

## A New Assessment of the Chronology of the Vouni Palace

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**Abstract :** Vouni Palace is a Persian palace built on a rocky hill in the Lefke district of Cyprus. The palace is one of the limited number of architectures identified, which prove the existence of a Persian period on the island. Since the excavations on the palace were held a very long time ago, there is a need to re-date the cultural layers within the palace using new archaeological evidence and recent studies. The existing chronology has been reviewed and a new chronology has been created according to its architectural structure, floor findings such as ceramics and sculptures and the stratigraphic layer of Room 59 where the Vouni Treasure was found. This work dates the palace in Vouni between the periods of c. 520 BC, deduced from the early period sculptures, and c. 330 BC by the late period floor ceramics. Some earlier dated archaic sculptures are identified in Room 122 - which takes part in the temenos area of the palace, and correspondingly the construction of the palace is dated c. 520 BC. The comparison between Vouni Palace and Persian palaces built in Iran, shows similarities with palaces built during the rule of Darius. It is evident that two main building periods of the palace which are previously identified, represent Persian influence according to its architectural structure and findings. Several floor potteries show that there must be other layer or layers after Vouni Treasure dated 390/380 BC, which was considered as the destruction date of the palace. At this point the forenamed date can indicate the end of a stage, not the end of the period because the palace was still in use until c. 330 BC. The results of the study, in addition to dating the layers of Vouni Palace, enlightens the administrative function of the Palace within the Persian rule in Cyprus.

**Keywords :** administrative, chronology, cyprus, persian rule, vouni palace

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