

Foreword

The present study completes a circle that has opened approximately 15 years ago in Crete. The core of this book was formatted during a survey that took place within a joint project between the 13th and 28th Ephorates of Byzantine Antiquities and FORTH (Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas) in Herakleion in 2004, concerning the documentation of the fresco painted churches in two provinces of Crete (Merabello, Apokorōnas).

The formation of these initial observations concerning the prostration images in the Cretan churches were shaped within the next years as part of my work in the archaeological service, which enabled me to collect the material of this book, since the project was not funded by any exterior source. The lack of financial support – especially as far as the *in situ* survey is concerned – was substituted by the kindness of many colleagues and friends who participated and helped me throughout all these years. Firstly I would like to thank the fellow archaeologists M. Andrianakēs (Emeritus Director of the 28th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, Chania), K. Psarakēs (Chania), G. Moschovē (Herakleion), G. Katsalēs (Herakleion), P. Varthalitou (Rethymno), N. Fiolitakē (Rethymno) and the local scholar/teacher M. Chetzogiannakēs (Herakleion) who travelled with me all around Crete, indicating sites and churches and discussing the collected material. The Directors of the Ephorate of Antiquities in Herakleion and Chania Drs. V. Sythiakakē Kritsimallē (Herakleion) and E. Papadopoulou (Chania) were most kind in providing me the access to the monuments included in this study.

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