

RURAL LIVES AND LANDSCAPES IN LATE BYZANTIUM

Art, Archaeology, and Ethnography

This is the first book to examine the Late Byzantine peasantry through written, archaeological, ethnographic, and painted sources. Investigations of the infrastructure and setting of the medieval village guide the reader to the consideration of specific populations. The village is a micro-society, with its own social and economic hierarchies. In addition to studying agricultural workers, mothers, and priests, this text reveals lesser-known individuals – such as the miller and the witch – through written and painted sources. Placed at the center of a new scholarly landscape, the study of the medieval villager engages a broad spectrum of theorists, including economic historians creating predictive models for agrarian economies, ethnoarchaeologists addressing historical continuities and disjunctions, and scholars examining power and female agency.

Sharon E. J. Gerstel is Professor of Byzantine Art History and Archaeology in the Department of Art History at the University of California, Los Angeles. She has authored and edited other books, including *Beholding the Sacred Mysteries: Programs of the Byzantine Sanctuary* (1999); *A Lost Art Rediscovered: The Architectural Ceramics of Byzantium* (2001); *Thresholds of the Sacred: Architectural, Art Historical, Liturgical, and Theological Perspectives on Religious Screens, East and West* (2007); *Approaching the Holy Mountain: Art and Liturgy at St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai* (2010); and *Viewing the Morea: Land and People in the Late Medieval Peloponnese* (2013).

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For my parents, Joel and Deanne Gerstel, with love

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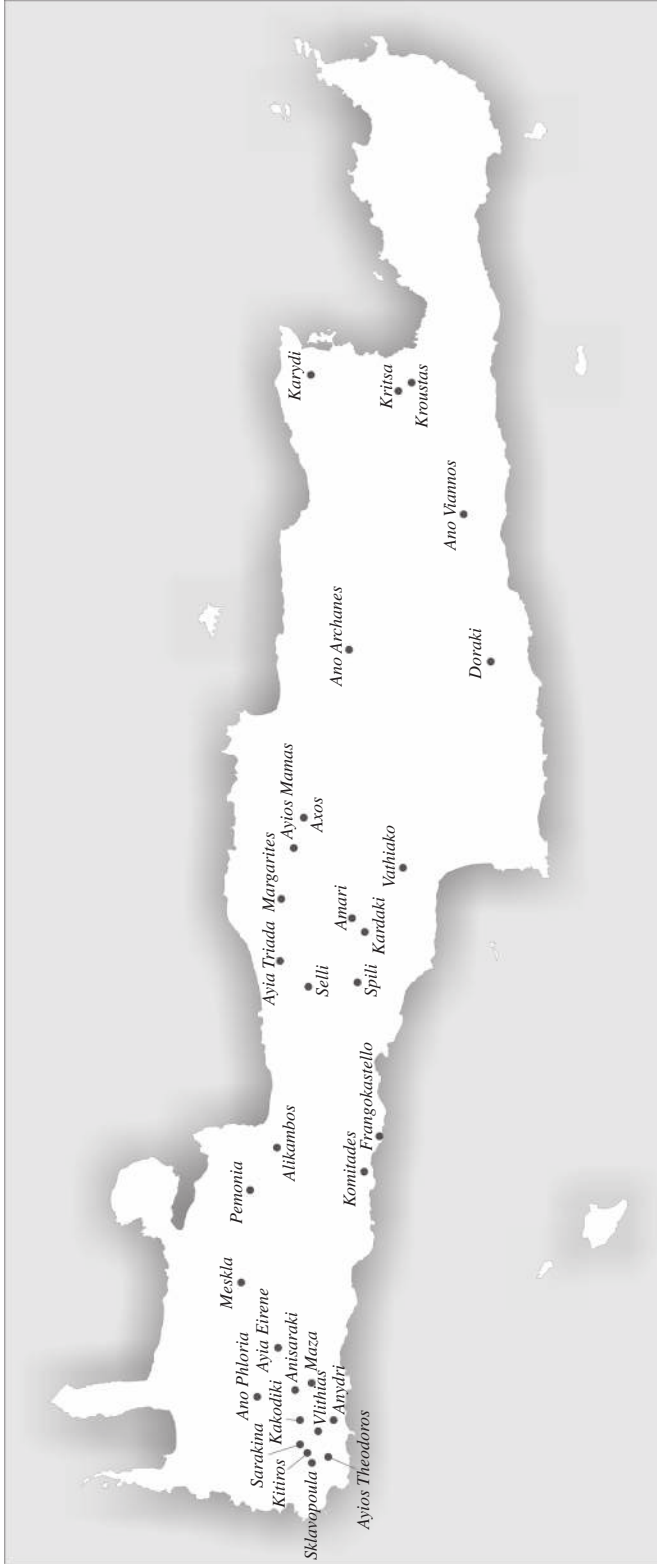
Maps



Map 1. Sites in Greece mentioned in the volume



Map 2. Sites in the Peloponnese mentioned in the volume



Map 3. Sites in Crete mentioned in the volume