# Rock Art from Evros Region in Northern Greece

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## Location & Distribution of Rock Art in North Evros Region



## Goniko





Site of Goniko, Anthropomorphic Figures, Late Bronze Age.

# Goniko











Fragka rock 1



#### Location of rock 2

Cleaning rock 2



Rock 2 panel



Close up and details



Rock 2 details: depiction of scales



Documentation of Rock 2 at Fragka



Charcoal at the base of rock 2

Exfoliated fragment with decoration

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# Scanning Electron Microscope (Scanning Electron Microscopy, SEM)

The scanning electron microscope (Scanning Electron Microscopy, SEM) is an instrument that operates approximately the same as an optical microscope by using high-energy beam of electrons instead of light in order to examine objects on a detailed scale.

Electrons due to their wave nature, as light waves, may focused on a much smaller area (e.g. grain material). The electron beam scans the sample surface with which it interacts. This interaction generates information in relation to atoms of the components of the test material. From those atoms mainly emitted secondary (secondary) and backscattered (backscattered) electrons and X-rays.

The intensity of the emitted electrons is affected by surface characteristics. Thus SEM provides information focusing on morphology and composition of the surface.

# Scanning Electron Microscope (Scanning Electron Microscopy, SEM)

Through the application of detection system of the dispersion of action of X-rays generated at the surface of the incident beam can be made semi-quantitative elemental analysis of the material. Therefore, SEM is used to examine the microstructure of solid samples in micro and nano scale resulting images of high penetration rate.

Analyzes for determining the chemical composition of sample (1) and (2) Fragka performed with the system for elemental microanalysis X-ray spectrometer energy dispersive (Energy Dispersive X-ray, EDX) of scanning electron microscope (Scanning Electron Microscopy, SEM) of Institute of nanoscience and nanotechnology In N.C.S.R. Demokritos. Samples were entrapped by using an epoxy resin. Relied on SEM stubs with adhesive carbon disk and placed in the scanning electron microscope for elemental analysis. Results presented on the following tables.

## Table 1.: Elementary analysisof oxides for sample 1

Elem	Wt %
MgO	29.76
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	2.56
SiO <sub>2</sub>	47.87
CaO	1.58
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.45
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	13.43
NiO	1.39
CuO	1.96

 10/11/2013
 HV
 mag
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 Bit
 40 µm

 11.00:55 AM
 25:00 kV
 2:400 × 111 3 mm
 111 3 µm
 0\*



Images of 2400 and 20000 magnitude for sample 1

## Table 2.: Elementary analysisof oxides for sample 2

Elem	Wt %
Na <sub>2</sub> O	7.11
MgO	2.97
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	22.78
SiO <sub>2</sub>	56.32
K <sub>2</sub> O	2.93
CaO	
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.95
CoO	1.79

Images of 2400 and 20000 magnitude for sample 2





### Elementary Analysis - Results

The results demonstrate the participation of 8 oxides in both sample composition (Table 1, 2). Specifically identified the oxides MgO,  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $SiO_2$ , CaO,  $Cr_2O_3$ ,  $Fe_2O_3$ , NiO, CuO for sample 1 and  $Na_2O$ , MgO,  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $SiO_2$ ,  $K_2O$ , CaO,  $Fe_2O_3$ , CoO for sample 2. Both samples presented high percentages of silicate oxides  $SiO_2$  (47.87% and 56.82% respectively)

In sample 1 the higher concentration that follows the silicate oxides is MgO oxides (29.76%) while in sample 2 follows aluminum oxide ( $Al_2O_3$  22.78%). For sample 2 the dominant presence of silicon oxide ( $SiO_2$ ), i.e. the mineral quartz in combination with aluminum oxide ( $Al_2O_3$ ), the presence of which is attributed to the mixture of clay minerals, represent minerals of aluminosilicate base. The oxides of iron and magnesium justify the dark black-grey color, while iron oxides in combination with titanium oxides may indicate potential effect from a granule iron-titanium mineral which is incorporated in the mixture. The incidence rates of oxides of alkali (CaO and Na<sub>2</sub>O) correspond to the presence of feldspars.



Location



Themes and techniques



Themes and techniques



Fragments detached from the main body



Documentation of southwestern part of Grammeni Petra

### Petrota Rock Art



Trapeze – shaped rock located south of the village of Petrota

## Petrota Rock Art



Rock shelter located south of the village of Petrota. Municipality of Orestiada

## Chronology & Cultural Identity



#### Vigla Hill or Vigla's Vulva mentioned by local people







Handmade Bronze Age ceramics found during surface investigation

## Chronology & Cultural Identity



#### Depiction of Scales on Rock 2 at Fragka

Golden scales of Mycenae. 16<sup>th</sup> c. BC National Museum Of Archaeology, Athens

#### Chronology & Cultural Identity "Psychostasia"

The relation of the anthropomorphic motifs to the scales and fertility symbols (site Fragka, rock 2) indicates the eschatological dimension of the narration. The scene leads us to the supposition that it concerns a belief under the term "weighing of souls» or as "psychostasia" (in Greek: ψυχοστασία). As an idea, this belief has to do with the weighing of souls on scales after death. The idea of weighing souls was already known from the 16<sup>th</sup> century BC in the Mycenaean world and this arises from the findings of the arched tombs exhibited at the National Museum of Archaeology in Athens.

## Chronology & Cultural Identity "Psychostasia"



Arched Tomb III of Mycenae (Tomb of the women). Golden scales of psychostasia decorated with Butterfly figure, symbol of the soul (16<sup>th</sup> c. BC).

Arched Tomb, Vafio Lakonias, Scales of Psychostasia (15<sup>th</sup> c. BC)

## Chronology & Cultural Identity "Psychostasia"



Papyrus of Hunefer, 1375 BC, British Museum



Lekynthos from Capua. 5th c. BC, British Museum

## Psychostasia as Justice in Byzantine Iconographical Tradition



Church of Panagia Asinou, 12 c., Cyprus

# Chronology & Cultural Identity Female Figures, Fertility Symbols



Fragka rock 1





Grammeni Petra

Fragka Rock 2

# Chronology & Cultural Identity Female Figures, Fertility Symbols











#### Credits

Site Photos – Giorgos Iliadis & Stamatis Palazis

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