

DISCOVERING IKLAINA, IS IT A DISTRICT CAPITAL OF THE PALACE OF NESTOR?

by

Amy Lee Streeon

Submitted to the Faculty of

The Archaeological Studies Program
Department of Sociology and Archaeology

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Science

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

2011

Copyright © by Amy Lee Streeton
All Rights Reserved

DISCOVERING IKLAINA, IS IT A DISTRICT CAPITAL OF THE PALACE OF NESTOR?

Amy Lee Streeton, B.S.

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 2011

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to discover if the site of Iklaina near Pylos, Greece is a district capital to the Palace of Nestor. This paper looks at the background from which the Palace of Nestor came to be and the Linear B clay tablets that were found at the site. The texts in Linear B tablets discuss two provinces and the districts that fell under these provinces; nine in the Hither province and seven in the Further province. Also, the comparison between other district capitals mentioned in the tablets and that of *a-pu₂* another district capital mentioned, which is believed to be the site of Iklaina. Is Iklaina a district capital? Is it one of the nine Hither province district capitals? A look at reports from digs in Iklaina will hopefully tell if the site fits the profile of a district capital.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to thank the faculty and staff of the Archaeological Studies at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for helping me these past four years. I would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Joseph Tiffany, Dr. David Anderson, and Dr. Mark Chavalas. To Dr. Joseph Tiffany, I would like to thank for being my advisor and helping me through each class, scheduling, and these last grueling years. To Dr. David Anderson, I would like to thank for being my thesis professor, for critiquing my papers and presentations, and for pushing me to strive farther. To Dr. Mark Chavalas, I would like to thank for being my reader during thesis class, for critiquing my paper, and for sparking the idea and interest of studying in Greece for a semester, which is the basis for my paper. I would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, who was my professor in Greece and supervisor for the Iklaina dig site and for allowing me to write about Iklaina. Lastly, I would like to thank Danielle Carlborg and Ginger Pigeon for being my group members during this whole process and for helping me with the formatting, grammar, and many revisions in this thesis while they were very busy with their own theses topics.

INTRODUCTION

Ancient Greece is known for its hierarchical settlement pattern and Ano Englianos, more commonly known as the Palace of Nestor, functioned within this hierarchy during the Middle Helladic (2100-1550BC) and Late Helladic (1550-1060BC) periods as an administrative, political and financial center for Mycenaean Messenia. It is clear that the internal organization of the Mycenaean state at Pylos was centered almost exclusively on the mobilization of resources for producing and acquiring prestige goods (Galaty and Parkinson 2007). States are defined by their “political landscapes” – simple or complex networks of settlements and communities, buildings and monuments, roads and boundaries – which reflect the actions of authority and control the flow of people and commodities (Cosmopoulos 2006). The Palace of Nestor was first excavated in 1939 by Carl Blegen, who discovered clay tablets containing writing in a script later called Linear B which had only previously been seen on the island of Crete at the Palace of Knossos. With the decipherment of the Linear B script and the translation of the tablets, archaeologists were able to understand how the Palace functioned as a whole. Archaeologists learned that there were many district capitals, more commonly known as major towns, and cities that functioned under the Palace of Nestor in Pylos. Further, from the tablets we know that the territory under the control of the Palace of Nestor extended from the Ionian Sea in the west to Mount Taygetos in the east, and from Cape Akritas in the south to the Nedhas River/Kyparissa area in the North (Cosmopoulos 2006) (Figure 1).

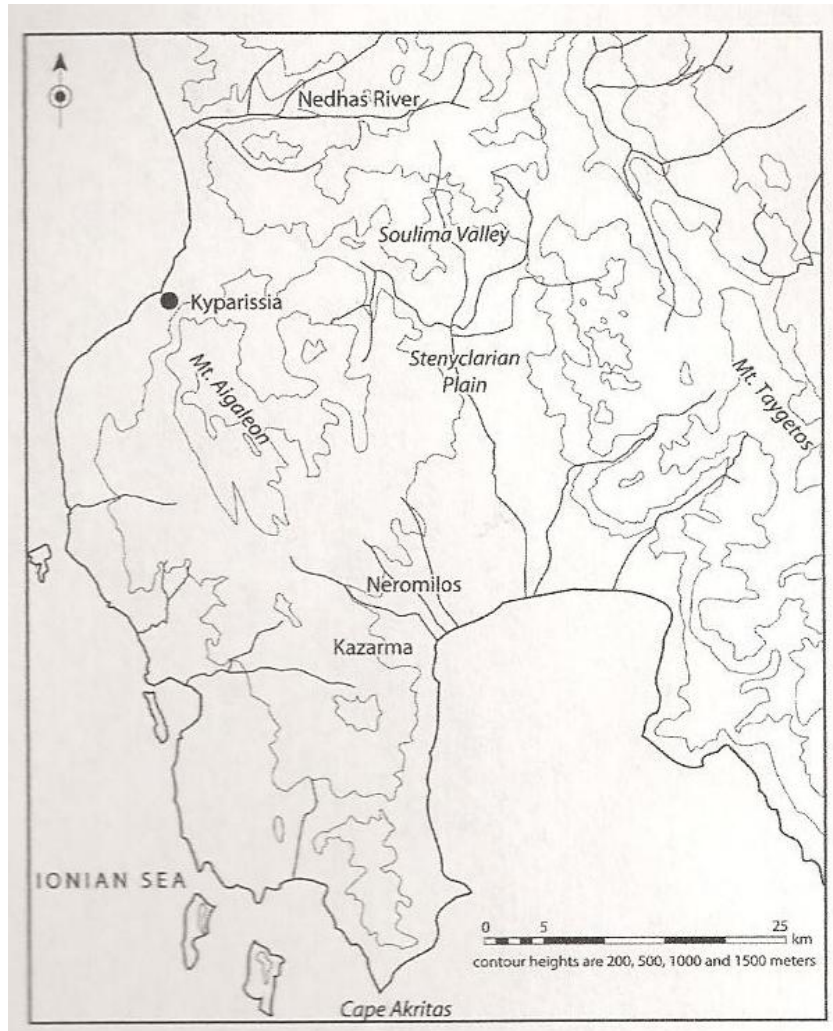


Figure 1. Map of Messenia (Cosmopoulos 2006: figure 1)

From the Linear B tablets, we know that Pylos was divided into two provinces, the Hither province and the Further province. The two provinces are named for the regions to the east and the west of Mount Aigaleon. Each province encompassed several districts, and each district had at least one major settlement (Cosmopoulos 2006). The Linear B tablets recorded sixteen or seventeen settlements, nine settlements in the Hither province and seven or eight settlements in the Further province. The order in which the settlements are listed in the tablets is not alphabetical and thus it is believed that the settlements are listed either in a geographical order or

in an order reflecting each settlements ranking within the larger settlement system. In theory, the criteria for ranking settlements according to their political standing are based on the possible administrative function of these settlements (seat of state, regional, or local government, or no such function) (Cosmopoulos 2006).

One such settlement mentioned in the Linear B tablets is a place called *a-pu₂*, which is believe to be the modern site of Iklaina. The Pylos Regional Archaeological Project (PRAP) has been working on many different sites in Greece which are believed to be district capitals and states. Also, the Pylos-Iklaina Archaeological Project (IKAP) has been working in Iklaina to discover if it really is *a-pu₂*. The following is a study to investigate whether Iklaina really is a district capital of the Palace of Nestor in hopes of learning more about Greek hierarchy and more from the Linear B tablets and the Palace of Nestor.

THE PALACE OF NESTOR

The Palace of Nestor dates from 1600 B.C., the Middle Helladic period, to about 1200 B.C., the Late Helladic period. Those who have ever read Homer's stories the *Iliad* or the *Odyssey* have probably heard or seen the name Nestor. The oldest account of a visit to Messenia is the fictional journey related by Homer – that of Telemachos, son of Odysseus, king of Ithaca, to discover the whereabouts of his father (Davis 1998). In Homer's story Telemachos sails to Pylos accompanied by the goddess Athena. On landing, Telemachos found King Nestor of Pylos, his sons, and their subjects sacrificing black bulls on the beach to Poseidon (Davis 1998). However, not many scholars, historians, or archaeologists take Homer's readings into account. The debate over Nestor's Pylos began with the Alexandrian commentators on Homer in the third century

B.C. and has continued intermittently ever since (Chadwick 1967). The seat of power of a historical King Nestor was, without question, situated on the ridge of Englianos near the modern town of Hora, where archaeologist Carl Blegen, excavating on behalf of the University of Cincinnati, found in 1939 a prehistoric Bronze Age palace (Davis 1998).

In 1939 Blegen found a site that he thought could possibly be the Palace of Nestor. Blegen began work tentatively with the aid of one student, and by an astonishing piece of luck their first trial trench ran through what is now known as the archive room (Chadwick 1967). Tablets were found within twenty-four hours, and the first season's work produced no fewer than 600 clay tablets (Figure 2), similar to ones from Knossos and written in the identical Linear B script (Chadwick 1967). The Palace of Minos at Knossos on the island of Crete was the first place that the Linear B script had ever been discovered. It is believed that the Palace of Minos burnt down due to the making of the clay tablets. Sir Arthur Evans was behind the discovery of the Linear B script in Knossos. Unfortunately, shortly after Blegen's discovery, the Second World War started, and Blegen was forced to halt his work and prior to leaving the site, Blegen photographed all of the tablets and deposited them in the Bank of Athens, where they remained intact until after the War. Hence, it was to be another thirteen years before Blegen could resume his research (Davis 1998).

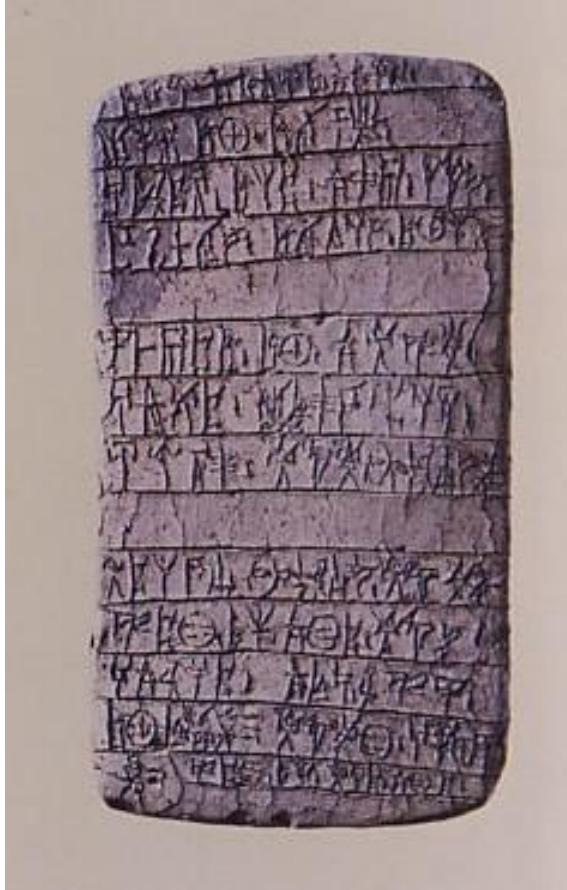


Figure 2. Linear B tablet found at Palace of Nestor
Source: <http://proteus.brown.edu/greekpast/4690>

Blegen had discovered something entirely significant to the Ancient Greek culture, after which he made two requests. First, he called for “a systematic, comprehensive survey of the districts of Greece, province by province, with the recording and mapping of all the ancient sites” (Davis 1998). After his experience at Ano Englianos, he was further convinced that surface scatters of ancient potsherds were representative of the artifacts buried under the ground, and therefore that study of surface remains could help locate “scores, not to say hundreds, of smaller settlements” (Davis 1998). Second, Blegen recommended that all archaeological projects follow the example set by Schliemann and collaborate with scientists, especially

physical anthropologists and paleozoologists, because, he argued, archaeologists were going to need specialist information to help solve the problems facing them (Davis 1998).

Though Sir Arthur Evans was the one to discover the Linear B script in Knossos in 1936 and the first to have studied the clay tablets, it was not until sixteen years later that Michael Ventris succeeded where others had failed. In 1952 he claimed to have found the key to its understanding (Chadwick 1967). He offered a decipherment, with the exciting conclusion that the language of the Mycenaeans living at Pylos had been an archaic form of Greek (Davis 1998). After Ventris' decipherment archaeologists were able to understand the Linear B script. In Greece a great deal of scholarly research has been devoted to the Mycenaean state of Pylos, fueled by the Linear B tablets found at the Palace of Ano Englianos and the extensive archaeological fieldwork conducted in Messenia (Cosmopoulos 2006). As stated above, Pylos or rather the Palace of Nestor was divided into two provinces, the Hither province and the Further province, for administrative purposes. As indicated by the Linear B tablets there were sixteen to seventeen settlements split in the Hither and Further provinces (Table 1). In addition, they mention a large number of other toponyms, some indicating districts or settlements "of varying size and importance," and some referring to mountains, rivers, and other geographical features (Cosmopoulos 2006).

Table 1. The Districts of the Hither and Further Provinces

Hither Province	Further Province
<i>pi-[*]82</i>	<i>ti-mi-to a-ke-e</i>
<i>me-ta-pa</i>	<i>ra-wa-ra-ta₂</i>
<i>pe-to-no</i>	<i>sa-ma-ra</i>
<i>pa-ki-ja-pi</i>	<i>a-si-ja-ti-ja</i>
<i>a-pu₂</i>	<i>e-ra-te-re-wa-pi</i>
<i>a-ke-re-wa</i>	<i>za-ma-e-wi-ja</i>
<i>e-ra-to/ro-u-so</i>	<i>e-re-i</i>
<i>ka-ra-do-so</i>	
<i>ri-jo</i>	

One of these many settlements, *a-pu₂*, is believed to be the modern site of Iklaina, which the Pylos-Iklaina Archaeological Project (IKAP) has been excavating. IKAP is an interdisciplinary research project in the area of Messenia, Greece. The project is under the direction of Professor Michael Cosmopoulos of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Missouri at St. Louis. Situated at a strategic location overlooking the Ionian Sea, Iklaina appears to have been an important district capital under the Palace of Nestor in Pylos. This study will examine and evaluate the available evidence to support this claim.

METHODOLOGY

My methodology for this paper focuses on two major parts. The first covers the settlement hierarchy in the ancient Greek society while the second covers evidence on district capitals in Greece. Under the first part, the settlement hierarchy, I looked at two points. The first point was about the settlement hierarchy as seen in the tablets, how was the Palace of Nestor managed? Were the district capitals or towns supposed to answer to the government officials from the palace? The second point was about the function of the Linear B tablets. There are many

different clay tablets that have been discovered with information about daily Greek life, what can these tablets really tell us? Furthermore, I looked into the geographic landscape of Pylos and Iklaina and other district capitals mentioned in the Linear B texts, mainly the Hither province district capitals and towns, so that I could get a rough estimate of whether John Chadwick's ideas about the districts and landscapes were correct. For the second part, evidence on district capitals, there were three points on which I focus. The first was what is a district capital? I defined what a district capital is, however I had to wait to answer my other questions to see if the site of Iklaina falls under the definition of district capital and if it truly is the district capital *a-pu₂*. The second point was what do the district capitals have in common? I looked at other ancient Greek district capitals, mostly the nine Hither province district capitals, and compared them with Iklaina to see if the evidence from Iklaina fits and that it is similar or different from the definition of a district capital. The third and last point of focus is examining artifacts and remains from Iklaina to see if these fit expectations for material one would find at a district capital? To answer this question I looked at reports from previous excavations by the Pylos-Iklaina Archaeological Project.

SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS

Over the years the Linear B tablets have been analyzed by many different scholars, historians, and archaeologist and it has become relevant to reconstruct the Palace of Nestor's settlement hierarchy. It is unarguable that the Palace of Nestor is the commanding official for the government of Pylos and the entire state. By being the head of state, Nestor, controls all the statewide production and the trading of goods. After the Palace of Nestor come the sixteen or

seventeen districts or towns in the Hither and Further provinces. These districts were managed by what would now days be called a mayor and fellow officials who reported to the Palace of Nestor. It appears that these districts controlled several aspects of the agricultural and industrial production for the area of Pylos. Villages were lower in the government class and reported to the districts. However, from a few tablets it has become clear that the palace controlled the resources of some villages directly, rather than through one of the districts, which makes it possible that these few villages had special importance within the palace. It could be suggested that these villages may have belonged to a higher hierarchal order than those in which the palace was not interested directly (Cosmopoulos 2006). The Palace of Nestor is placed in a four tier system. The first tier would be the palace as the political and economic center of the state. The second tier is that of the districts and towns under the tutelage of the palace but also seemed to have political, financial, and administrative functions. As for the third and fourth tier the villages make up the two groups – those villages that answer only to the palace were the third tier while those under the guidance of the districts or rather did not have direct access to the palace were the fourth tier (Cosmopoulos 2006).

Geographic Landscapes

It has been established that the districts and towns of Pylos are not listed in alphabetical order or in the richness of a district, the productivity or the economic importance of the district or town, on the Linear B tablets. Rather, it has been decided that the districts are written in a geographical order. In this respect, it follows a north-south line, a concept compatible with the possibility that the Mycenaean scribes of Pylos may have followed scribal routes in the ordering of the records (Cosmopoulos 2006). John Chadwick made a rough estimate of where he believes each of the Hither province districts should be located (Figure 3) based on the Linear B document

(Cosmopoulos 2006). Chadwick made the suggestions that *pi*-82*, *me-ta-pa*, and *pe-to-no* are all to the north of the Palace of Nestor. Also, Chadwick placed *pa-ki-ja-ne* as the nearest district capital to the Palace of Nestor. With the help of the *o-ka* tablets Chadwick placed three of the remaining five districts, *a-ke-re-wa*, *ka-ra-do-ro*, and *ri-jo*, on the coast which meant that *a-pu₂* and *ro-u-so* were inland. Chadwick's only fault was that he put *ro-u-so* before *a-ke-re-wa* when on the tablets the district town is actually listed after *a-ke-re-wa*.

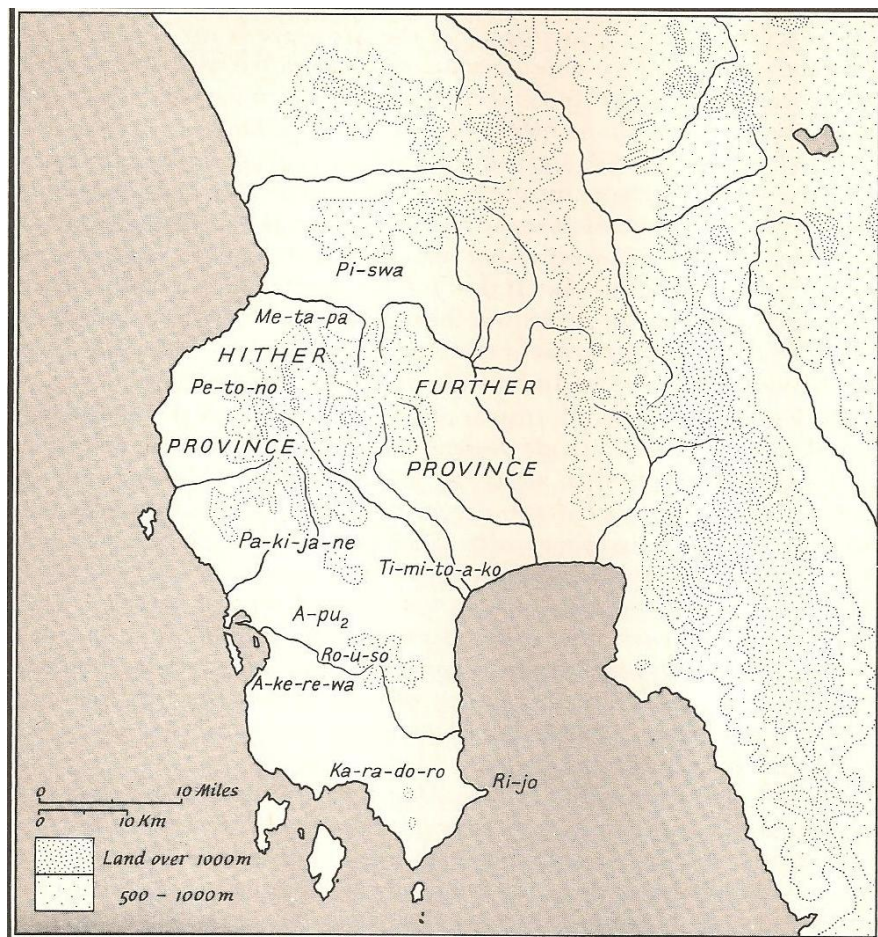


Figure 3. Chadwick's The Two Provinces (Cosmopoulos 2006: figure 3)

District Capitals

A district capital is a town in charge of other towns and villages and answers only to the palace.

A district has a mayor and sometimes an official who control the town and keep in contact with officials from the palace. Most districts usually have financial, administrative, and political functions.

What Do District Capitals Have In Common?

The Linear B clay tablets found at the Palace of Nestor recorded information about Nestor's land, Pylos, being divided into two provinces – *de-we-ro-a₃-ko-ra-i-ja*, the Hither province, and *pe-ra₃-ko-ra-i-ja*, the Further province. The names, Hither and Further, are for the regions to the east and west of Mount Aigaleon. The two provinces communicated with each other through the passes between the Soulima and Stenyclarian plains in the north and a road in the Kazarma-Neromylos area in the south (Cosmopoulos 2006).

Scholars concerned with the economic and political operations of Mycenaean society have traditionally depended on the information contained in the Linear B tablets, which document the movement of several types of goods into and out of each of the palaces and functioned essentially as temporary economic records of in-house transactions (Galaty and Parkinson 2007). The Linear B tablets not only have information about geographical locations and landscapes but contain evidence of the trade in agricultural and industrial products in which the districts and towns participated. Also, the clay tablets contain information on the products on which each district and town were taxed (Table 2). The *Ma* tablets recorded tax assessments for each of the districts in the Hither and Further provinces, especially for the final year that the palace was functioning. Each tablet records a town and its assessment for six commodities; some tablets record also the contribution and, where applicable, the amount still owed from

previous years (Cosmopoulos 2006). Carothers believed that the amount of tax assessed in the *Ma* tablets for each of the towns of the two provinces indicate the relative productivity of those towns (Carothers 1992). From an economic point of view, these towns appear also to have controlled several aspects of the agricultural and industrial production in their districts, and it is possible that they served as centers for collective farming activity and local redistribution for their wider communities (Cosmopoulos 2006). The Palace functioned as a center of elite competition, one that was organized almost exclusively around the production of prestige goods (Galaty and Parkinson 2007).

Table 2. Hither Province Taxation According to Ma Tablets (Shelmerdine 1973, as cited in Cosmopoulos 2006: table 3)

Towns	Assessments for Six Commodities					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
<i>pi-*82</i>	56	56	16	34	12	1200
<i>me-ta-pa</i>						
<i>pe-to-no</i>	63	63	17	27	14	1350
<i>a-ke-re-wa</i>	68	68	21	30	15	1500
<i>a-pu₂</i>						
<i>pa-ki-ja-pi</i>						
<i>ka-ra-do-ro</i>	52	52	14	23	12	762
<i>ri-jo</i>						
<i>ro-u-so</i>						

It is evident from the Linear B tablets that several specialized industries were carried out under the direction of the central administration, particularly, bronze-working, the production of textiles, weapons, perfumed oils, and flax, as well as, stock raising and possible chariot production (Table 3). It seems that the production of oils, weapons, and chariots fall under the other artisanal activities.

Table 3. District/Towns of Hither Province and their Economic Activities

	<i>pi- *82</i>	<i>me-ta-pa</i>	<i>pe-to-no</i>	<i>pa-ki-ja-pi</i>	<i>a-pu₂</i>	<i>a-ke-re-wa</i>	<i>e-ra-to/ro-u-so</i>	<i>ka-ra-do-so</i>	<i>ri-jo</i>
Stock-raising	x	x				x	x		
Flax-producing	x			x				x	x
textile-making		x					x		
bronze-working			x	x	x	x	x		x
other artisanal activities	x			x	x	x	x	x	x

From the tablets, we can see that *a-pu₂* contributed about the same amount of bronze to the palace that other districts were contributing. The tablets mention the names of nine bronze smiths in *a-pu₂*, of whom seven received allocations of bronze while two did not (Cosmopoulos 2006).

Finds from previous digs

The following is evidence from documented reports from three of the four excavation seasons. The site of Iklaina has only recently been the focus of archaeological investigation with only two seasons of excavation having been completed; one in 2006 and more recently a second in 2008. These excavations have uncovered data relevant to the economic activities conducted at Iklaina as well as its occupational history. Further, evidence of its destruction during the Middle Helladic period was found based upon a destruction level and a later Mycenaean settlement dating to the Late Helladic period. Excavations have uncovered burned artifacts such as bones, pottery, and micro-fragments of plaster (Figure 4). Also, the soil seemed to be burned. Chert flakes, pottery sherds, sherds of Middle Helladic vases, and two biconical spindle whorls were found.

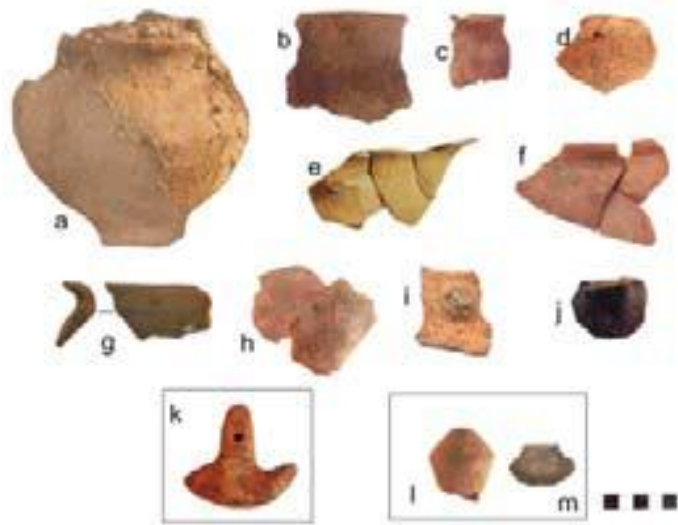


Figure 4. Fragments of pottery (a-j), anchor ornament (k), and spindle whorls (l-m) (Cosmopoulos 2008: figure 4)

During the excavations, two rooms were discovered and both were destroyed by fire towards the end of the period. Unfortunately, the destruction was very intense and the walls that defined the rooms cannot be detected, nor can the floor plans of any houses be reconstructed. As a result, it is unclear whether the two rooms uncovered are in the same house or if there are two separate houses.

A Late Helladic Mycenaean settlement was also found. The excavation found numerous walls and rooms, which were temporarily assigned to four houses – A, B, Γ, and Δ – as well as two drains (Cosmopoulos 2008). House A has at least three rooms (Figure 5). Pottery sherds from vases, bowls, and kylikes were found in House A. Also, the bones of cattle, goats, sheep and pigs were found and a larger and small tripodic vase was found in House A. From the data available, it would appear that House A underwent two major architectural phases.

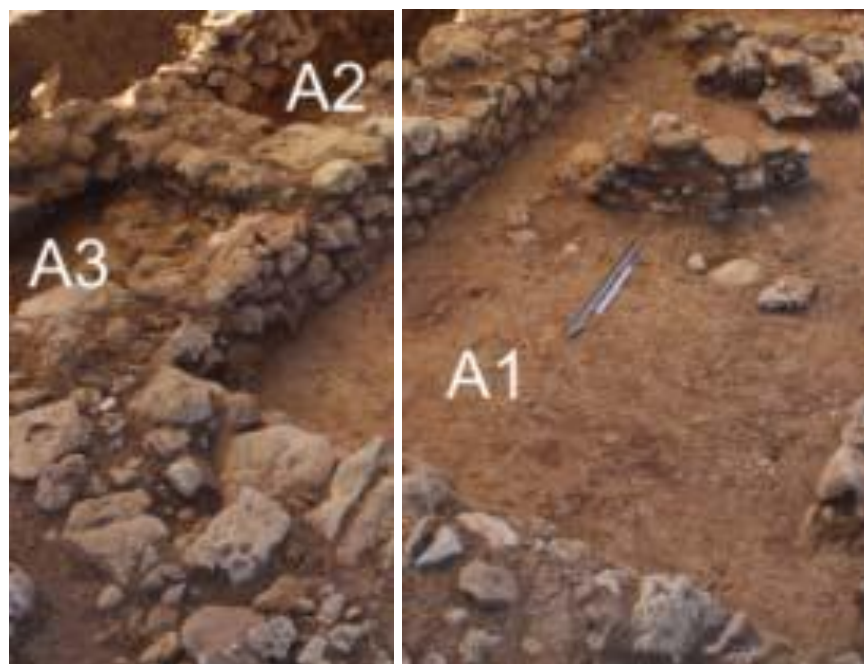


Figure 5. Images of House A at the Pylos-Iklaina Site (Cosmopoulos 2008: figure 9)

House B was found to the east of House A and seems to have been built after House A. In House B there were pottery sherds, burned animal bones, and fragments of burned kylikes. House Γ is made of two rectangular rooms arranged from east to west (Cosmopoulos 2008). A large number of pottery sherds were found. Also, there were two rhytas and an animal figurine (Figure 6). To the north end of the excavated area is known as House Δ and House Γ is to the south. Pottery sherds, burned animal bones and non-burned animal bones were found in House Δ (Table 4).



Figure 6. Artifacts found in House Γ at Pylos-Iklaina Site (Cosmopoulos 2008: figure 19)

Two drains were also found between Houses B and Γ. The drains start from the east or southeast area and continue to the west. The first drain was covered by fourteen flat slabs (Cosmopoulos 2008). The second drain was not as well preserved as the first drain but looks as though it makes an s-shaped line running from the east to the west. The exits of the two drains actually converge at the same point.

Table 4. Artifacts found at each House

	House A	House B	House Γ	House Δ
Pottery sherds	x	x	x	x
burned animal bones	x	x		x
animal bones				x
bowls	x			
kylikes	x	x		
tripodic jar	2x			
rhyta			2x	
animal figurine			x	

In 2009 the third excavation season took place. The excavation season before identified Houses A, B, Γ, and Δ. This season continued with the further excavation of B, Γ, and Δ. The

pottery associated with the foundation suggested that House B was built in the early Mycenaean period. For House B, the excavation primarily centered on the walls while in House Γ an oval-shaped hearth was discovered. Also, large quantities of pottery, kylikes, bowls, storage jars, and fragments from human and animal figurines were found (Table 5). For House Δ, the excavation area was expanded to the east where another room was uncovered. Pottery sherds, bowls, jars, kylikes, two human figurines, and a large piece from the rim of a terracotta bathtub were found (Figure 7).

Table 5. Artifacts found at each House

	House B	House Γ	House Δ
Pottery sherds		x	x
animal bones		x	
human figurines		x	x
animal figurines		x	
kylikes		x	x
storage jars		x	x
rhyta		x	
white plaster		x	x
spindle whorl			x
rim of bathtub			x



Figure 7. Rim of a terracotta bathtub (Cosmopoulos 2009: figure 14)

Another House or Unit, as it was called now, was found during excavation. This Unit was called Unit E; the most interesting feature found in Unit E was that the first drain started in the interior of this room. A pit was found next to a wall; in the pit two nearly complete kylikes and a large cup were uncovered (Cosmopoulos 2009). Another pit was found full of broken pots and burned animal bones. In 2008 a skull was discovered but the rest of the skeleton was not excavated until the 2009 season. It has been confirmed that the skeleton is that of an adolescent female. Also, a mound was finally excavated during the season, which turned out to be a rectangular Cyclopean terrace. It was called a Cyclopean terrace because of the Cyclopean limestone blocks.

The fourth and newest excavation season took place during the summer of 2010. The excavation focused on the Cyclopean Terrace discovered during the previous season (Figure 8). With the excavation of the Cyclopean Terrace three areas were uncovered. The first area was discovered to be three rectangular rooms, T1-T3 (Cosmopoulos 2010). T1 and T3 were used for storage. Pottery and fragments of frescoes were uncovered. The frescoes show images of at least two female figures and the other shows a representation of a ship (Figure 9). Unit S was also discovered in the Cyclopean Terrace, with two rooms being uncovered. In room S2 there was an irregular burned area in the center of room, which seems to represent the remains of a hearth. A few Middle Helladic coarse sherds were also found near Unit S, as was a bronze ring.



Figure 8. Aerial view of the Iklaina Site (Cosmopoulos 2010: figure 1)



Figure 9. Frescoes found during the 2010 season (Cosmopoulos 2010: figure 5)

To the northeast of Unit S was where Unit Y was discovered. It seems as though Unit Y has two rooms, but the excavation of the Unit has not finished due to the end of the season.

Pottery and a bronze nail were found in Unit Y (Table 6).

Table 6. Artifacts found in the Cyclopean Terrace

	Rooms T1-T3	Unit S1-S2	Unit Y1-Y2
pottery sherds	x	x	x
fragments of frescoes	x		
bronze ring		x	
bronze nail			x

Two other units were found, X and Z, both of which are only partially excavated. A small portion of the Unit X wall has been excavated and another drain was found near the unit. Unit Z has two separate rooms that are partially preserved. Also, further work continued by Unit B which was first excavated in 2006. A fourth room was excavated with the discovery of burned pottery sherds and a fragment of a Linear B tablet inside of a pit (Cosmopoulos 2010). Altogether, many artifacts have been excavated at the site of Iklaina. Most of these artifacts are what one would normally see at a major city or capital rather than a village (Table 7). The Pylos-Iklaina Archaeological Project will continue their excavation during the summer of 2011.

Table 7. Overall Artifacts Found At Site

	Middle Helladic Level	House A, B, Γ, and Δ	Rooms T1-T3	Unit S, Y, X, and Z
pottery sherds	x	x	x	x
animal bones		x		
storage jars		x		
production jars		x		
spindle whorl	x	x		
figurines/ornaments	x	x		
rim of a bathtub		x		
fragments of frescoes			x	
bronze				x
Linear B tablet		x		

CONCLUSION

Without the discovery of the Linear B clay tablets archaeologist, historians, and scholars would still be clueless about Pylos. With the Linear B script it has become easier to learn more about the history of the Palace of Nestor and Pylos, the land which was considered under the rule of the palace. Today, no one would know about the settlement hierarchy if the tablets were never uncovered. The Palace of Nestor's government system is set in a four tier system with the palace being at the top overlooking all districts, towns, and villages who are part of Pylos. The second tier is the districts mentioned in the Linear B tablets from the Hither and Further provinces. The district capitals have direct contact to the palace. They have mayors and officials who are in charge of daily activities. The districts also keep the fourth tier of villages in contact with the palace. Without the Linear B, John Chadwick never would have been able to map out an area of all the districts and towns and villages that answered to the palace. All things from the text have pointed to Chadwick's belief that *a-pu₂* was in fact inland rather than on the coast. Chadwick's map is a rough estimate. *A-pu₂* is a district capital and so far with the excavation going on at the Iklaina site, all evidence points to Iklaina being one of the nine Hither provinces – *a-pu₂*. With comparing textual evidence about the district capitals it has been evident that *a-pu₂* was a bronze production town. After looking at reports from the Iklaina Archaeological Project there is evidence of bronze starting to be found. Besides finding pottery sherds there have been artifacts found such as, fragments of frescoes, animal and human figurines, a Linear B tablet, and bronze, which all are more significant artifacts. Artifacts that are normally found in a major city or district. Iklaina is a fairly new site with only four excavation seasons completed, but evidence is starting to show that it was a very profitable town. Only time and more excavations will tell whether Iklaina is truly a district capital of the Palace of Nestor.

REFERENCES

- Alcock, Susan E.
2005 Pylos Regional Archaeological Project, Part VII: Historical Messenia, Geometric through Late Roman. *Hesperia*. 74(2):147-209.
- Carothers, J.J.
1992 *The Pylian Kingdom: A Case Study of an Early State*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Chadwick, John
1967 *The Decipherment of Linear B*. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press, London.
- Chadwick, John
1976 *The Mycenaean World*. Cambridge University Press, London.
- Cosmopoulos, Michael B.
2006 The Political Landscape of Mycenaean States: *A-pu₂* and the Hither Province of Pylos. *American Journal of Archaeology: the Journal of the Archaeological Institute of America*. 110(2):205-228.
- Cosmopoulos, Michael B.
2008 Excavation at Iklaina, 2008. Electronic document, <http://www.iklaina.org/>, accessed January 25, 2011.
- Cosmopoulos, Michael B.
2009 Excavation at Iklaina, 2009. Electronic document, <http://www.iklaina.org/>, accessed February 5, 2011.
- Cosmopoulos, Michael B.
2010 Excavation at Iklaina, 2010. Electronic document, <http://www.iklaina.org/>, accessed March 2, 2011.
- Davis, Jack L. (editor)
1998 *Sandy Pylos: An Archaeological History from Nestor to Navarino*. 1st ed. University of Texas Press, Austin.
- Galaty, Michael A. and William A. Parkinson (editors)
2007 *Rethinking Mycenaean Palaces II: Revised and Expanded*. 2nd ed. Los Angeles: UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology.

Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World
2011 Archaeologies of the Greek Past. Electronic document,
http://brown.edu/Departments/Joukowsky_Institute/courses/allcourses.html, accessed
March 14, 2011.

Parkinson, William A.
2010 Pylos Regional Archaeological Project, Part VIII: Lithics and Landscapes: A Messenian
Perspective. *Hesperia*. 79(1):1-51.

Shelmerdine, Cynthia W.
1973 The Pylos Ma Tablets Reconsidered. *American Journal of Archaeology: the Journal of
the Archaeological Institute of America*. 77(3):261-275.

Ventris, Michael and John Chadwick
1959 *Documents in Mycenaean Greek*. Cambridge University Press, London.

