

Otto Rubensohn's Excavations on Paros I:  
The Sanctuaries on Kounados Hill



# About Access Archaeology

*Access Archaeology* offers a different publishing model for specialist academic material that might traditionally prove commercially unviable, perhaps due to its sheer extent or volume of colour content, or simply due to its relatively niche field of interest. This could apply, for example, to a PhD dissertation or a catalogue of archaeological data.

All *Access Archaeology* publications are available as a free-to-download pdf eBook and in print format. The free pdf download model supports dissemination in areas of the world where budgets are more severely limited, and also allows individual academics from all over the world the opportunity to access the material privately, rather than relying solely on their university or public library. Print copies, nevertheless, remain available to individuals and institutions who need or prefer them.

The material is refereed and/or peer reviewed. Copy-editing takes place prior to submission of the work for publication and is the responsibility of the author. Academics who are able to supply print-ready material are not charged any fee to publish (including making the material available as a free-to-download pdf). In some instances the material is type-set in-house and in these cases a small charge is passed on for layout work.

Our principal effort goes into promoting the material, both the free-to-download pdf and print edition, where *Access Archaeology* books get the same level of attention as all of our publications which are marketed through e-alerts, print catalogues, displays at academic conferences, and are supported by professional distribution worldwide.

The free pdf download allows for greater dissemination of academic work than traditional print models could ever hope to support. It is common for a free-to-download pdf to be downloaded hundreds or sometimes thousands of times when it first appears on our website. Print sales of such specialist material would take years to match this figure, if indeed they ever would.

This model may well evolve over time, but its ambition will always remain to publish archaeological material that would prove commercially unviable in traditional publishing models, without passing the expense on to the academic (author or reader).



# Otto Rubensohn's Excavations on Paros I:

## The Sanctuaries on Kounados Hill

Tomáš Alušík and  
Pavla Alušíková Dostalíková

Access Archaeology





ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD  
13-14 Market Square  
Bicester  
Oxfordshire OX26 6AD  
United Kingdom  
[www.archaeopress.com](http://www.archaeopress.com)

ISBN 978-1-80583-016-0  
ISBN 978-1-80583-017-7 (e-Pdf)

© the authors and Archaeopress 2025

Cover: Sanctuary of Eileithyia on Kounados, showing the rock face with characteristic niches.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owners.

This book is available direct from Archaeopress or from our website [www.archaeopress.com](http://www.archaeopress.com)

# Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>OTTO RUBENSOHN (1867-1964): A BIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PAUL VICTOR CHRISTOPHER BAUR (1872-1951): A BIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ILSE KLEEMANN: A SHORT BIOGRAPHIC NOTE .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>KOUNADOS HILL AND THE HISTORY OF ITS RESEARCH .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>OTTO RUBENSOHN: FUNDE AUF PAROS.....</b>	<b>34</b>
Editorial note.....	34
Transcription and reproductions.....	35
<b>OTTO RUBENSOHN: DIE HEILIGTÜMER DES KUNADOS-BERGES .....</b>	<b>68</b>
Editorial note.....	68
Transcription.....	69
<b>ILSE KLEEMANN: BERICHT VON EINEM BESUCH DES APHRODITEHEILIGTUMS AUF DEM KUNADOSBERG, PAROS, AM 31. 7. 1961 .....</b>	<b>81</b>
Editorial note.....	81
Transcription and reproductions.....	82
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES.....</b>	<b>98</b>



## Introduction

This book is the first volume in a forthcoming series of editions of archival sources from the estate of the German archaeologist Otto Rubensohn, housed in the archives of the Jewish Museum in Berlin. It contains the transcription of three texts concerning the sites on Kounados Hill on the Greek island of Paros (in the Cyclades).

- Notebook 'Funde auf Paros', containing short descriptions of 80 artefacts from the Sanctuary of Eileithyia<sup>1</sup>
- The text 'Die Heiligtümer des Kunados-Berges', reconstructed by us from several dozen typewritten and handwritten pages<sup>2</sup>
- A letter and report written by the German archaeologist Ilse Kleemann about a visit to one of the sites – the Sanctuary of Aphrodite – posted to Rubensohn in the summer of 1961<sup>3</sup>

Otto Rubensohn (1867-1964) was a German archaeologist of Jewish origin. Although his involvement in the field of archaeology was relatively short and he spent most of his career teaching in elementary and secondary schools, he is now one of the respected German archaeologists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, primarily because of his excavations on the Greek island of Paros and in Egypt. Unfortunately, his importance for German and Greek Classical archaeology and Egyptology is still not fully understood and appreciated.

In 1898 and 1899 he carried out several small excavations on the island of Paros in and around the capital of Parikia. Among other things, three ancient sanctuaries were explored by him (or his team) on Kounados Hill (267m a.s.l.; 37°5'59.88" N and 25°10'38.19" E), located about 3.5 km northeast of the centre of Parikia along the main road to Naoussa. There was a sanctuary probably dedicated to (Zeus) Hypatos (the supreme Greek god worshipped on the mountain tops or heros/demigod Hypatos), another one of Aphrodite (the goddess of love) and one dedicated to Eileithyia (the goddess of childbirth). In particular, the Sanctuary of Eileithyia is also an important site in the context of the whole of ancient Greece.

However, for various reasons, Rubensohn did not complete the study of all the findings and artifacts unearthed from these sites during his lifetime. The published papers contain only short descriptions of the sanctuaries discussed of only a few sentences. In view of this fact, further research on the ancient past of Kounados Hill and its sites during the 20th and 21st centuries has focused almost exclusively on the religious-philological aspect (i.e. the study of cults), and not on the archaeological part. Rubensohn himself was aware that it would be appropriate, given the importance of these sites, to prepare a proper publication with a catalogue of finds, and towards the end of his life he began to prepare one. Unfortunately, however, he was not able to finish it.

Our reconstructed manuscript 'Die Heiligtümer des Kunados-Berges' contains several pages of descriptions of all three shrines. The style of the text corresponds to that of the opening chapters of Rubensohn's 1962 book *Das Delion von Paros*<sup>4</sup> and reflects and refers in several places and pages (see attached Notes) to Ilse Kleemann's report on her visit to the Sanctuary of Aphrodite on Kounados Hill in

---

<sup>1</sup> Jewish Museum in Berlin, Sammlung Otto Rubensohn, inv. no. 2006/27/33.

<sup>2</sup> Jewish Museum in Berlin, Sammlung Otto Rubensohn, inv. no. 2006/27/608 and 2006/27/609.

<sup>3</sup> Jewish Museum in Berlin, Sammlung Otto Rubensohn, inv. no. 2006/27/609/2.

<sup>4</sup> Rubensohn 1962. It is his 'opus magnum' and it is mainly because of this book that he is still appreciated in archaeological community even nowadays.

the summer of 1961. We therefore believe that Rubensohn planned to publish a new book on the results of his research at Kounados Hill, which he began to prepare sometime in the autumn of that year and the manuscript under discussion contains its opening chapter(s). This would, in fact, correspond with the progress of work on the Delion book. That was published in 1962, so it must have been submitted to the publisher sometime in the previous year. Rubensohn would thus have had spare capacity to prepare another piece of work no later than the end of 1961.

In addition to describing all three sites, Rubensohn naturally began to prepare catalogue descriptions of all the finds from the Sanctuary of Eileithyia, as evidenced by the dozens of pages of several different kinds of artefact lists, ranging from simple enumerations to sheets with shorter descriptions.<sup>5</sup> One of the important lists is most likely the complete list of all terracotta artefacts from this site (with drawings of some of them), contained in the notebook 'Funde auf Paros'.

In our opinion, this is a text whose first version was written during Rubensohn's stay in Paros at the end of the 19th century. The deletions, re-writing and other edits are of later date, some probably dating back only to the 1960s, when Rubensohn began to prepare a general publication of the finds.

These two documents/texts are, in our opinion, well complemented by Ilse Kleemann's report on her visit to Kounados Hill in the summer of 1961. Dr Ilse Kleemann was a German archaeologist who was professionally interested in Greek sculpture of the Archaic and Classical periods and participated in many field projects in Greece in the 1960s under the auspices of the Athens branch of the German Archaeological Institute.

Since her report is a valuable testimony of the state of the Sanctuary of Aphrodite on Kounados Hill and likewise her cover letter contains interesting facts, we also include in this book a transcription of both her texts.

The book contains transcripts of all three documents/texts mentioned. Since the notebook 'Funde auf Paros' and the report by Ilse Kleemann contain interesting and important sketches of the artefacts, we also publish here – with the permission of the archives of the Jewish Museum in Berlin, of course – reproductions of them. Most of the chapters are accompanied by photographs – the original Rubensohn's photos from the 1890s, photographs taken by Ilse Kleemann in 1961<sup>6</sup> and our photographs taken during a visit to the sites in the summer of 2024.

This research is part of our project to (re-)identify and re-study all extant artefacts from the sites of the Asklepieion (situated on a low-lying hill by the coast about 3 km south of the centre of Parikia) and the Sanctuary of Eileithyia on Kounados Hill. Both these sites were excavated by Otto Rubensohn. The project is of course being carried out under a valid permit, issued by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Cyclades.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> These manuscripts – and other texts from Rubensohn's estate – will be the subject of our further research and publications.

<sup>6</sup> These photographs are deposited in the Archive of the Jewish Museum in Berlin and in the photo archive of the Athens branch of the German Archaeological Institute.

<sup>7</sup> We would like to thank to Dr D. Athanasoulis, Ephor of Antiquities, to the responsible archaeologists Mr A. Papadimitriou and Mr Y. Kourayos and the staff of Archaeological Museum of Paros.

In addition to transcriptions of the documents, reproductions of the documents and additional photographs, the book contains three shorter chapters with brief biographies of the archaeologists Otto Rubensohn, Paul Baur (a German archaeologist, Rubensohn's friend, who conducted further excavations at the Sanctuary of Eileithyia in 1899) and Ilse Kleemann, and a chapter on Kounados Hill with a brief description of the sites and the history of their research.

We hope that our edition of Rubensohn's and Kleemann's unpublished manuscripts and Rubensohn's notebook will help new interest in the archaeology of Kounados Hill and its interesting and important sites.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the people who have made possible the publication of the archival texts and photographs presented here and others who have assisted us in our research. In particular, the Director of the Archive of the Jewish Museum in Berlin, Dr Aurey Pomerance, and the staff of the Athens Department of the German Archaeological Institute, Dr Katharina Brandt, Dipl.Phil. Eleni Tzimi and Dr Dimitris Grigoropoulos. Our friends from Paros also supported us in our research on the island – Iro Fokianou, Giorgos Karlas, Stella Tsavari, Spyros Papoutsis and Albi and Giorgos Michalis. The German text has been checked and edited into modern form by Anna Klara Kouba. Graphic design is by Lucie Pulchartová. We would also like to express our gratitude to our families.

Tomáš Alušík and Pavla Alušíková Dostalíková