



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday November 8, 2022,

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Maroni-Vournes - A rural Archaic to Hellenistic sanctuary in Cyprus

ABSTRACT

Maroni-Vournes, situated approximately halfway between Larnaka and Limassol, is primarily known as a Late Bronze Age/Late Cypriot site, which was excavated in the 1980s by a team of the University of Cincinnati directed by Gerald Cadogan. The site features two adjacent monumental buildings, which according to the associated finds evidently served central economic and administrative purposes for the local community in the hinterland of the Bronze Age city at Kalavassos-Agios Dimitrios, some 9 km travel-distance to the northwest. However, the site also yielded ample evidence for the establishment of a sanctuary in the central courtyard and adjacent rooms of the Late Cypriot so-called “Ashlar-building” sometime during the eighth century BCE, largely re-using and rebuilding Late Cypriot walls for its layout. Some 80.000 pottery sherds, 8 ash-shovels and about 100 votive-figures, the great majority depicting votaries, found in this area show that this rural cult site was in continuous use until the end of the third century. This paper will present and analyse the evidence for this sanctuary, explore its spatial organisation, elements of cult and cult-practice in the different spaces, and the identity and functions of the deity or deities worshipped at the site, all in the light of what is known about Cypriot religion, cult, sanctuaries, and votive-practice from the Archaic to early Hellenistic period.

The seminar takes place **Tuesday November 8, 2022, 17.00** (Athens time) exceptionally only via Zoom link.

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