

## **EXCAVATIONS AT POLITIKO-TROULLIA, 2010**

The Ministry of Communications and Works, Department of Antiquities, announces the completion of the 2010 archaeological investigations at the Bronze Age community of Politiko-Troullia, lying about 25 km southwest of Nicosia near Ayios Irakleidios Monastery in the copper-bearing foothills of the Troodos Mountains. The excavations were conducted under the direction of Dr. Steven Falconer and Dr. Patricia Fall of Arizona State University.

This year's fieldwork revealed extensive evidence of the Bronze Age community (ca. 2000-1500 B.C.) that was the predecessor of ancient Tamassos, the seat of a centrally important kingdom during the subsequent Iron Age. These excavations brought to light a series of households around a large communal courtyard that produced evidence of intensive animal husbandry and crop processing, copper metallurgy and sophisticated ceramic technology during the Middle Bronze Age, just prior to the advent of cities on Late Bronze Age Cyprus. The archaeological deposits at Politiko-Troullia reach depths of up to four metres below the modern surface, making this site one of the deepest stratified sites on the island of Cyprus. Archaeological survey of the local landscape shows that the hills around Politiko-Troullia have been terraced and managed intensively for centuries, perhaps beginning as early as the Bronze Age. The ancient villagers of Politiko-Troullia cultivated grapes and olives, and herded sheep, goats, cattle and pigs. They also hunted considerable numbers of deer and wild goat.

The results from Politiko-Troullia open an archaeological window on the farming and mining communities that provided the foundation for urbanized civilization on Cyprus. Drs. Falconer and Fall are particularly grateful for all the kind support, encouragement and friendship offered to their project by the people of Pera (Orinis) and Politiko, most especially by mayors Costas Miliotis and Andreas Voskaris. The Arizona State excavations at Politiko-Troullia hope to provide a new understanding of the earliest history of Pera, Politiko and their neighboring modern villages.



Politiko Troullia, 2010