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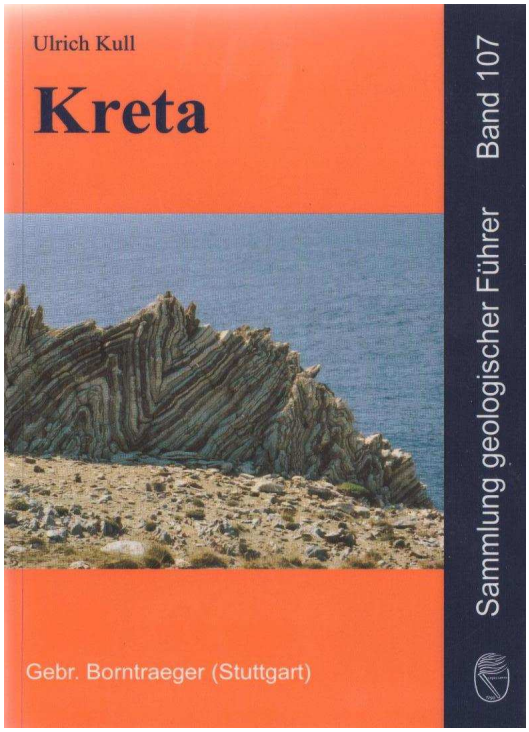
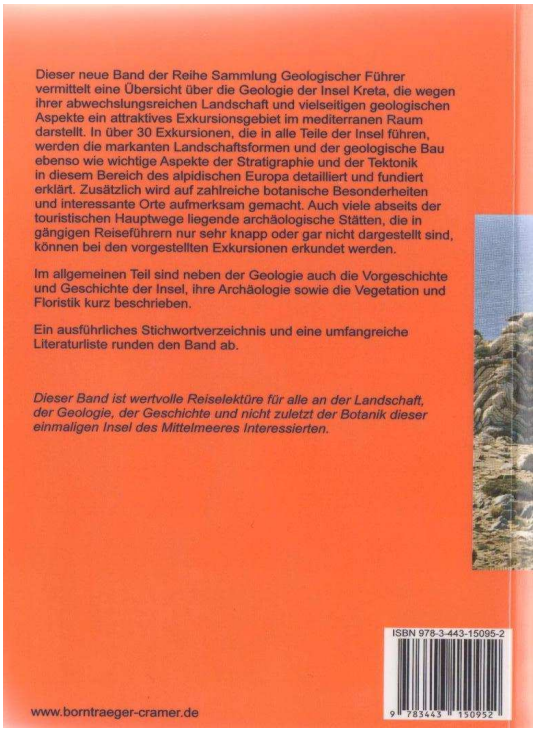
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Geological and archaeological objects of interest of central Crete: Excursion into the northeast part of the Iraklion rift*

* Comprehend the **Excursion 9. East part of the Iraklion-Rift: Iraklion – Limenas – Chersonisou,** Page 182/183 in: U. KULL (2012): Collection geological guide: Kreta (Bd. 107); 320 Pages, Publisher Gebr. Borntraeger (Stuttgart, ISBN 978-3-443-15095-2). The request of the author (*Prof. E. Kull*) to publish a book review (recommendation) of his book by the NLUK, caused us to reconstructed some routes and excursions from his publication, so that we are able to give a recommendation (after determination of current positions); therefore see the following report.





Leave Iraklion on the coastal road (Old Road) towards east till **Amnissos**; first archaeological excavation sites can be visited here (therefore see also our homepage: [http://www.kretaumweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/228-07E.pdf]). *"East of Amnissos bluff within the area of a soil of Tripolitz chalk"* (KULL, 2012); an outcrop hereto can be found right of the street, short after the village exit of **Amnissos** [see picture left]. Further on to **Vathianos Kampos**, approx 3 miles.

„Minoan harbour of Nirou Chani: on the west village edge of Vathianos Kampos branch's a driveway towards north at the place-name sign, which leads to a small chapel on the coast. There on the coast you can recognize (at low tide) Minoan wall remainders, which are to a large extent below the sea level. In addition traces of quarrying are to be seen. Today's situation under the sea level occupies a coastal lowering. The excavation area of Nirou Chani is about 1 mile east" (KULL 2012).

The driveway towards **Nirou Chani** branch's to the left opposite the place-name sign; it consists of a narrow concrete runway, which is about 200 m long and leads along water ditch covered with reed to the sea. The small chapel is on the right. Left (about 100 m along the coast) are the good to be seen wall remains (usually 10 to 20 cm awash). Spoors of a stone quarrying are primarily seen on one of the offshore islet. Back to the main street, it's than about 900 m towards east to the excavation site **Nirou Chani**, which is located on the right of the main street. We will inform about that with an extra leaflet; for the other kind of descriptions see the following (commentated) pictures.

Fig. left and centre: wall remains of the supposable Minoan harbor in the beach area; right stone quarrying on a offshore islet.

Pictures of the excavation **Nirou Chani**

Further on from **Nirou Chani** to the excavation in **Gouves**, 4.7 miles
"The excavation site of Gouves is near the beach, close to a Minoan harbor installation and about 2 to 3 m above today's sea level. The building remains belong to LM III.
Skotino can be reached from Gouves and north-west thereof the cave of Skotina within the Tripolitz chalk. It possesses a multi-storey cave system" (KULL 2012). The excavation site **Gouves** is located on the right of the esplanade of **Gouves** (east end). A part of the former excavation area is located below the esplanade and nothing is to be seen from the former harbour installation. A further "devalorization" of the excavation place took place by the converting of the excavation area with blocks of apartments (see fig. left on the next page), whose left and right limitation accesses cover the assumed expansion of the Minoan settlement. Here the protection "Archaeology area" unfortunately has pitiful failed. For details see also at: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/059-05E.pdf].
For the cave of Skotino see also our leaflet # 21-04E at: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/021-04E.pdf]. The surrounding of the cave chapel of Skotino appears today in a changed picture; see fig. right on the next page.

From Gouves further on to Limenas Chersonisou, ~ 5 miles

"Continue driving to Limenas Chersonisou to the abandoned clay quarry on the west village edge, east of the chapel Ag. Anna, south of the main street (N 35°19,22; E 25°22,83). The huge clay quarry (partly filled) develops the Chersonisos formation (also staged to the Viannos-formation; early Tortonian) of the Tefeli-Group. The deepest parts of the section are poor in the eastern part of the pit, the sequel on the west-wall are better developed. Badly accessible outcrops also appear nearby within the creek-fissure, south-west of the street and towards north / north-east. A predominantly silting-clay sequence is visible where individual fine sand stone banks as well as several lignite horizons are on. Small disturbances are visible. Freshwater-gastropods occur plentiful in several horizons: ***Theodoxus, Pseudamnicola, Melanopsis, Brotia, Chara-remains*** *are not rare"* (KULL 2012).

The small chapel Ag. Anna (and the former entrance to the clay quarry) is located on the right of the main street at the village entrance of Chersonisos (today a LIDL-Market on the left). A paved road leads up the hill immediately behind the chapel. Follow it for about 400 m to than have the best view into the clay quarry on the left (N 35° 19,002; E 25°22,724); see **fig.** left. Today the pit is strongly taken by the vegetation and layer sequences are recognizable only isolated. Also fossil finds are only meagerly to be expected. Silting-clay layers are to be seen best on the west side of the customer parking lot of the LIDL-Market; see fig. right.
„Follow the sign at the west village entrance of Limenas Chersonisou which leads to the Early Christian basilica" (KULL 2012).
See also our leaflet No. 223-20/E about the archaeology within the area of Chersonisos at:
[http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/223-07E.pdf].

Fig. left: View into the open clay quarry

Fig. right: Silting-clay layer at the LIDL-Market

The following pictures are showing the freshwater-gastropods mentioned on page 3 with their extant habits (from left to right: *Theodoxus, Pseudamnicola, Melanopsis* und *Brotia*).
Gastropod fossils sometimes can be confounded; the *Bellerophon* is an example for that; therefore see our leaflet at: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/331-10E.pdf].

Conclusion:

The **geological data of KULL are correct**, even if today the current position on site in reference to the appearance of some explanations is not given anymore. The additional references (e.g. to archaeological places, tour descriptions and distances) leave much to be desired.

The book is, for geological trained, as a pure geological guide a valuable assistance with detailed information and therefore recommended. However for laypeople it is in part a difficult read.
In the future we will document supplementary tour descriptions und additional references to our leaflets and add geo-information as additional information where considerable and relevant.