman Elias Markou and the draughtsman K. Kapitanis. Yiannis Hadjisavvas, Assistant Record Keeper, helped with the preparation of the plates; the text was typed by Lygia Ieromonachou, Librarian.

The onerous task of preparing the index was undertaken by Mrs. Elisabeth Åström, whom I warmly thank. The text has been set by Miss Birgitta Gillberg and Mrs. Gunilla

Because of discoveries or publications made since the original text was written or because certain material had escaped my notice, it has been thought necessary to

Thorburn. I am grateful to them for patiently entering the amendments to my original manuscript.
The Cyprus Museum, Nicosia, 1974.
Kyriakos Nicolaou, Curator

give by way of Addenda such supplementary information. All the additions are indicated with an asterisk, inserted in the text or in the notes.

March, 1976

NOTES

PREFACE

1. The Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, under the direction of Dr. V. Karageorghis, began systematic excavations in 1959 at the localities Chrysopolitissa and Kathari in the northern sector of the city. These excavations were still going on at the time of writing.
2. SCE III, Stockholm 1934, pp. 1 ff.
3. Preliminary reports appear in "Chronique des Fouilles et Découvertes Archéologi-

ques à Chypre", BCH LXXXIV (1960) and yearly thereafter. Shorter ones appear in "Archaeological News from Cyprus", AJA 71 (1967) onwards and in "Archaeology of Cyprus", Archaeological Reports 1961-62, onwards. Also in Fasti Archaeologici, XVIII-XIX (1963-64), onwards. Other references will be given in the appropriate chapters which follow.

4. See Chapter XV, below.
5. Chapter II, on City-Wall, n. 32.

ABBREVIATIONS

<u>AJA</u>	<u>American Journal of Archaeology</u> , New Jersey 1897-
<u>ARCA</u>	<u>Cyprus-Annual Report of the Curator of Antiquities</u> 1914, 1915, Nicosia 1916; 1916, Nicosia 1917.
<u>Arch. Anz.</u>	<u>Archäologischer Anzeiger</u> (in Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Berlin), 1886-
<u>Arch. Zeit.</u>	<u>Archäologischer Zeitung</u> , Berlin 1843-85.
<u>ARDA</u>	<u>Annual Report of the Director of Antiquities</u> for the Year 1949, Nicosia 1950-
<u>Atlas</u>	L.P. di Cesnola, <u>A descriptive Atlas of the Cesnola Collection of Cypriote Antiquities in the Metropolitan Museum of Art</u> , New York. I-III, Boston 1885, New York 1894, 1903.
<u>BCH</u>	<u>Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique</u> , Paris 1877-
<u>BMC Cyprus</u>	G.F. Hill, <u>A Catalogue of Greek coins in the British Museum. Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Cyprus</u> , London 1904.
<u>BMC Vases</u>	H.B. Walters, <u>Catalogue of the Greek and Etruscan Vases in the British Museum</u> , London 1912.
<u>BSA</u>	<u>The Annual of the British School at Athens</u> , London 1895-
<u>Casson, Ancient Cyprus</u>	St. Casson, <u>Ancient Cyprus, its Art and Archaeology</u> , London 1937.
<u>CCM</u>	J.L. Myres and M. Ohnefalsch-Richter, <u>A Catalogue of the Cyprus Museum</u> , Oxford 1899.
<u>Cesnola, Cyprus</u>	L.P. di Cesnola, <u>Cyprus, its Ancient Cities, Tombs and Temples</u> , London 1877.

ABBREVIATIONS

XIII

<u>Chroniques</u>	S. Reinach, <u>Chroniques d'Orient</u> , Paris 1891.
<u>Chronique</u>	V. Karageorghis, <u>Chronique des Fouilles et Découvertes Archéologiques en Chypre</u> in <u>BCH</u> 1959-
<u>CIA</u>	<u>Corpus Inscriptionum Atticarum</u> , Berlin 1873, after 1903 known as <u>IG I</u> .
<u>CIG</u>	<u>Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum</u> , Berlin 1825-1877.
<u>CIS</u>	<u>Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum</u> , I, Paris 1881.
<u>CVA</u>	<u>Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum</u> I, Nicosia 1963, II, 1965.
<u>Cyprus</u>	R.H. Lang, <u>Cyprus</u> , London 1878.
<u>Das Ausland</u>	M. Ohnefalsch-Richter, "Neue Funde aus Cypern, Die Akropolis von Kition und ein Sanctuarium der Syrischen Astarte", <u>Das Ausland</u> , Stuttgart 1879.
<u>Excerpta</u>	C.D. Cobham, <u>Excerpta Cypria</u> , Cambridge 1908 (repr.1969).
<u>GCM</u>	P. Dikaïos, <u>A Guide to the Cyprus Museum</u> , Nicosia 1961 (3rd ed.).
<u>ICS</u>	O. Masson, <u>Les Inscriptions Chypriotes Syllabiques</u> , Paris 1961.
<u>IG</u>	<u>Inscriptiones Graecae consilio et auctoritate Academiae Litterarum Regiae Porussiae editae</u> . Berlin 1873-
<u>IGR</u>	R. Cagnat, <u>Inscriptiones Graecae ad res Romanas Pertinentes</u> , Paris 1901-1927.
<u>JHS</u>	<u>Journal of Hellenic Studies</u> , London 1880-
<u>JRAS</u>	<u>Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society</u> , London 1865-
<u>JRS</u>	<u>Journal of Roman Studies</u> , London 1911-

KBH M. Ohne- Kypros, the Bible and Homer, London 1893.
falsch-Richter

Kypros W.H. Engel, Kypros, eine Monographie, Berlin
1841.

LBW Ph. Le Bas-W.H. Waddington, Voyage Archéolo-
gique en Grèce et en Asie Mineure III, Paris
1870.

Myk. Vasen A. Furtwängler und G. Loeschcke, Mykenische Va-
sen. Vorhellenische Thongefässe aus dem Gebiete
des Mittelmeeres..., Berlin 1886.

Op. Arch. Opuscula Archaeologica, skrifter utgivna av
Svenska Institutet i Rom, Lund 1935-

Op. Ath. Opuscula Atheniensia, skrifter utgivna av Svens-
ka Institutet i Athen, Lund 1953-

PPC I.Michaelidou-Nicolaou, Prosopography of Ptole-
maic Cyprus - Studies in Mediterranean Archaeol-
ogy, Göteborg (under press).

Patterns H.W.Catling, "Patterns of Settlement in Bronze
Age Cyprus", Op. Ath. IV (1963).

Prosopographia W. Peremans and others, Prosopographia Ptole-
Ptolemaica VI, Louvain 1968.

RA Revue Archéologique, Paris 1844-

RDAC Report of the Department of Antiquities Cyprus,
Nicosia 1935-

RE Pauly-Wissowa-Kroll-Mittelhaus, Real-Encyclopä-
die der classischen Altertumswissenschaft,
Stuttgart 1894-

REG Revue des Études Grecques, Paris 1888-

SCE The Swedish Cyprus Expedition, Stockholm 1934-

SEG Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum, Leyden 1923-
1971.

SIG W. Dittenberger, Sylloge Inscriptionum Grae-
carum, Leipzig 1915-1921.

SPC E. Gjerstad, Studies on Prehistoric Cyprus,
Uppsala 1926.

Travels C.D. Cobham, Travels in the island of Cyprus
(transl. from the Italian of G. Mariti), Cam-
bridge 1909.

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INTRODUCTION

The importance of Kition has acquired a new impetus and its interest increased considerably since the discovery in recent years of a Mycenaean town within the limits of the classical city. The recent excavations, still in progress at the time of writing, have shown that the site of classical Kition was occupied as early as the Early Bronze Age and that the Mycenaeans were the true founders of the city. These surprising and indeed revolutionary discoveries have thus upset all the theories formulated in the past concerning the foundation of Kition. For it was believed until quite recently and as late as 1959, that Kition was founded by

the Phoenicians some time in the eighth century B.C.¹; also that Phoenician traders may have settled there at an earlier date but hardly before 1000 B.C.² For the earliest arrival of the Phoenicians at Kition we have also now the evidence of the recently discovered Phoenician temple at Kathari, founded on the ruins of an earlier Mycenaean temple,³ which has been dated to the very end of the ninth century B.C.⁴ Therefore, in the light of the new discoveries, the old theory of a Phoenician foundation of Kition must now be abandoned.⁵

There is, naturally, nothing surprising in the theory that Kition was a Phoenician foundation for we shall see later

that this city was indeed colonized at a later period and that a Phoenician dynasty was established there, which remained in power until the abolishment of the kingship in Cyprus by Ptolemy I Soter in 312 B.C.

The settlement of the Phoenicians at Kition and their attempts to penetrate to other parts of Cyprus make it an unique case in the history of the island in antiquity, for no other people have attempted such a colonization in part or in whole, apart from the Mycenaeans who preceded the Phoenicians by about five hundred years and who succeeded in establishing colonies throughout the island and hellenizing it before the end of the second millennium B.C. Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians and lastly Romans in turn controlled Cyprus over the centuries but never did they attempt to colonize Cyprus. It is also true that the Phoenicians played a part in support of the Persians, particularly during their rule at Kition, but their at-

tempts to orientalize the island ended in a complete failure.

The history of Kition differs considerably from that of the other cities of Cyprus because of the presence of the Phoenicians and because of their role in local politics, particularly their advent to power, when, with the help of the Persians, they established a Phoenician dynasty. This Persian-Phoenician coalition did much to extend their influence to the rest of the island, but without success. It will be explained below that even Kition was never an entirely Phoenician city and that there is reason to believe that a majority of its population remained throughout Greek even at the height of power of the Phoenicians in this city. This is made evident both from the archaeological discoveries and the scanty literary and epigraphic sources, which will be discussed below.

Until the recent discoveries, practically nothing was known of prehistoric Kition

though its existence before the arrival of the Phoenicians could have been suspected from the few Late Bronze Age sherds that were found on the Bamboula Hill.⁶ The scanty finds known to John Myres were not convincing, for he expressed the view that Kition succeeded the Late Bronze Age settlement at the Tekke in the same way as Salamis succeeded Enkomi.⁷ This view prevailed without reservation until the discoveries mentioned above. Furumark, among others, also held this view, when he visited the Tekke in 1947.⁸ As stated above the arrival of the first Phoenicians at Kition may go back to the end of the ninth century B.C., but their mass immigration did not take place before the Cypro-Archaic period (700-475 B.C.).⁹

There is now little doubt that Late Bronze Age Kition was a flourishing town comparable to Enkomi and no doubt to the large and important¹⁰ nearby town by the Tekke on the west side of the Larnaca Salt Lake. The

favourable position of Kition on the south coast of Cyprus and its safe harbour at Kathari¹¹ and in particular the copper industry¹² may account for its wealth and subsequent survival into the first millennium B.C., when all the other Late Bronze Age settlements were abandoned. For it should be remembered that there were numerous Mycenaean settlements along the south coast and in particular round the bay of Larnaca (Fig. 3). This indicates that there was an active trade between Cyprus and the Aegean, particularly as a source of copper and as an entrepôt for Aegean merchants trading in the Near East. A similar phenomenon existed in Byzantine times, when travellers to the Holy Land would often break their journey at Larnaca. Therefore the site of Kition with its safe harbour, together with that at the Salt Lake, apparently the only safe harbours in southern Cyprus in those days, was the most convenient stepping stone to the East and this favourable position

could not have escaped the attention of the Mycenaeans as it could not have escaped afterwards the attention of the Phoenicians during their expansion to the West.

The abandonment of the large Late Bronze Age town near the Tekke towards the end of the second millennium B.C.¹³ due most likely to the silting up of its harbour,¹⁴ as well as the abandonment about the same time of the many contemporary settlements around Larnaca bay, mentioned above, must have increased the importance of Kition as the principal commercial centre of southern Cyprus, in the same way as the abandonment of Enkomi increased the importance of Salamis on the eastern coast. For as we have seen Kition survived the catastrophe that hit the other Late Bronze Age cities of Cyprus and continued to be a flourishing city late into classical and later times. The continuity of Kition is confirmed even at the most critical history of Cyprus at the turn of the second millennium B.C., when all the Late Bronze

Age settlements in Cyprus came to an end. This is evident from the presence of pottery of the transitional period, viz. Late Cypriote Decorated, Proto White Painted and Cypro-Geometric I.

Good progress has been made since the excavations began at Kition¹⁵ but much more remains to be done. The excavations at Kition present great difficulties because its ruins lie below the modern town of Larnaca. Yet we are fortunate that there are still a few spaces left open¹⁶ while we know with varying degrees of certainty of the location of such features as the city-wall with its ditch, the harbour, the gymnasium, the theatre, a number of sanctuaries, and the necropolis, all of which are dealt with in the appropriate chapters that follow. The present study includes finds made during emergency or casual excavations, maps and plans, photographs of the principal monuments still surviving or recently uncovered, and extracts from earlier travellers. The last are dealt with in the

first chapter on Topography and have proved very useful in identifying Kition and in obtaining a general picture of the vicissitudes of the city site during the last few centuries. To all this a historical summary has been added at the end. It is hoped thus to obtain as full a general picture of ancient Kition as can be gathered from historical, topographical and archaeological sources available to the present day.

A number of new maps and plans have been prepared by the present writer in order to analyse and exemplify the various aspects of ancient Kition and the discoveries made therein to the present day. To this have been added other maps and plans published earlier but scattered in various publications, some of which may have been forgotten

altogether. Because of their scantiness at the time of writing I have not included such items as minor works of art, for instance, jewellery, scarabs, seals, bone or ivory objects but their omission does not in any way alter the character of Kition as we shall come to know it. Similarly, a work such as this is bound to show certain gaps and omissions, yet in its entirety it is hoped that its main objective - ancient Kition - will have been achieved. Apart from the topography, where sources were used to the present day, the archaeology and history of Kition have been treated down into late Graeco-Roman times, or about the mid-fourth century A.D., which coincides approximately with the end of the ancient world, at any rate in the East.

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CHAPTER III HARBOUR

The port of Kition lay to the north-east of the city. Here the sea penetrated inland to reach the foot of the hill which became the Acropolis of Kition, and as far south as the site of the St. Joseph Convent and in particular the site of the new Larnaca District Archaeological Museum. This inlet of the sea formed a natural harbour, the enclosed harbour of Strabo (Figs. 1, 17, 47).

In remote antiquity the existing marshy area to the north and north-east of Kition but also east and south-east, where the modern roadstead of Scala lies, must have formed a bay similar to but smaller than the Salt Lake (Figs. 15, 16).¹ Like the

latter it had gradually silted up until by the end of the Late Bronze Age only a small inlet of the sea survived (Fig. 17). This is the inlet which in historical times became the harbour of Kition. The shape of this harbour was probably due to the closing of the bay by the action of the sea building a shingle bar across its mouth from south to north. This is made quite reasonable by the prevailing winds. To the north, however, the silting up may be due also to soil washed down from the nearby hills.*

Since the site of Kition was inhabited during the Late Bronze Age² and since there was an inlet at this end it is

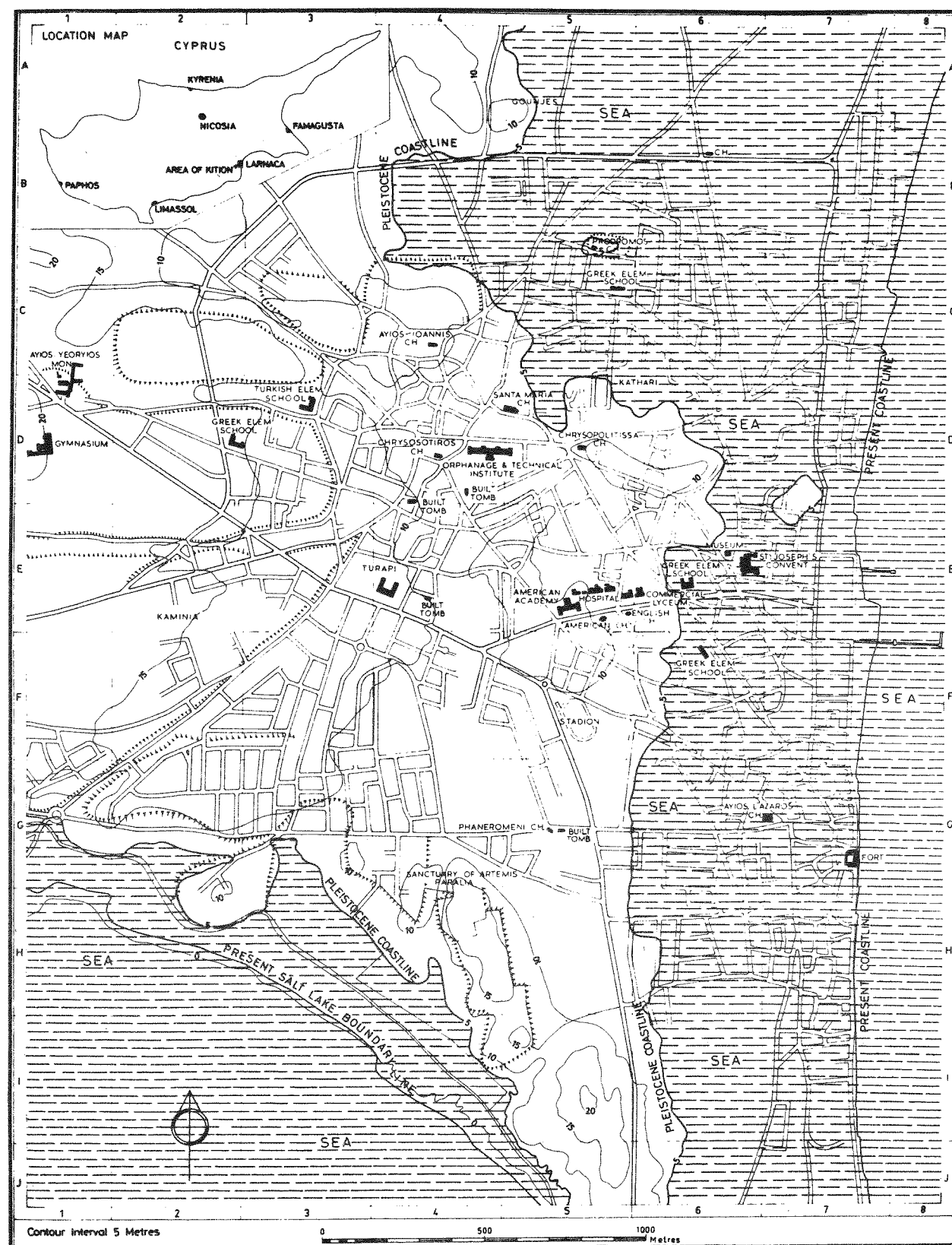


Fig. 15. Area of Kition. Coastline in the last phase of the Pleistocene. Stage I. (After K. Nicolaou).

reasonable to expect that it was used in remote antiquity as a harbour in the same way as the Salt Lake inlet.³ A number of stone anchors dating from the 13th to 12th centuries B.C. were found during the recent excavations at *Kathari* at the northern end of Kition,⁴ where the sea penetrated at that time (Fig. 16). It is unlikely that these stone anchors, which have been reused as building material, came from another area because there is no local shortage of building-stone. Like the harbour of the Salt Lake the prehistoric harbour of Kition must have been very active in the fifteenth century B.C. onwards, at the time of the arrival of the Mycenaeans, who carried out a local and an international trade. This trade was mainly carried out from the south coast of Cyprus.⁵ Kition, moreover, was the nearest harbour to the region of Pyla at the north-east, where much Mycenaean pottery has been found.⁶

The Classical harbour has also long since disappeared but its former position can still be traced. All the earlier travellers locate the harbour of ancient Kition at this end. Of ancient authors only Strabo mentions the harbour of Kition.⁷ More explicit are the Mediaeval and later travellers, who saw for themselves the former harbour, by then no more than a marshy pool.

Denis Possot, who visited Cyprus in 1533, remarked that "There is a port in the island which is ruined; it is called the port of Lazarus, and near it is a village called Larnacha".⁸ The ruined port must be the ancient harbour of Kition and not the roadstead where he landed. Florio Bustron (1560) called it the "porto chiuso".⁹ Ascanio Savorgnano, who visited Cyprus in 1562, observed that at Kition there was a channel, which proves that once there had been a harbour and that if this channel could be dredged a little more a very safe harbour could be created.¹⁰

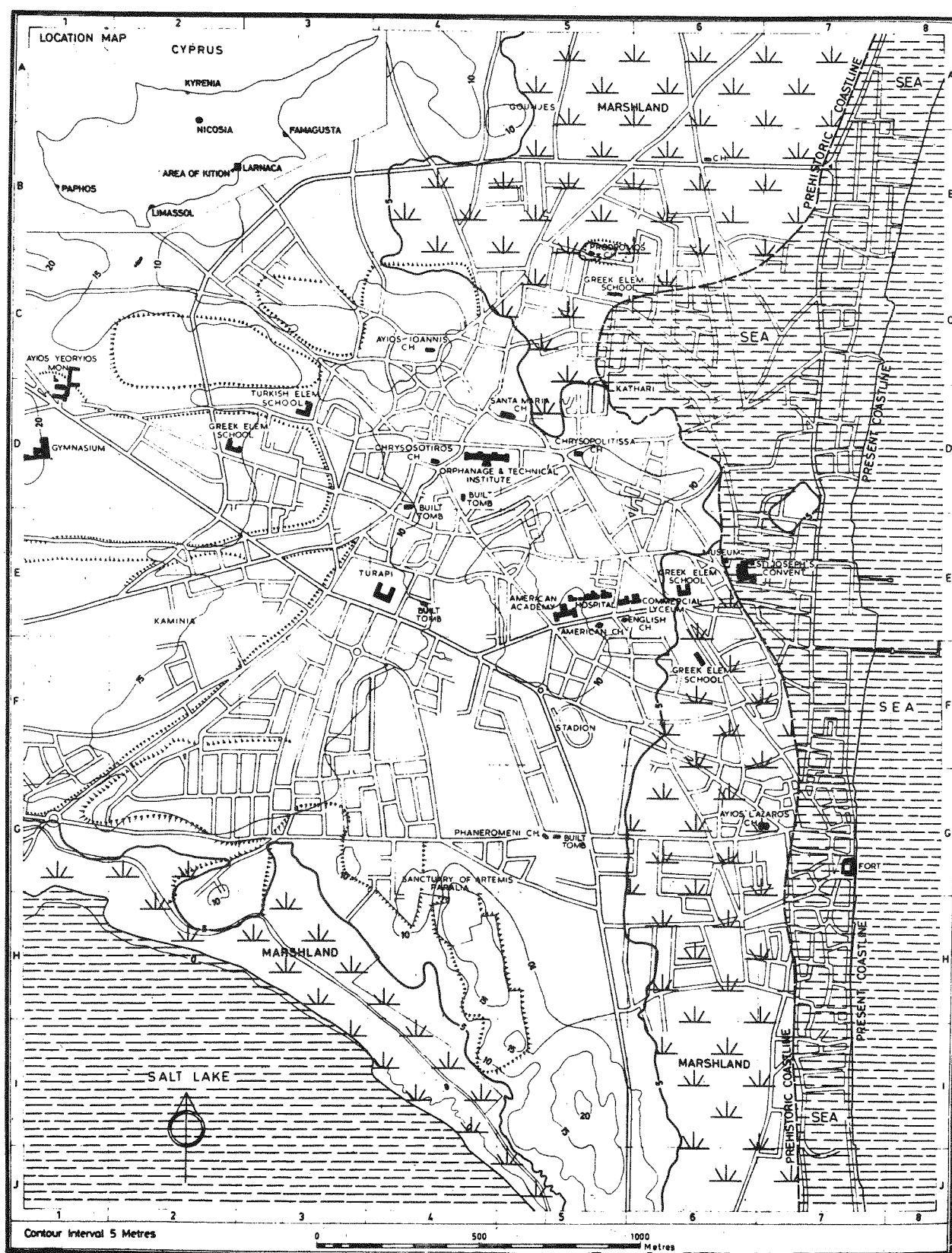


Fig. 16. Area of Kition. Approximate coastline in Prehistoric times. Stage II. (After K. Nicolaou).

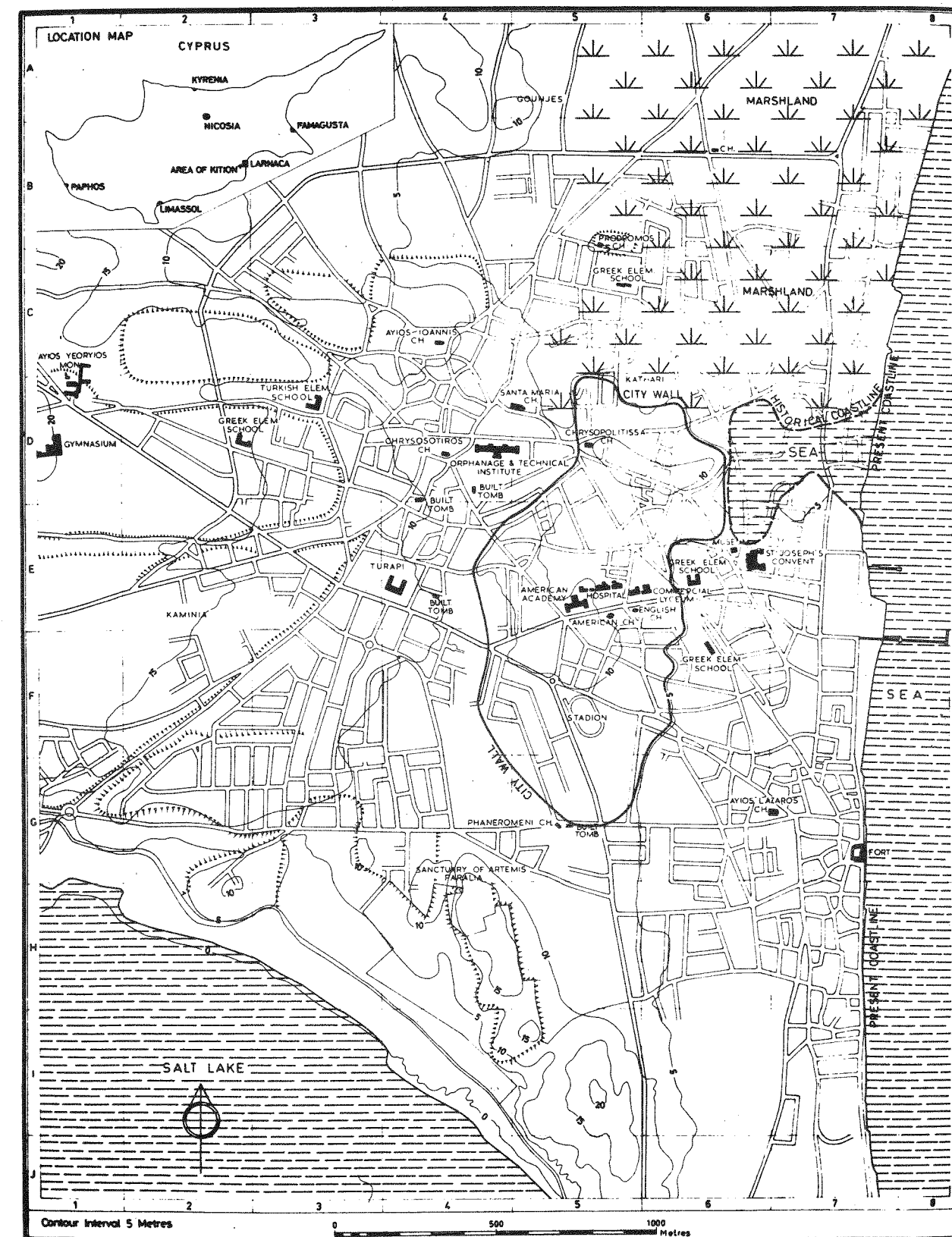


Fig. 17. Area of Kition. Approximate coastline in Historical times. Stage III. (After K. Nicolaou).

Richard Pococke (1738)¹¹ indicated this channel in his schematic plan of the walls of the city (Fig. 11). Carsten Niebuhr (1766), who drew a plan of Kition, shows the position of the ancient harbour, which in his day was still a lake (Fig. 12). Niebuhr says that at the north-east part of the ancient city, where the place is less protected by the city-wall, there is a depression which, during the rainy season is transformed into a lake full of fish. No one knew where the fish came from since no communication with the sea was visible but Niebuhr was surprised to learn that this place was called in his day the harbour of Salines (Sa-leerenhafen). He thought, however, that this was possible because he saw traces of a channel which proved that in ancient times the lake communicated with the sea.¹²

Giovanni Mariti (1760-67) is confident about the position of the harbour of ancient Kition and he indicates it clearly in his map

which he published in his dissertation on Kition (Fig. 14).¹³ Constantius, Archbishop of Sinai (1766) says that the enclosed harbour of Kition was near Chrysopolis, another name of Larnaca.¹⁴ Archimandrite Kyprianos (1788) says that "Kition had, according to Strabo, a good enclosed harbour, now entirely abandoned, so that hardly any of its remains survive".¹⁵ J. Sibthorp, an ornithologist, who visited Cyprus in 1787 speaks of a pool near Larnaca (not the Salt Lake) which invited grallae.¹⁶ J.M. Kinneir, visiting Cyprus in 1814 saw "the ancient basin of the port, the mouth of which is now blocked up with sand and gravel".¹⁷

Louis de Mas Latrie (1846-1850) made several references to the harbour of Kition in his reports to Paris. He writes: "L'emplacement du port fermé, dont parle Strabon, est encore bien marqué entre la Scala et Larnaca".¹⁸ Elsewhere he says: "La ville (Larnaca) occupe l'emplacement de Citium... dont le port et les

substructions maritimes se reconnaissent encore dans un petit étang séparé de la mer par une bande de galets".¹⁹ And in another passage: "Le bassin que j'ai vu combler... était certainement le port fermé, dont il est question dans Strabon".²⁰ Ludwig Ross (1845) wrote: "I walked round the small salt lake, which lies between the north end of the harbour town and Larnaca, obviously the remainder of the old artificial harbour".²¹ Louis Lacroix (1853) wrote as follows: "Le port fermé, dont parle Strabon, est maintenant comblé, mais encore bien reconnaissable".²²

A. Sakellarios, who was in Cyprus between the years 1850-55, says that the enclosed harbour of Strabo was the lake to the south-east of Larnaca by the Convent of St. Joseph and that this lake was filled up in 1880 by the English.²³ In Hamilton Lang's time (1861-1872) the harbour was no more than a marsh, but he was satisfied that this was the position of the ancient harbour of Kition

(Fig. 5).²⁴ Phil. Robinson (1878) speaking of Kition says that there was a large basin or harbour, now nearly filled up.²⁵

J. Thomson made in 1878 the following observation: "A most interesting feature in the physical geography of this part of the island is the great alteration in the coastline since the time when Citium was the chief southern port.... but there still exist traces of the pier and retaining walls of the harbour spoken of by Strabo".²⁶ In the same year John Lake wrote: "Kition was west of the Pedalium and had a harbour that could be closed".²⁷

Speaking in 1879 about Larnaca, Sir Samuel White Baker says: "It was unnecessary to seek for the chief cause of unhealthiness; this was at once apparent in the low swamps on the immediate outskirts of the town. In ancient days the shallow harbour of Citium existed on the east side of modern Larnaca; whether from a silting of the port or from the gradual alteration in the level of the Mediterra-

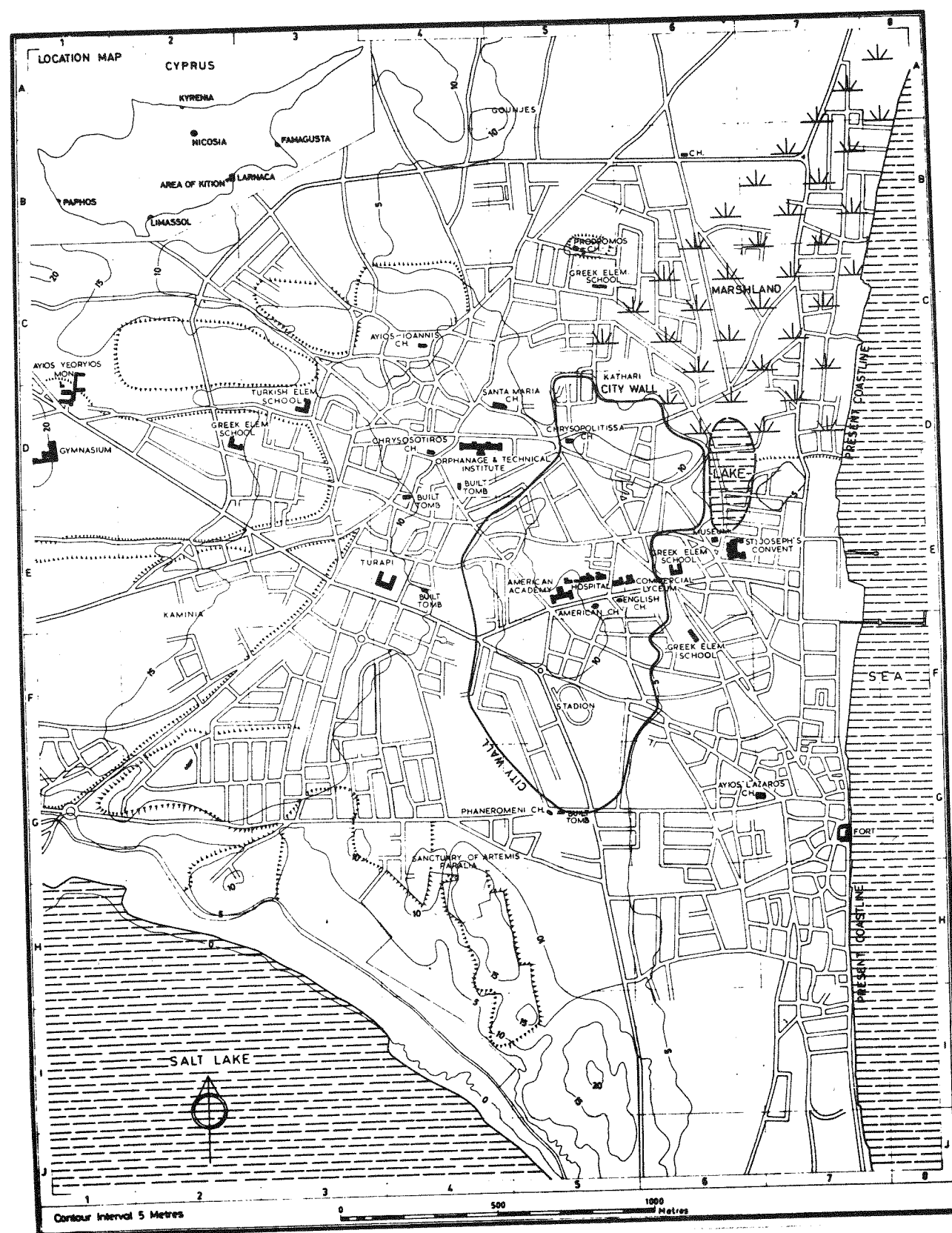


Fig. 18. Area of Kition in Byzantine and post-Byzantine times. Stage IV. (After K. Nicolaou).

nean, the old harbour no longer exists, but is converted into a miserable swamp, bordered by a raised beach of shingles upon the sea-board".²⁸

One of the more explicit reports on the position of the ancient harbour of Kition is, perhaps, that of Lt. Sinclair, who in 1879 supervised the works for the filling up of the marshy area of the harbour.²⁹ Ohnefalsch-Richter was present at the time of the filling operations and studied the antiquities discovered on the adjoining Acropolis, from where the ballast was taken.³⁰ A map of Kition and its surroundings, perhaps the best of all the maps of Kition published to the present day, which clearly shows the position of the harbour, appeared in 1881 in *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum* (Fig. 7).³¹ This position is accepted by Colonna-Ceccaldi (1882), who also marked it as a pool (mare) in his map of Kition (Fig. 6).³² Oberhummer placed

the harbour in the same position first in a map of Kition published in 1890 in *Aus Cypern I* (Fig. 8 (8))³³ and then in the map which appeared in *Real-Encyclopädie* (Fig. 9).³⁴ Perrot and Chipiez³⁵ and Salomon Reinach³⁶ have accepted these views without hesitation. This is also the view of Frangoudis.³⁷

Peristianis located the harbour at the same point, which was called in his days (1910) Λίμνη τῶν Καλογραιῶν (Nuns' Lake) as lying by the Convent of St. Joseph. It is interesting to note that Peristianis supposed that the harbour was filled up with sand and silt due to the action of the tides.³⁸ Both John Myres (1914)³⁹ and Einar Gjerstad (1929)⁴⁰ have located the harbour of ancient Kition at the same spot. Quite recently T. B. Mitford (1961)⁴¹ and O. Masson-M. Szyner (1972)⁴² had no hesitation in accepting the above statements.

The harbour seems to have been abandoned during Late

Roman times, probably due to damage and neglect caused by earthquakes, perhaps the severe earthquakes of 332 and 342 A.D. which also destroyed Salamis.⁴³ The city has definitely shifted south in the area of St. Lazarus and the Scala or landing-place of today, at least since Early Byzantine times. The present church of St. Lazarus seems to date from the tenth century A.D. The old port was certainly abandoned during later Byzantine and post-Byzantine times and had been gradually silting up though a small lagoon (Fig. 18) survived throughout the Turkish period until the occupation in 1878 of the island by the British. In the eighteenth century there had still been fish in it⁴⁴ and in 1879 it was a "stagnant pool of salt water"⁴⁵ though much of it must have been marsh land. It was in 1879 that this stagnant pool was filled up with ballast taken from the adjoining Bamboula Hill, the Acropolis of Kition.⁴⁶ This process was

repeated in 1914,⁴⁷ when the marsh disappeared as well. The water table, however, can still be found at a depth of less than 1 m. below the present surface of the ground as shown by the foundations of the newly constructed Archaeological Museum. The area around is now steadily being built over except for the Bamboula site behind the Museum land that belongs to the state which has been turned into municipal public gardens, so that it becomes increasingly difficult to trace the full extent of the ancient harbour.

It is still possible, however, to trace the edge of the former marsh for some considerable distance for although filled its level is nevertheless lower than the surroundings. A small channel some 300 m. north of the St. Joseph Convent still runs from the Bamboula area to the sea. (Pl. VIII, 1-3). This corresponds with Pococke's plan and should be the one referred to by Savorgnano, mentioned above; it is also shown on the plan published by Mariti, also mentioned above. Since

the ground on the south side of the channel is higher it must delimit the southern side of the sea inlet.⁴⁸ This raised ground line turns south towards the Convent, it then turns west, approximately at the square in front of the Convent and of the Museum and retraces itself to the north along the east side of the Bamboula Hill, formerly the Acropolis. It continues north for a considerable distance until it turns west by the English and American cemeteries, and past them along the newly excavated area at Kathari (Fig. 1). The whole area between here and the sea is marshy, though again being rapidly built over, so that no distinct line can be drawn for the northern limit of the prehistoric harbour, which must have been a bay in remote antiquity as already mentioned at the beginning of this chapter and also in the chapters on Topography and on the City-Wall.

The port proper of Classical Kition should be con-

finied within the inner inlet of the sea which penetrated south towards the St. Joseph Convent and the Museum. In 1879 at the time of the demolition of the Acropolis for filling in the marsh "two stones with holes through them were found fixed in the ground and apparently used for fastening the ships in the harbour".⁴⁹ These of course may be anchors probably reused as building material. However the presence of the harbour of ancient Kition at this end is not in dispute.

According to Cesnola, St. Joseph's Convent is standing on a portion of the pier⁵⁰ while the presence of large blocks of stone in the fields to the north of the Convent has already been noticed above in connection with the City-Wall or the harbour installations.⁵¹ Though there is no doubt as to the location of the port of historical Kition, its true extent cannot be defined with certainty without excavating round the edge of what used until quite recently to be the marshy

area adjoining the Bamboula Hill on the east. This then was the κλειστός λιμὴν of Strabo.⁵²

NOTES
CHAPTER III
HARBOUR

1. The preparation of these plans, like the one of the Salt Lake (Fig. 2), was made with the help of the Geological Department of the Republic of Cyprus to whom I wish to extend my thanks.
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3. See n. 3, Chapter I on Topography.
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5. Nicolaou, K., "The First Mycenaeans in Cyprus", Acts of the International Symposium "The Mycenaeans in the Eastern Mediterranean", Nicosia 1973, pp. 51-61.
6. Ibid.
7. Strabo, Bk. XIV.6.
8. Cobham, C.D., Excerpta Cypria (hereafter Excerpta), Cambridge 1908 (reprinted in 1969), p. 64.
9. Chronique de l'île de Chypre par Florio Bustron published by René de Mas Latrie in Mélanges Historiques, Tome V, Paris 1886, p. 17.
10. Savorgnano, Asc., "Copiosa Descrizione delle cose di Cipro, etc." Joh. Reinhard, Vollständige Geschichte des Königreiches Cyprien II, Erlangen and Leipzig 1768. Copy of the 1574 manuscript in the Malta Public Library translated by H. C. Luke, Malta 1933, pp. 22-23.
11. Pococke, R., A Description of the East, Vol. II, part I, London 1745, p. 213; Excerpta, p. 254.
12. Niebuhr, C., Reisen durch Syrien und Palaestina nach Cyprien, Vol. III, Ham-

- burg 1837, p. 22; Tab. III.
13. Mariti, G., Dissertazione Istoric-Critica sull'Antica Città di Citium nell'Isola di Cipro, Livorno 1787, pp. 23-24; plan on pp. 36-37; idem, Viaggi per l'Isola di Cipro, Vol. I, Firenze 1769, pp. 52-53 and map on frontispiece. Also C.D. Cobham, Travels in the Island of Cyprus, translated from the Italian of Mariti, Cambridge 1909, p. 23; see also Chapter XV, on Maps and Plans.
14. Excerpta, p. 313.
15. Ἱστορία Χρονολογικὴ τῆς νήσου Κύπρου, Venice 1788, p. 37.
16. Excerpta, p. 325.
17. Ibid., p. 415.
18. Mas Latrie, L. de, "Notes d'un voyage archéologique en Orient", Bibliothèque de l'École des Chartes, Tome II, Paris 1845-46, p. 504.
19. Idem, L'île de Chypre, sa situation présente et ses souvenirs du Moyen-Age, Paris 1879, p. 18.
20. Cobham, C.D., Travels in the Island of Cyprus, translated from the Italian of Giovanni Mariti, Cambridge 1909, p. 23. I was unable to trace the original text of Mas Latrie.
21. Ross, L., Reisen nach Kos, Halikarnassos, Rhodos und der Insel Cyprien, Halle 1852, p. 86. The harbour town is obviously the Marina or Scala; see also Cobham, C. D., A Journey to Cyprus, translated from the German of Ross, Nicosia 1910, pp. 9-10.
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23. Sakellarios, A., Τὰ Κυπριακά, I, Athens 1890, p. 32.
24. Lang, R. Hamilton, Cyprus: its history, its present resources and future prospects, London 1878, p. 28.
25. Robinson, Phil., Cyprus: its physical, economical, historical, commercial and social aspects, London 1878, p. 15.
26. Thomson, J., "A Journey through Cyprus in the Autumn of 1878", Proceedings of the Royal Geographic Society, Vol. I, no. 2, Feb. 1879, p. 98.
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28. Baker, S.W., Sir, Cyprus as I saw it in 1879, London 1879, p. 8.
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30. Ohnefalsch-Richter, M., Kypros, the Bible and Homer, London 1893, pp. 11, 478-480; idem, "Antiquities in Cyprus", The Graphic 1880, p. 62. A transcript of it has been published recently in The British Museum Quarterly, Vol. XXXIV, 1-2 (1969), pp. 56-57; idem, Das Ausland 1879, pp. 970-974 (non vidi).
31. Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum I, Paris 1881, map of Kition on p. 35.
32. Colonna-Ceccaldi, G., Monuments Antiques de Chypre, Paris 1882, p. 17.
33. Oberhummer, E., Aus Cypern I, Berlin 1890, p. 19.
34. S.v. Kition.
35. Perrot, G. and Chipiez, Ch., Histoire de l'Art dans l'Antiquité, Tome III, Paris 1885, p. 263.
36. Reinach, S., "Fouilles et Découvertes à Chypre", RA 1886, p. 7; idem, Chroniques d'Orient, Paris 1891, p. 176.
37. Frangoudis, G.S., Κύπρος, Athens 1890, p. 392.
38. Peristianis, I.K., Γενική 'Ιστορία τῆς νήσου Κύπρου, Nicosia 1910, p. 228.
39. Myres, J.L., "Excavations in Cyprus 1913", BSA XLI (1940-45), p. 85.
40. SCE III, p. 1.
41. Mitford, T.B., "Further Contributions to the Epigraphy of Cyprus", AJA 65 (1961), p. 113.
42. Masson, O. and Sznycer, M., Recherches sur les Phéniciens à Chypre, Genève-Paris 1972, pp. 21-22.
43. Hill, G.F., A History of Cyprus Vol. I, Cambridge 1949, p. 245.
44. See n. 12, above.
45. Bailey, D.M., op. cit., p. 37.
46. Ibid.; also J.L. Myres, & M. Ohnefalsch-Richter, A Catalogue of the Cyprus Museum, Oxford 1899, p. 5. Cf. also nn. 29, 30, above.
47. Myres, J.L., op. cit., p. 85; ARCA 1914, pp. 7-8.
48. Cf. also Chapter II on City-Wall, p. 59.
49. Bailey, D.M., op. cit., p. 37.

50. Cesnola, L.P. di, Cyprus, its Ancient Cities, Tombs and Temples, London 1877, p. 49.
51. Ibid.; see also Chapter II on City-Wall, nn. 29, 30, 31.
52. Bk. XIV.6. A similar harbour, also mentioned by Strabo, Bk. IV.4 but in use to the present day, though itself much reduced, is the Lakydon of the Greeks at Marseilles, known to-day as the Vieux Port (Charles Lenthéric, La Grèce et l'Orient en Provence, Paris 1878, pp. 343-44). The word Lakydon or Halykidon stands for salt marsh (ἀλυκίδες modern ἀλυκές, salines). It is no wonder therefore that Salines was the name given to the mediaeval port town, which succeeded Kition.