

# ATHENS AND ATTICA (PREHISTORIC TO ROMAN)

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The publication in 2010 of an *Archaiologikon Deltion* volume serving up four years of archaeological reports for Athens and Attica (2001–2004) has provided much to digest both in terms of quantity of data and in the happy coincidence that these years contain some of the largest scale excavations in recent decades, ahead of the building of the New Acropolis Museum, a large series of works for new Metro stations in the city, the extension of the Attiki Odos and works related to several of the 2004 Olympic facilities.

## Asty and Piraeus

Several newspapers in 2010 enthusiastically announced the removal of sections of scaffolding from the Acropolis skyline. The restoration of the **Temple of Athena Nike** was completed, the structure now back on its bastion being a full metre taller than previously. At the **Propylaia**, restoration of the ceiling of the east portico was completed by the addition of members of the entablature and the two last ceiling beams, enabling the visitor to see parts of the elaborate coffered ceiling from below. Restoration of the **Parthenon**'s north side was finished, and the project now moves to the west side of the monument and the removal of metope blocks still *in situ*.

The **New Acropolis Museum** celebrated its second birthday in June 2011, while work continued to consolidate and open up for display the excavations underneath the building, allowing visitors to look down from viewing platforms and through glass floors into this area rich in ancient habitation. The 2001–2004 seasons of excavations at this site are reported in *ADelt* 2010 (see earlier reports in *AR* 52 [2005–2006] 8; *AR* 56 [2009–2010] 4–6). In the **southwest section** of the plot (the area of the demolished properties on Hatzichristou Street), discoveries included the western continuation of Road I and its junction with Road II, at which lies a new multi-phase building (House Θ) founded towards the end of the fifth century BC, which contains a well-preserved *andron* with a mosaic floor of marble and pebbles in separated panels (**Figs. 38, 39**). The house remained in use over a long period and underwent many repairs and alterations. In the Hellenistic period, a



38. Makrigianni: *andron* in House Θ. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 1<sup>st</sup> EPCA.



39. Makrigianni: House Θ. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 1<sup>st</sup> EPCA.

workshop established in the courtyard was probably a fullery or washery. In the second century AD the house was extended towards the east. Its rooms were arranged around an interior courtyard with a floor of marble gravel. The final destruction came at the end of the third century AD.

In the **south and southeast sections** of the plot, fragmentary remains were removed for the construction of the basements of the museum, including the surfaces of the ancient Road III, in use from the end of the fourth century BC until the end of the third century AD, while a section of the ancient Road I is dated to the end of the fifth century BC. Removal of the remains of the Roman House A enabled exploration of the preceding marble-worker's shop from the first century BC to the first century AD. This was primarily an outdoor establishment with a few sheltered areas to the south. Among the layers of chips and marble dust was a considerable number of fragments of half-worked sculptures and pottery (**Fig. 40**), as well as a large number of lead sheets, probably from tools. Further south was a pit for casting bronze statues, with the remains of a clay mould used for successive castings *in situ* (**Fig. 41**). Further excavation of the bedrock in this area revealed 20 ancient wells and nine cisterns of various periods.

The continuing excavations of the **Athenian Agora** are illuminating much-neglected periods of the city's history. John Camp reports on the 2010 season. In **Section BΘ**, exploration continued of the Byzantine, Frankish and Ottoman levels which covered the Classical remains after their abandonment in the sixth century AD. At the west, numerous animal bones were recovered, many



40. Makrigianni: unfinished fragments from a marble-worker's workshop. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 1<sup>st</sup> EPCA.

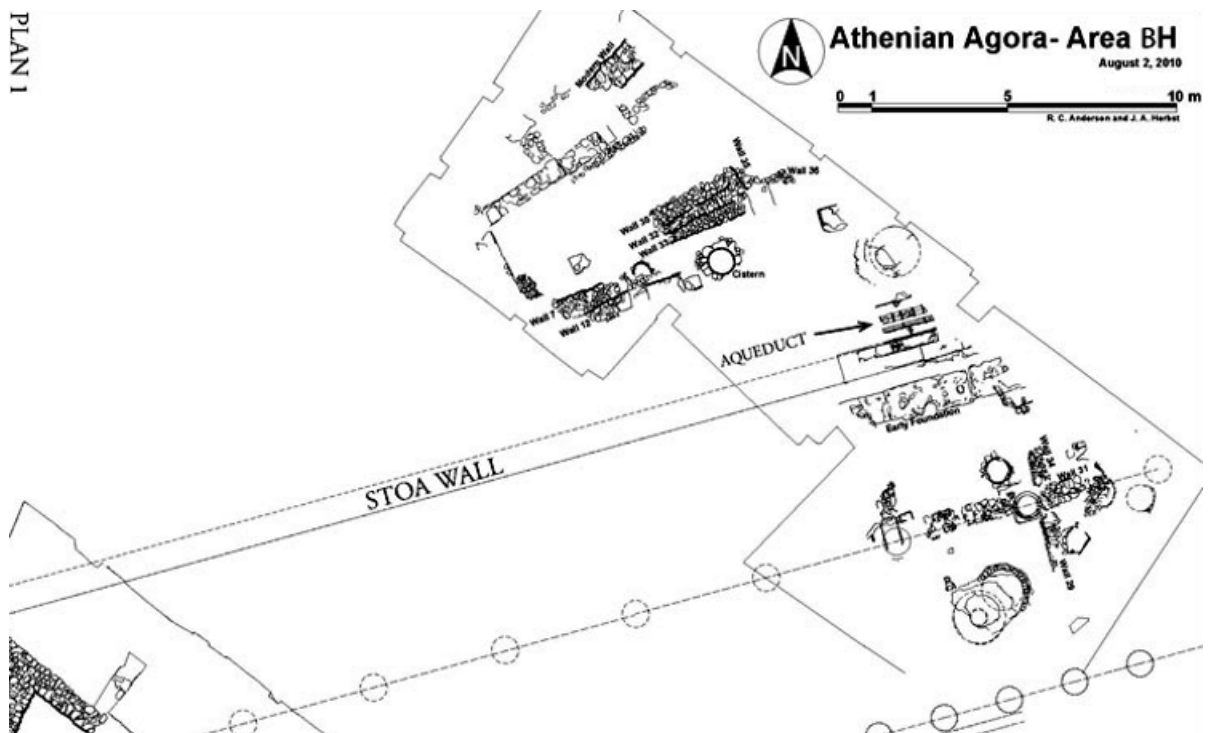


41. Makrigianni: casting pit with a clay mould for multiple castings *in situ*. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 1<sup>st</sup> EPCA.

from large animals. The pit, which also contained quantities of lime, seems to date from the 15<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> century AD and was outside the town limits at that time. The occasion of this large deposit is not clear, though the rarity of butchery marks make it unlikely that it represents the simple disposal of animals slaughtered for food. Lower in this same area, a scatter of about three dozen 13<sup>th</sup>-century Frankish bronze coins date soon after the Frankish capture of Athens in 1207.

To the east lay more walls of the Byzantine settlement which developed in this area in the 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> century.

The general sequence of later remains in this area is now clear: this is the edge of the city, and, depending on its fortunes, Athens expanded or contracted across the area of the excavations. In the seventh to ninth century AD, the area was largely abandoned, with the town clustered around the base of the Acropolis, east of the Stoa of Attalos and within the limits of the post-Herulian wall. When life in the Byzantine world improved in the 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> century, the town expanded out this far and the area was densely inhabited, as indicated by the walls of numerous rooms, the many pithoi and other provisions for storage suggesting a fully urban settlement, and the construction of small churches nearby. With the arrival of the Franks in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the area was abandoned once again and used as a dumping ground, hence the large deposits of very fragmentary glazed pottery of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The use of the area as a dump continued with the arrival of the Ottomans in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, with the addition of the large deposit of animal bones. Pig bones suggest that the Greek residents of Athens contributed to the debris. From early drawings, it seems that the town expanded out to this area again in the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the dumping ground was pushed further to the northwest.



42. Athens, Agora: Section BH. © ASCSA.

When Edward Dodwell drew the town in 1805, the area is shown covered with houses and the dump (two large mounds labelled *staktothiki*, i.e. ash heaps) is shown outside the city wall built in 1778, in the area of the present Kerameikos.

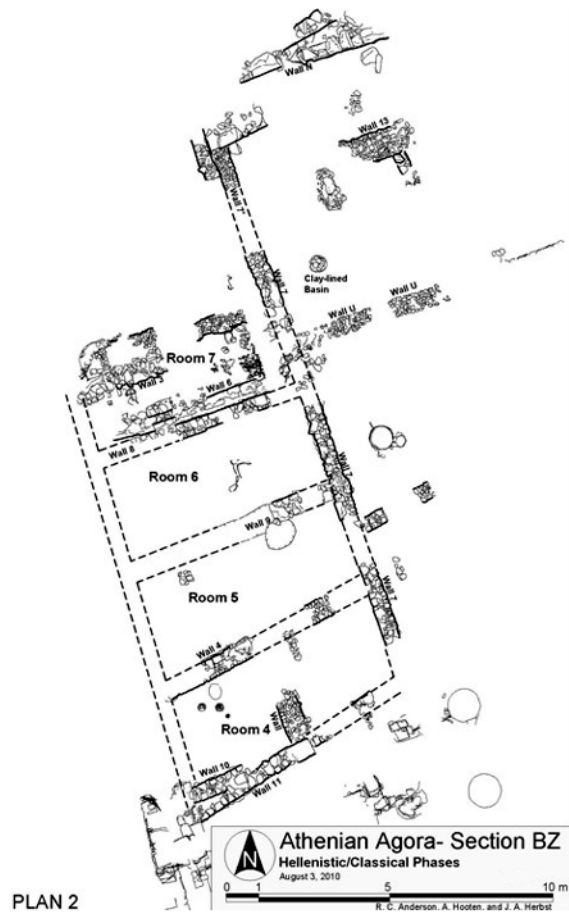
In the Classical Agora, perhaps the most important investigations conducted by the American excavators in recent years have been in the area of the **Stoa Poikile**. The west end of the building was identified in 1981 (AR 28 [1981–1982] 7–10) and the first glimpse of a stretch of its back wall was revealed in 2007 (AR 56 [2009–2010] 3–4; 55 [2008–2009] 3–5). In **Section BH** (Fig. 42) clearance of the late fill overlying the east end of the Stoa continued in 2010, much of which was deposited when the back wall was robbed out. Soft dark earth removed in the line of the wall produced pottery as late as the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD. A cross-section of the foundations was exposed (Fig. 43).



43. Athens, Agora: cross-section of the Stoa Poikile foundations. © ASCSA.

The orthostates rest on a broad euthynteria 0.92m wide and 0.255m thick, which in turn rests on a foundation of squared blocks set side by side longitudinally, creating a course *ca.* 1.17m wide x 0.38m high. The bottom course of foundations was formed of blocks 1.2m (*ca.* 4 ancient feet) long, set as headers. The top two courses were clamped: there are no traces of clamps in the two foundation courses. No dowel holes have been recognized. The blocks are all of soft limestone. An intact lamp decorated with a cross indicates the use of the building at least into the fifth century AD. Also recovered were fragments of the terracotta aqueduct which runs along the back wall of the Stoa, believed to be that built by Kimon to bring water out to the grove of the Academy (Plutarch *Life of Kimon* 13). Two Byzantine wells inside the building were left largely undug for the present.

**Section BZ** (Figs. 44, 45) lies north of the west end of the Stoa Poikile and just east of a north-south road leading out of the Agora square. Throughout antiquity (fifth century BC to fifth century AD), this street was lined along its eastern side by a series of shops. Excavation was conducted in the northern parts of the Classical



PLAN 2

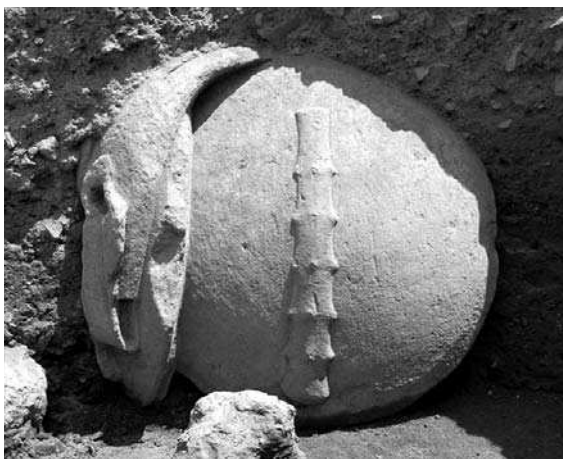
44. Athens, Agora: Section BZ. © ASCSA.

commercial building to clarify its plan and complex building history. Levels which preceded the building's construction late in the fifth century BC were encountered. Below the floor in Room 6 were several dozen ostraka, most cast against Xanthippos, son of Arrhiphron (father of Perikles), who was exiled in 484/483 BC, though Lysimachos and Habron are also represented.

In the north scarp of the goat-horn pit in **Section BΘ**, a large sculpted fragment of marble, measuring up to 0.75m on a side, began to be uncovered (Fig. 46). The block requires further study, but it clearly depicts a pile of military equipment and served as the base for a trophy or a statue. So far, four or five shields (one with a relief club device), part of a cuirass and the handle of a sword are identified. Several parallels are known from Delos, including shields decorated with clubs, associated with the Macedonian dynasty established after the death of Alexander the Great. This block, too, should probably date to the Hellenistic period (323–146 BC). The weaponry presumably indicates a military victory, but it remains to be seen which dynast or general occupied the base. Anathyrosis at the back, if original, suggests that the block may be part of a larger monument, perhaps therefore a trophy rather than a statue. Its large size and excellent preservation suggest that it had not travelled far and it may well originally have been set up immediately in front of the Stoa Poikile (a favoured place for the display of military success).



45. Athens, Agora: Section BZ. © ASCSA.



46. Athens, Agora: sculpted shield from Section BΘ. © ASCSA.

### Fortifications

A. Theocharakis's fundamental study of the course and phasing of the fortification walls of the city of Athens (*Hesperia* 80 [2011] 71–156) will remain an indispensable tool for Athenian topographers for many years. To the bibliography of this work (references below to sections in Theocharakis's catalogue are divided between the Themistoklean phase [Th] or the post-Herulian [PH]) can now be added a number of excavation reports from this year's *ADelt*. At **12 and 14 Dipylou Street** excavations beneath two listed buildings ahead of the creation of the Islamic branch of the Benaki Museum, revealed part of the Athenian *proteichisma* of the fourth century BC, with additions during the reign of Valerian (third century AD; **Fig. 47**). The fortification wall was revealed for a length of 12m on Dipylou 14 and 20m on Dipylou 12, at its highest preserved to 13 courses, oriented east-west, of rectangular conglomerate and square limestone blocks. The ditch outside the wall was 9m wide and defined by a wall of large blocks with smaller irregular stones. The ditch was filled in the first century AD as part of the cleaning operation after the Sullan sack of 86 BC, and seven tombs were dug into it in the first to second century AD. Two arms of a wall in the area of the ditch formed part of a Justinianic tower found also in previous excavations.



47. Athens, Dipylon Street 12 and 14: view of the *proteichisma*. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

Within the *proteichisma* and inside the boundaries of the excavation were parts of the fourth-century road which ran around the city above the walls, connecting the various suburbs. In its surface were wheel ruts 1.44m apart. Below the Roman fill were five road layers dating to the fourth century BC. The road was destroyed and essentially removed by two struts of the *proteichisma* which probably belong to the period of repair. The *proteichisma* was converted during the reign of Valerian into a wall *ca.* 3m wide, defined to the north by the same *proteichisma* and to the south by a wall of conglomerate blocks. The space between the walls was filled with stones, tiles, large marble architectural members, as well as fragments of an epistyle, part of a third-century BC inscribed funerary table and a fifth-century casualty list with 80 names of the tribe Erechtheis (**Fig. 48**). A small part of the Valerian wall was revealed, continuing to the east.

At **Lebesi Street** just west of the intersection with **Iosiph ton Rogon** (near to Theocharakis, Th 58 and 59), a 1.5m-long stretch of the eastern arm of the fourth-century BC fortification was revealed (**Fig. 49**). Built of rectangular cut conglomerate blocks, the wall was preserved to a height of three courses and oriented northeast-southwest.

At **Adrianou 92** (Theocharakis, PH 18) a section of the north side of the post-Herulian walls was revealed, built in the final quarter of the third century AD. The wall is preserved to one course on its north face and four on its east, is oriented east-west and is built of massive limestone blocks with connecting mortar.

During the pedestrianization of **Aiolou Street** part of the west continuation of the ancient Athenian fortifications was revealed which had been investigated in 1973–1974 on the National Bank property at the junction of Aiolou and Sophokleos (Theocharakis, Th 27). All the elements of the fortification were present: the wall, its inner circuit road, the *proteichisma*, the ditch with its retaining walls and the outer circuit road. The wall was damaged by later building: only one course is preserved of three limestone rectangular blocks oriented east-west and founded in the schist bedrock. The inner circuit road was found parallel to and just north of the wall. Preserved to a length of 3.4m and a width of 8.6m, three road surfaces were found damaged by several pits and a well, with two Roman terracotta pipes and a robbed tomb in the top surface. The *proteichisma*, 3.38m long and preserved to five courses of conglomerate blocks founded in schist, lay 3.1m north of

the wall. The ditch and its retaining wall lay 9.91–10.12m north of the *proteichisma*. Inside the ditch was a Late Roman cistern. The outer circuit road north of the ditch and oriented east-west, was preserved to a length of 3.18m and a width of 2.37m. It was bounded to the south by a ditch, while the north retaining wall or bank was not found.

Part of a tower of the **north arm of the Long Walls** was discovered in properties at **131–133 and 137 Peiraios Street**, together with remains of the road running along the outside of the wall. Seven courses are preserved to a height of 3m, the uppermost being a later Roman alteration when the monument was used as a foundation. North of the tower were remains of the road linking the city with the Piraeus.



48. Athens, Dipylon Street 12 and 14: casualty list. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.



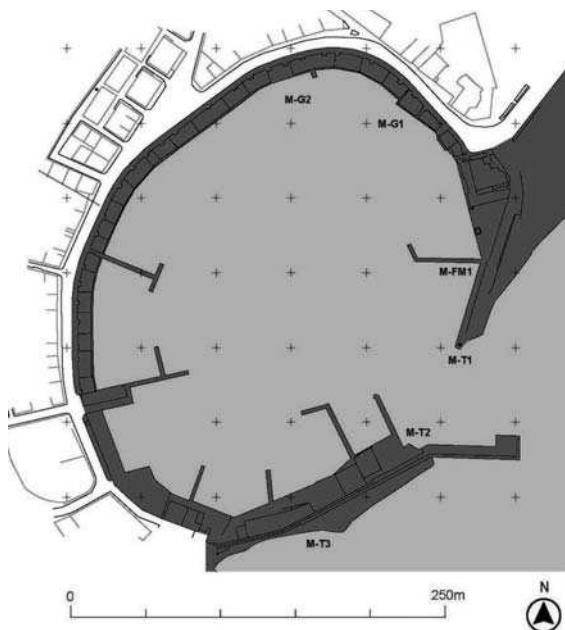
49. Athens, Lebesi Street: part of the fourth-century fortification wall of the city. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

In the plot at 137 a cemetery was excavated dating from the end of the fifth century BC with its main period of use in the fourth. One remarkable discovery was made of five *katadesmoi* in a grave pyre: four rolled lead sheets pierced with an iron nail and one folded.

At **105 Eleftherias Street** remains of a tower from the first building phase of the **south arm of the Long Walls** were discovered. Only the foundation of the tower was preserved and one course of the stereobate. A further section of the south arm of the Long Walls (greatest length 23.1m, height 1.77–2.8m, width 4.8m) was excavated at **272–274 Thessalonikis Street**, partially built into bedrock. Six courses were preserved and part of the stereobate as well as part of the mud-brick above.

In 2010 the **Zea Harbour Project** under B. Lovén and M. Møller Nielsen investigated the fortifications of the ancient harbour of **Mounichia** (Figs. 50, 51). The Northern Fortified Mole (M-FM1) has been mostly overbuilt and/or destroyed by modern harbour works, but a substantial section of the west inward side of the structure, alongside and under the modern quay, is preserved to a height of two courses and over a length of 12.7m. Survey dives outside the modern harbour investigated the foundations of Tower 3 and the fortified mole to the northeast and west, the latter preserved *in situ* to a height of three courses of limestone ashlar blocks. The tower foundations and the fortified mole extending north-eastwards between M-T3 and M-T2 are preserved to three or perhaps four courses (Fig. 52).





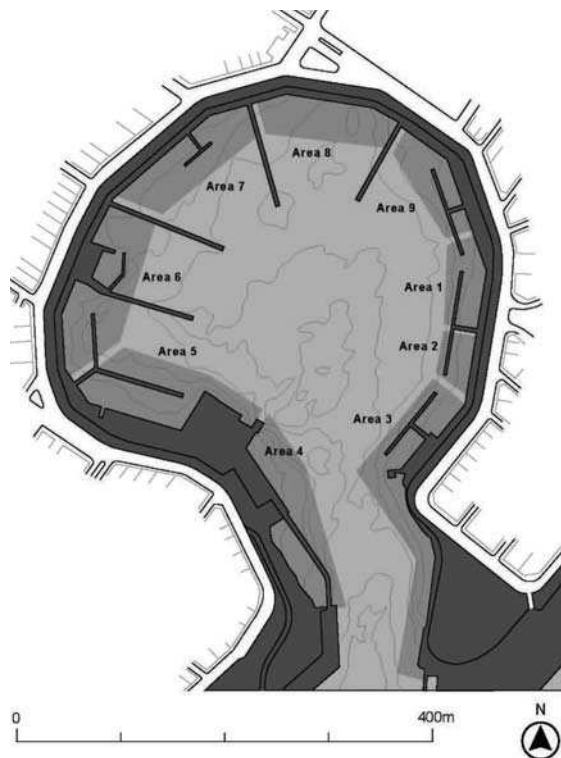
50. Zea Harbour Project, Mikrolimani (ancient Mounichia): areas investigated in 2010. © DIA (Zea Harbour Project).



52. Zea Harbour Project, Mounichia harbour: digital survey of Tower 3. © DIA (Zea Harbour Project).

Survey dives on the northern side of Mounichia located the remains of a side wall and four colonnades of the Group 1 Shipsheds (M-G1), structures tentatively identified as the remains of at least six shipsheds belonging to M-G1. Large areas of worked bedrock, several architectural elements and an unidentified built structure (M-G1/U:1) were also found. The superstructures of these shipsheds extend at least 35m from the modern shoreline and to a depth of more than 2m. This area will be crucial for understanding sea-level change since antiquity, and thus the harbour-front topography of the ancient Piraeus.

Investigations in **Zea harbour** focused on the shipsheds and other ancient structures in Area 2. Extensive surface cleaning was conducted in the presumed area of the colonnade dividing Shipsheds 34



51. Zea Harbour Project, Mikrolimani (ancient Mounichia): areas 1–9. © DIA (Zea Harbour Project).

and 35, and two well-preserved, rock-cut colonnade foundations were found. The surface of a large built structure, believed to be the foundations of Shipsheds 30 and 31, was cleaned.

Excavations conducted by the Archaeological Service and reported in *ADelt* revealed several further remains of shipsheds. At **22 Aktis Koumoundourou Street**, parts of four shipsheds at the harbour of **Mounichia** were investigated: three were complete along their width while one was almost destroyed to the west of the property. The structure consists of a continuous wall oriented east-west, parallel with the sea, and four parallel series of cubic bases (or their sub-structures) above which stood the colonnades which held up the wooden pitched roofs. Between these, a sloping stone krepidoma was built of stone slabs: this should extend a few metres into the sea for slipping the keel into the water.

The maximum preserved length of the shipsheds within the boundaries of the plot was 21.8m; the width between the column bases is around 5.3m. From a section of a column found nearby (diameter 0.54m), the inter-columnar spacing was around 5.45m. The shipsheds date to the fourth century BC and remained in use until the Roman period when they were probably destroyed by Sulla.

At **Moutsopoulou Street (Zea harbour)** the continuation of the shipsheds discovered by Dragatsi in 1885–1886 was revealed. One shipshed was investigated alongside a small part of another which formed its pair. From two preserved column bases the width can be estimated at 5.1m.

A section of the Piraeus fortifications was excavated at **2–4 Vasileos Pavlou Street** in an area between the Zea harbour and Mounichia where early topographers had traced the circuit. The wall (length 14.5m and width 3.25m) follows the edge of the rock of Kastelias Hill and was made of stone blocks on the outer faces filled with smaller stones.

Investigation of the area to the southeast revealed a cluster of 13 bases of dedicatory stelai, sculptures and fragments of votives, including part of an inscribed dedication to Asklepios, replicas of affected body parts (mainly from young boys and girls), a headless statue of a young girl of the fourth century BC holding a goose and fragments of a votive relief.

### Metro excavations

The large number and depth of the trenches sunk for the various stations, tunnels and ventilation shafts necessary for the extension to the Metro lines in Athens has illuminated many periods of city life. At **2–4 Areos Street**, excavations for the Monastiraki station, begun in 1997, uncovered an Early Christian complex of four rooms and storage silos. A potter's kiln and a pit coated with clay and showing signs of burning indicate the existence of a workshop in the complex. The kiln fill dates the abandonment of the workshop to the sixth century AD. Built into the wall of the complex, in secondary use, was the base of a Classical sculpture with the signature of Praxiteles: Ἰέρεαν Δήμητρος καὶ Ἰ Κόρης Ἰ Χαίριππην Φιλόφρονος Κηφισιέως Ἰ οἱ ἄδελφοὶ ἀνέθεσαν Ἰ Ἀριστόδημος, Φιλόφρων Ἰ Φιλόφρονος Κηφισιεύς Ἰ Πραξιτέλης ἐποίησε.

Building remains of the Early to Late Byzantine periods were found throughout the western part of the excavation. Several silos and pithoi suggest storage areas, one of which contained stacked cakes of raw clay, indicative perhaps of a pottery workshop, thus supporting the view that industrial activity in this area continued throughout the Late Byzantine period. A significant number of (mostly Roman) channels and wells served to supply and drain water, as well as meeting the needs of the workshops throughout Antiquity. During removal of these remains, six Late Mycenaean tombs were discovered, two of which yielded LHIIB grave goods.

From September 1999 to October 2002 excavations at a depth of 20–30m for the tunnel linking **Syntagma and Asomaton Squares** revealed 120 wells, many filled with antiquities, mostly dating to the Roman to Late Roman and Byzantine periods. The opening of so many wells in this area indicates the exploitation of groundwater from the Eridanos river. In **Syntagma Square**, a branch of the Peisistratid aqueduct was found cut deep into the rock, consisting of 21 sections of terracotta pipe with cleaning holes, linked with lead and decorated with black bands (**Fig. 53**). To the east, another branch of the same aqueduct (consisting of three pipe sections) joined it in a T-junction.

Between 1997 and 2005 excavations were undertaken for the stations and ventilation shafts of the west extension of Line 3. For the **Theseio** shaft, an area of 70m<sup>2</sup> was investigated between the south side of Ermou Street and the archaeological site of the Kerameikos. At a depth of 6.8m lay house and workshop remains. In the area of the **Spyrou Patsi** shaft (near the road of the same name and just south of the Sacred Way), was part of one of the many



53. Athens, Syntagma Square: junction between two sections of the Peisistratid aqueduct. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

roadside cemeteries along the Sacred Way. The 23 tombs excavated comprised five sarcophagi, seven tile graves, three larnakes, a pyre and seven pit graves, the only finds being a few bones, pieces of strigil and a bronze mirror. An important find was an unlooted larnax containing two pyxides, two alabastroid lekythoi and a black-glazed skyphos, all of the end of the fifth century BC. Other finds from the cemetery date to the end of the fifth and the fourth centuries BC.

In the area of the **Geoponikis** shaft to the west, a 9.3m-long stretch of the ancient Sacred Way ran east-west, parallel to and a short distance south of the modern road. Its north retaining wall (in various phases) was preserved together with at least eight corresponding road layers of the Classical to Late Roman periods. Submycenaean to Archaic pottery was found in a section below the foundation of the lowest retaining wall. The discovery of the road led to the resiting of the shaft further to the north.

Fills in the area from the **Prophitis Daniel** shaft until the bridge over the modern Kephisos are very substantial, as observed in previous excavations, this being the wider area of the Kephisos river found in various places east of its present bed. Excavation here revealed part of the ancient Sacred Way and an offering deposit (**Fig. 54**). At a depth of 2.9m was a wall (12.3m long and 0.5–0.6m wide) oriented east-west, with three building phases. A 10m-



54. Metro excavations, Prophitis Daniel shaft: partial view of the excavations. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

long stretch of the Sacred Way was found, running west-east. No building remains were found to the north of the retaining wall. The river bed was encountered here at a depth of 5.5m, and at 5.76–6.02m two successive road layers contained Geometric sherds. It is believed that this is the Sacred Way of the Geometric period, which was destroyed by flooding and moved further south.

At the west side of the trench the road was disturbed by a deposit *ca.* 3m in diameter, containing roof tiles, two heads of Archaic figurines and many Eleusinian kernoi. The kernoi are specifically related to the worship of Demeter, and this may therefore be a sanctuary deposit (noting that Pausanias [1.37.2] mentions a sanctuary of Demeter and Kore, Athena and Poseidon in this area). Finds date from the Archaic to Late Roman periods.

At **Elaionas Station** (1200m<sup>2</sup>) remains of workshops and part of a cemetery were revealed. Sporadic finds of furnace materials (clay, bronze and lead) and the presence of hearths and fire pits suggest the use of the area as a workshop in the Hellenistic period.

In the area of the station entrance, part of a Hellenistic cemetery was found with 14 tombs, mostly cist graves, two of which were built of marble funerary stelae in secondary use, while the remainder were simple pits without goods.

At the eastern ventilation shaft of the station, at a depth of 6.5m, were three stanchions of the bridge over the ancient Kephisos, composed of three series of rectangular marly limestone blocks preserved to a height of four courses.

Excavation of the west ventilation shaft a few metres further west, revealed a possible peribolos (walls of river stones and limestone slabs in secondary use). Parts of large pithoi were found, a circular tile construction in Area 1 and some pit pyres, perhaps from a workshop. North of this, the Sacred Way ran east-west for 15m (with a maximum width of 4.5m).

At the **Knosou shaft**, a short distance from the west shaft, deposits of the Kephisos river were found, plus part of the prehistoric Sacred Way which was abandoned in the Geometric period and moved further south.

### Cemeteries

During excavation of a 331m<sup>2</sup> property at **Diamantopoulou 10**, an important part of the Classical core of the **Kynosarges cemetery** was revealed, comprising 159 tombs near to the large Roman building known as the Hadrianic Gymnasium. Apart from a few Early Helladic sherds, the oldest burial is a Geometric *enchytrismos* in an amphora (T21). Many tombs date around the middle of the sixth century, but the use of the cemetery peaked in the fifth and fourth centuries BC (**Fig. 55**). The burial customs and the types of graves are identical with those of other, better known Athenian cemeteries: deep pits dug into schist, limestone sarcophagi, covered tile graves, pyres (some free, others in pits), small clay larnakes with lids for child burials, *enchytrismoi*, etc. In the Hellenistic and Roman periods the number of graves declines, while the latest tombs date around the first to second century AD.

An intact horos of the fifth century BC (1.05m high) inscribed [Δι]ὸς [Π]ολιέως ἄβαντον indicates the presence in the area of a sanctuary.

One tomb, 'the tomb with the offering trench', was an elongated narrow trench containing a dense accumulation of pottery showing signs of burning. It was disturbed in



55. Athens, Diamantopoulou 10: excavations within the Classical core of the Kynosarges cemetery. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.



56. Athens, Diamantopoulou 10: pyxis from an offering trench, depicting the nine Muses. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

the second century BC by the simple burial T31 almost at its centre. Red-figure pottery includes: two type 1 lebetes gamikoi and two other smaller type 2 examples; two large hydria; a pyxis with depictions of the nine Muses, each named (**Fig. 56**), and a smaller pyxis with a funerary scene. Among many fragments of white lekythoi was one with a standing female figure by a funerary stele. Black-glaze pottery included a large kylix; a Corinthian type A skyphos; two lekythoid aryballoi; four black-glazed phialae and two lekane with lids.

Small finds include two small identical bone studs, two bone rings and a black-glazed pyramidal loomweight.



The mound adjacent to the offering pit was made of river stones and material probably from a tomb or tombs. On the surface was a small marble lion (preserved height 0.47, length 0.48m), as well as a pair of standing naked lead figures (0.12m high) inscribed on the chest of the male Σημιάδης καταδέδεται, and of the female Μυννώ καταδέδεται.

The many finds from the cemetery include tens of lekythoi of the workshop of the Megaira Painter; nine lead *katadesmoi* folded and pierced with nails; five or six Early Classical standing female figurines; the bronze panelling of a box; and gold leaf, probably from a funerary wreath.

Within the primarily Late Roman cemetery of Kynosarges, which spread east of the city, excavations at **Paraskevopoulou Street** revealed 47 Late Hellenistic to Early Christian tombs comprising two Hellenistic rock-cut graves, nine Late Roman built cist graves, an *enchytrismos*, two Late Roman tile graves (without goods), 20 vaulted tombs with brick arches and plaster inside, and four grave complexes containing 13 urns.

The built cists develop to the west part of the plot and are densely laid out. Most are of unworked stones and brick with mortar, but tombs 27 and 13 were built of stone slabs. They are variously oriented either west-east or north-south: most contained single burials but there were instances of multiple burials.

The grave complexes were large rectangular structures, separated inside into individual rectangular parallel graves covered with stone or marble slabs (some in secondary use). Many graves held multiple burials (tomb 35 looks like an ossuary) and must have been used probably by the same family for many years. The dead were laid supine with head always to the west. Goods included pottery (unguentaria and oinochoae) unpainted or decorated with stripes, lamps, jewellery (bronze buckles

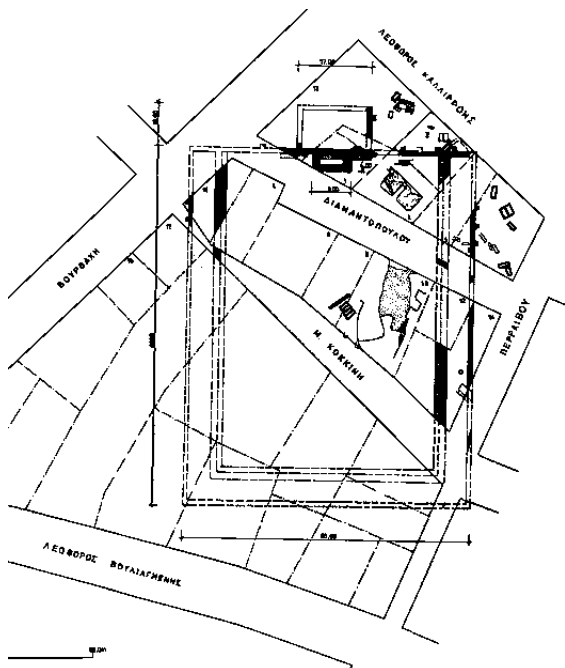
and a cross) and bronze coins, but the majority of burials were without goods. One fifth-century AD lamp was inscribed ΣΩΤΗΡΙΑΣ.

Seventeen further tombs of the Late Roman cemetery in the area of Kynosarges were investigated at **16 Vourvachi Street**. The graves were oriented east-west following Christian custom; all date to the fourth to early sixth century AD. Only two contained grave goods, notably tomb 8, a vaulted cist tomb with an oinochoe, glass beads and remains of gold around the head of the deceased. Tomb 10 contained a stele inscribed ΚΟΙΜΗΤΗΡΙΟΝ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΥ.

At **Diamantopoulou 1**, substantial foundations were discovered of a further section of the associated large Roman building (restored dimensions 80 x 60m) investigated by the British School at Athens in 1886–1887 and in 1970 by Travlos, and thought to be the Hadrianic Gymnasium of Kynosarges (**Figs. 57, 58**).

In 2002–2003 excavation to the northwest of the archaeological site of the Kerameikos at **85–87 Peiraos Street** uncovered the continuation of the road from the Dipylon to the Academy, dating from the Classical period to the sixth century AD. During the Late Roman to Early Byzantine period it was 2.5–3m wide, but its width in earlier periods could not be determined in the excavated area. A roadside cemetery of the sixth to seventh century AD is related to the Justinianic or post-Justinianic phase of the Kerameikos. Its establishment in the sixth century is connected with the Justinianic phase during which a new fortification was built on the remains of the Themistoklean wall. The cemetery thus belongs to the last period in the history of the Kerameikos.

Excavation revealed a total of 20 vaulted tombs in clusters of three to four, with their narrow sides at the road. Goods were simple: small undecorated prochoes and a few metal finds (two spoons and a buckle). The tombs contained graves of men, women and children together. The absence of Christian symbols, the indication that the dead were placed in sacks sewn with iron needles then found *in situ* by the skull and the buckle type suggest that the graves may be related to the first foray of the Slavs into Athens around AD 580.



57. Athens, Diamantopoulou 1: the presumed Hadrianic Gymnasium. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.



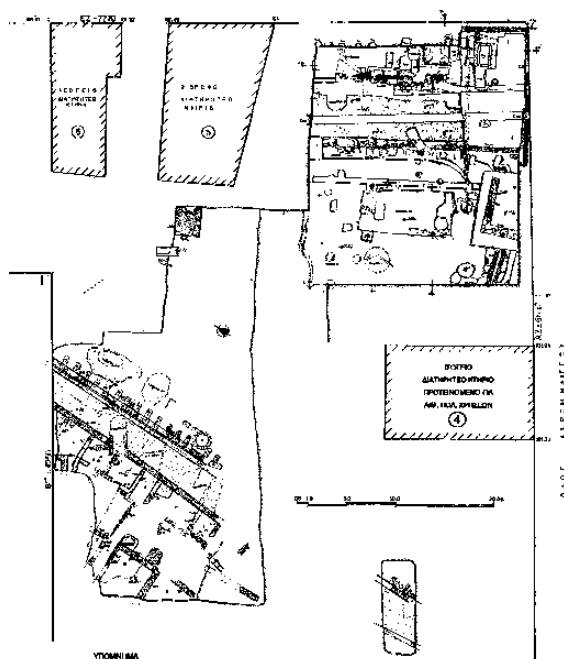
58. Athens, Diamantopoulou 1: general view of the presumed Hadrianic Gymnasium. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

### Road network

Two important volumes edited by M. Korres have appeared in recent years: *Αττικής Οδοί: Αρχαίοι Δρόμοι της Αττικής* (Athens 2009); and *Οι Πρώτοι Χάρτες της Πολέως των Αθηνών* (Athens 2010), both produced in conjunction with the Attiki Odos.

Among the mass of new evidence for the road network of the city should be noted: at the **Junction of Serron 2, Konstantinoupoleos and Platonos** a section of an ancient road (11.5m long, 4.75m wide) oriented northeast-southwest and roadside cemetery built in the fourth century BC with strong retaining walls and rebuilt at the end of the second century. It must be associated with the ancient road of the Demosion Sema (to which it runs perpendicular) which leads from the Dipylon to the Academy and has been found at various points in this area (including at a location just west of this plot, below the surface of Serron Street). The road found at Serron 2 is probably a secondary route linking the road to the Academy to the east with that to the Hippios Kolonos. If the same road continues to the west, it probably links the main artery to the road from the Sacred Gate to the Academy, and then to the Sacred Way, thus joining the three main routes of the southwest section of ancient Athens.

Two sections of ancient roads, a Late Archaic to Late Hellenistic cemetery and workshop remains of the fourth century BC were revealed at the **Junction of Agion Asomaton, Psaromiligkou and K. Samuel Streets** in 1999–2003, 300m north of the archaeological site of the Kerameikos (Fig. 59). To the west of the plot, towards Agion Asomaton Street, road 1 (20.5m long, 2.7–3.4m wide) led north-south. It is dated stratigraphically from the Early Classical to the Roman period.



59. Athens, junction of Agion Asomaton, Psaromiligkou, and K. Samuel Streets: excavated area around two roads, a cemetery and workshop. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

At the southeast part of the excavation, a 21.6m-long stretch of a main arterial route from the Eriai Gate to Hippios Kolonos led northwest-southeast. A cemetery to the east of the road contained a peribolos of limestone blocks and a burial platform to its north of red limestone blocks to a height of five courses. To the east of these were 33 tombs, mostly pyres but also one marble cist grave, three pit graves, two covered, one with built sides, and a mound, dating from the early fifth century to the middle of the second century BC. The oldest phase of the cemetery is linked with a burial mound (2.22m high, 5.4m wide, with nine courses of mud-brick surrounding the tomb) which continues east below K. Samuel Street. This was disturbed around 450 BC by two pyres (T30, T33) in the northwest part of the mound. T29 was built of mud-brick and contained lekythoi of the Beldam type. To the east of the road were 14 Hellenistic graves (300–150BC).

In the southeast of the excavation area was the north external wall of a Classical structure, much of which had previously been discovered below Psaromiligkou Street. The masonry is the irregular polygonal characteristic of the fourth century BC.

Southwest of road 2, were two Late Roman walls, into one of which a marble head of Caracalla was built. An industrial area lay between the two roads, with many pits cut into the bedrock. One rock-cut well contained Panathenaic amphora sherds of the end of the fourth century BC. The foundations of a second-century AD grave platform were revealed in the north of the trench.

A road was revealed outside the **north arm of the Long Walls** at the **Junction of Peiraios and Kastanitsis Streets (Kaminia)**. This appears to be the road mentioned by ancient sources as the main arterial road linking the city of Athens with the Piraeus. A section of the road outside the north arm of the Long Walls was found at the **Junction of 83 Peiraios and Kastanitsis Streets**, which had been found in the property of the National Bank on the opposite corner.

### Attiki Odos

Excavations for the southern extension of the Attiki Odos brought to light many areas of archaeological interest around **Koropi**. We note in particular the finding of pieces of Early Helladic litharge, some of the earliest evidence in Greece for silver smelting. By the ruins of the Church of **Ag. Andreas**, next to the east side of the bridge of the Markopoulos junction, an Early Helladic wall ran north-south. At the plot of the **Lidl property and Chatzi Street** study continued the south of an EHII building, and 25m south of this were parts of an EHI building with a south wall built in herringbone style. A large number of important finds were made, including EHI and ECyclI pottery, a terracotta head of a bull in brown Urfinis and remains of metal-working which included some bowl-shaped litharge with a series of small indentations on the bottom. Similar litharge was found during excavations at **Keratea, Velatouri Hill**, where excavation in the prehistoric settlement was undertaken to assess the transition from Early Helladic to Middle Helladic, and in particular to ascertain the existence and character of the controversial (for Attica) EHIII period (2300–2000 BC). A trench in the south side of the summit produced Middle Helladic pottery with only a thin layer with Early Helladic sherds above stereo. Pottery included matt-painted and Minyan wares.

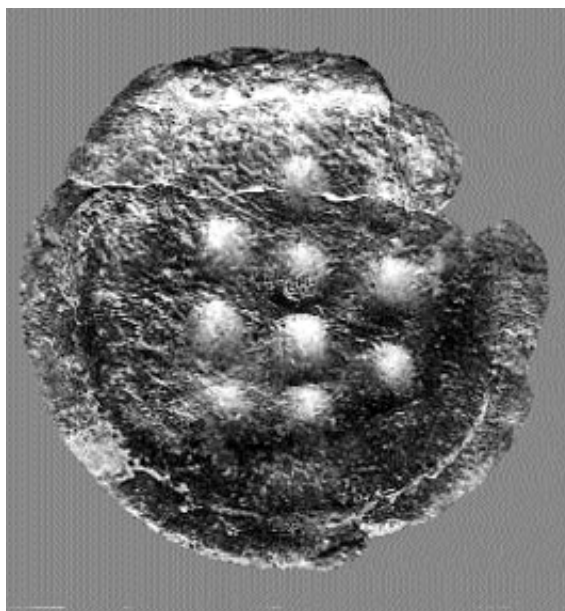
At **Porto Raphiti, Skyrrou Street**, a Mycenaean chamber tomb was found with its dromos destroyed but clearly oriented southwest-northeast. Bones were recovered near the entrance and a small pit to the west, covered with three slabs, contained the bones of an infant. The dead were accompanied by 14 pots.

Three and a half metres to the west of the first tomb was another chamber tomb with the dromos oriented southwest-northeast and 3.8m long. The entrance was closed by a wall of rough stones. The deceased was accompanied by 11 pots and an animal figurine. At the end of the fifth century, tile graves were dug above the chamber and dromos, containing aryballoid lekythoi.

The finds from the Mycenaean tombs date to LHIIIC, the period of the cemetery of Perati. The Classical graves belong to a previously known cemetery with scattered graves to the southeast along Athinon Avenue.

During the widening of **Varis-Koropiou Avenue** at **Lambrika** excavation continued in the Early Helladic settlement. On the south side of the avenue the northern continuation of the ditches from the Vardalachaki plot was found, and to the north of the Apostolidi plot a small EHI house. Slightly to the west, another large artificial ditch was used to collect rain water.

On the north side of the avenue was part of a metal-working facility for silver and lead: dating to EHI, this is the oldest discovered in the Aegean. It consists of a series of pits and two series of small cavities, filled with hundreds of pieces of bowl-shaped litharge with 10 small indentations on the bottom (**Fig. 60**).



60. Lambrika: bowl-shaped litharge. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.

On the northwest side, where the EHII settlement is located, fragmentary building remains consist of small single-roomed (and rarely two-roomed) houses. A large road (65m long, 3m wide, with built sides) led east-west: its north side is also the peribolos of the EHII settlement.

## Olympic works

### Merenda

Perhaps the most wide ranging excavations to take place as part of the preparations for the Olympic Games were the works for the **New Olympic Hippodrome** completed in 2003 at Merenda (the Classical deme of Myrrinous; see E.P. Vivliodetis, *Ο δήμος του Μυρρινούντος: η οργάνωση και η ιστορία του* [Athens 2007]; **Fig. 61**). Reports have been selected and merged by site and arranged approximately by period.

**Site 12.** To the west of the Hippodrome complex were the remains of a small Early Neolithic settlement (*ca.* 6000 BC) over an area of *ca.* 2500m<sup>2</sup>. Small timber-framed huts were found, some with stone foundations, thatched and with mud-plaster. At the southwest side were remains of a peribolos of woven wood fencing. Four schematic figurines of seated figures were collected.

The area around the settlement contained pits probably for water collection, as well as a pit dwelling which from the matt-painted and incised pottery dates to the Late Neolithic period (mid fifth millennium BC).

**Site 13.** At the top of a small hill in the northern part of the complex was a small settlement of the end of the Neolithic to EHII, comprising five clusters of dug-out chambers (**Figs. 62, 63**). Those that had not collapsed continued in use into EHII. Important metallurgic finds included bronze slag, litharge and a lead clamp (the oldest lead object from eastern Attica).

At **Site 4**, in an area where a Mycenaean chamber tomb had previously been found, were remains of a building, four bull figurines and Middle Helladic sherds. Just to the west of the Mycenaean remains was a small circular EHI building, perhaps a workshop for stone tools.

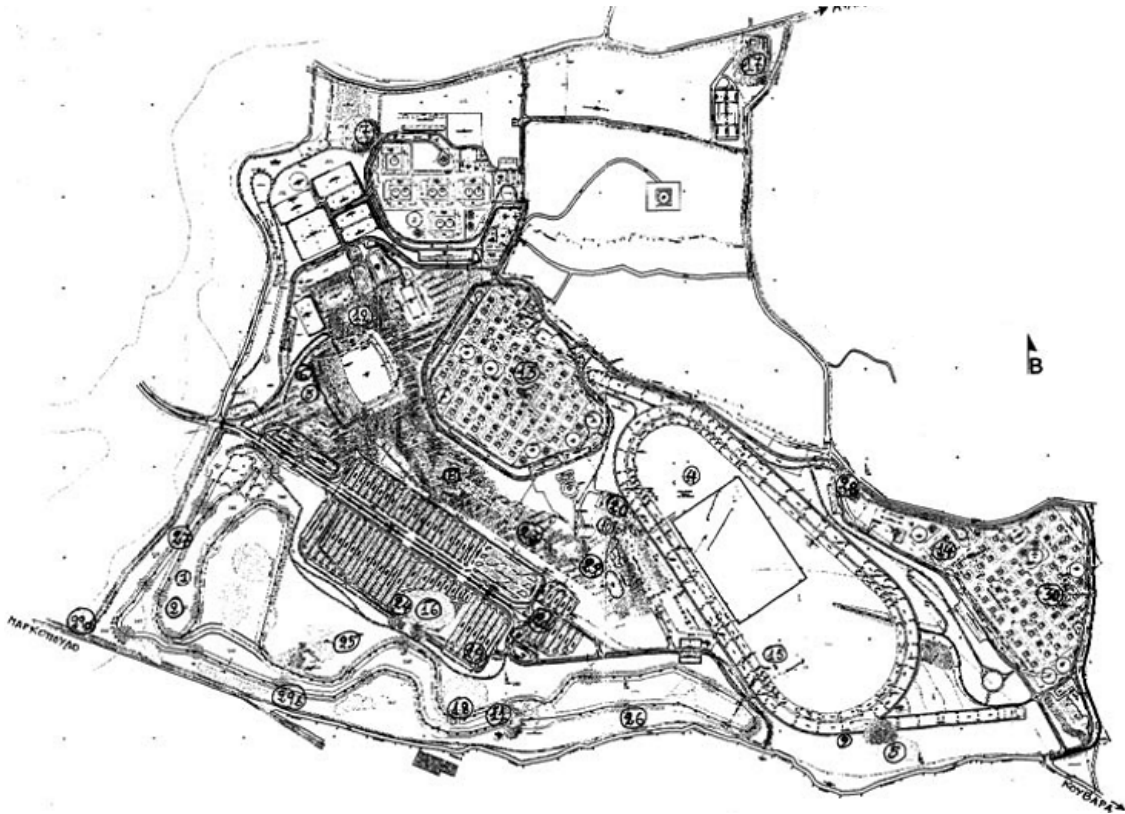
**Site 28.** On the slope of the hill to the northeast of the plain of Merenda was a Mycenaean cemetery with five small chamber tombs with long dromoi and chambers *ca.* 2.5m in diameter, dating to the LHIIIC period.

**Site 26.** At the southern boundary of the complex, 120m east of the Geometric cemetery along a farm road running east-northeast, was another Geometric to Classical cemetery. Outside the fenced area were five Geometric tombs, pit or cist graves containing 72 offerings of which 67 were pots. Immediately to the north of the Geometric tombs were Archaic cremations, and north again a large funerary peribolos and an exedra. As indicated by an inscribed marble funerary lekythos, the peribolos belongs to a previously unknown family of Myrrinous, that of Eukles and Ischyrios (**Fig. 64**).

**Site 5.** The eastern cemetery consisted of eight cist graves cut into the rock and four cremations. Within one of the cuttings were two bronze urns. Pottery dated from the second half of the fifth century to the beginning of the fourth.

**Site 11.** Approximately 200m northeast of the cemetery in which the Phrasikleia kore was found in 1972 was a large cemetery of the eighth to the fourth century BC. Sixty two tombs were found, mostly pyres and *enchytrismoi* with much Geometric and Archaic pottery, and an offering table with representations of fantastic animals (**Fig. 65**).

**Site 8.** To a small Classical building with a stoa was added a large Hellenistic hall to the east and a stoa on the south side, and in the Roman period a workshop area. From the form of the building and the finds (a lead weight of ¼ of a stater and a bronze public voting ballot) this seems to be a small public building.



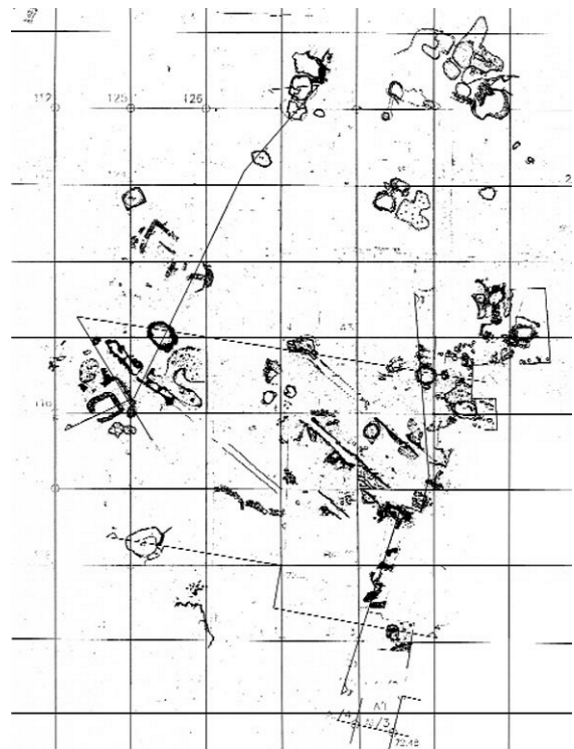
61. Olympic hippodrome: location of excavated sites. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.



62. Olympic hippodrome, Site 13: rock-cut chambers. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.

In a large cemetery immediately northeast of that in which the statue of Phrasikleia was found, lay a building complex and a farm complex. One Late Neolithic and one Early Bronze Age house were uncovered to the west of them.

**Site 9.** Immediately to the west of Site 5 was a small sanctuary with a rectangular peribolos (33 x 26m) of limestone blocks. A schist slab was inscribed with the name NANNION. At the same depth as the peribolos was a three-roomed building above a layer with Early Geometric to Geometric pottery.



63. Olympic hippodrome, Site 13: Early Helladic settlement, late phase. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.



64. Olympic hippodrome, Site 26: funerary peribolos of Eukles, Ischyrios and family, Myrrinous. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.



65. Olympic hippodrome, Site 11: offering table showing fantastic animals from a group of 62 burials at Merenda, ancient Myrrinous. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.

To the right of the entrance, by the east wall of the peribolos, was a small bath with two built tubs. To the north were the remains of two rooms, one of which (to the south) contained many pots and a small bothros. The remaining area outside the peribolos was a tree-lined garden with a small rock-cut cistern, with many amphora and kantharos sherds, perhaps a small shrine to Aphrodite.

**Site 15.** Some 250m from the Sanctuary of Aphrodite, a small road ran from the southeast ancient road to the north to a large elliptical peribolos of large stones. By the entrance was a circular pit with Middle Helladic pottery, prochoes and parts of two polishers, while in a large pit in the middle of the peribolos was a small Late Geometric cup. Sherds from this area are mostly Geometric and Late Classical in date, with some Mycenaean. These findings suggest that the peribolos is a temenos, perhaps linked to a dedicatory inscription to Apollo found in Merenda.

**Site 16.** Towards the middle of the Olympic complex, the stereobate of a large building (20 x 10m) of limestone blocks probably belonged to a temple. The only surviving architectural member was a marble sima. Archaic lamps and pottery and few Late Roman lamps were recovered.

**Site 23.** From the west side of the north road and 70m south of the periboloi of the north cemetery begins a small road leading to a small sanctuary with a rectangular peribolos and monumental door. At the northeast corner

of the peribolos are the remains of a small building with two small bases, and rooms at the west and the south sides. A few loomweights were found with the bases.

Outside the west side of the peribolos was a well, from which was recovered a high base with a dedicatory inscription: ΞΕΝΟΦΩΝ ΙΕΡΕΥΣ ΑΝΕΘΗΚΕ ΠΑΙΣ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΟ ΜΝΗΜΕΙΟΝ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΜΕ ΦΡΑΤΡΙΩ ΔΙΙ. The sanctuary is therefore probably dedicated to Zeus Phratrios.

**Site 24.** A small square building with a floor of clay tiles was investigated. Nine steps are preserved in the east side. In the interior were many marble architectural members: two arched epistyles, parts of an unfluted column and pilasters, two capitals with palmettes and Corinthian capitals, which date to the first to second century AD. Also a marble winch beam of a well inscribed: ΤΗΝ ΚΡΗΝΗΝ ΠΟΙ(Η)ΣΑΣ [---] ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΠΕΡΙΣΤΟΜΙΟΝ [---]. This seems to be of the second century AD and probably belonged to a well supplying water for the nearby sanctuary.

**Site 30.** A large ancient road found at the east side of the complex linked the demes of the south Mesogeia (Kephale, Potamioi, Thorikos) to those in the north (Philiades, Halai Araphinides, Araphina).

#### Marathon

Excavations for the **Olympic Rowing Facility** at Marathon between 2001–2004 revealed the following.

The deepest levels are in a layer of red earth where the bottom of the marsh was in its initial dry phase. Remains of activity here included wooden structures and pits which pre-date the third millennium.

To the Early Helladic period date two pits and two houses (B1 and B2) along the east side of the trench, and another (ΣΤ1) at the west side (**Fig. 66**).

At several points around the marsh were small stone soroï and animal bones with remains of burning – probably small outdoor hearths of various periods.

Three buildings were founded in a layer of peat which in this period was dry and stable enough to accommodate fixed installations. Large quantities of Geometric pottery were found at three points inside the peat, with Early Helladic in the lower levels. At the end of the Early Helladic period the area was flooded, but it must have dried again to support Geometric habitation, although no building remains were found.



66. Marathon, Kato Souli-Schinias: Early Helladic House B2. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.

The foundation of the two-roomed House B2 was preserved to two to three courses. Close by was a pit with EHII sherds in the bottom. North of house B2 was a large pit containing Early Helladic and Middle Helladic sherds above a layer with much Early Helladic (mostly EHII) pottery and some EHIII sherds in a cavity at the bottom.

The rectangular House B1 just south of B2, produced Early Helladic and Geometric sherds from the fill. Ceramics collected, including saucers and plates, large phialae or lekane and some sauceboat fragments, date the use of the house to EHII.

Other finds include stone tools, shells and a large number of cores, blades and chips of obsidian, as well as a greenstone pendant in the shape of a foot.

House ΣΤ was a rectangular, two-roomed Early Helladic dwelling along the west side of the lake. The upper courses of the walls were of mud-brick, in one wall in a herringbone pattern. Geometric to Late Classical sherds were recovered around the area.

Along the length of the road to Kato Souli, to the north of the marsh, was a cemetery of the Archaic period to the third century BC. Sixty one tombs were found along an ancient road which ran southwest-northeast parallel to the modern road. The majority was immediately below the surface.

Two hundred metres south of the first cemetery were a further 26 tombs, mostly *enchytrismoi* and cremations of the Late Geometric period to the fifth century. The majority were *enchytrismoi* in amphorae, pithoi, lekane and hydriae (Figs. 67, 68).



67. Marathon, Kato Souli-Schinias: *enchytrismos* within an amphora. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.

Two hundred and forty metres south of the north edge of the lake lay the bases of two kilns, probably used for the firing of tiles and perhaps pithoi. Fill around them contained pottery of various periods from the Geometric to the Byzantine.

Near Kato Souliou Street, 80m from the cemetery and the ancient road, part of a large Classical farm complex was excavated. Sixteen rooms were revealed, and to the north side the strong foundations of a square tower-like structure, which appears to belong to an earlier phase. Terracotta plates from olive presses were found, plus stone grinders, loomweights, lead weights, lead clamps, bronze arrowheads, iron and bronze nails, 90 coins (56 in a hoard) and two inscribed limestone slabs.

Pottery consisted of household wares, most undecorated, and many black-glazed sherds, also pithoi, amphorae, kantharoi, olpes, skyphoi, phialae and plates.

The complex was in use from the first half of the fourth until the beginning of the third century BC.



68. Marathon, Kato-Souli-Schinias: black-figure alabastron from a grave. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.



### Rural sanctuaries

During works on Stavros-Eleusis Avenue at **Hippiou Street** in **Charavgi (Acharnes)**, part of an ancient arterial road was revealed (165m long and 2.6–3.1m wide) running northwest-southeast (**Fig. 69**). The retaining walls were in place along almost the whole length, with at least three construction phases. Eight successive road surfaces were excavated, dating from the Classical to the Late Roman period, plus one of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (**Fig. 70**). The continuation of the road was located further on, with three roadside buildings. A curved section of the eastern retaining wall abutted the northern wall of a single-roomed structure. The southern wall of this structure may be the pronaos of a small roadside shrine enclosed by a peribolos, whose west wall was part of the east retaining wall of the road, while part of the south was found a short distance to the south of the sanctuary. The entrance to the sekos was at the east. The sanctuary dates to the Hellenistic period: inside it were six miniature cups, part of the neck of a lekythos with relief decoration of erotes and a clay disk with the face of a female figure. Beneath the south wall of the peribolos was a deposit containing nine kernoi, part of a plastic lekythos with the feet of a female figure (**Fig. 71**) and many fragments of domestic pottery, as well as Late Classical amphorae and cups and many miniature cups. This may be a sanctuary of Demeter.

East of **Thivaidos Street**, **Kato Kiphisia** were two small roadside shrines and other sacred areas within a peribolos, part of a Classical road and two Roman instal-



69. Acharnes, Hippiou Street: aerial view of the central stretch of the ancient street. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.



70. Acharnes, Hippiou Street: continuation of the ancient road viewed from the southwest, showing stratigraphy of the surfaces. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.



71. Acharnes, Hippiou Street: Eros on the handle of a plastic lekythos. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 2<sup>nd</sup> EPCA.

lations (a ceramic workshop and a private house). The main sanctuary to the south consisted of a small square room with an entrance to the east and walls of conglomerate blocks. In front of it were parts of three dedicatory inscriptions. One, dating to the fourth century BC, was an honorific deme decree for an unknown individual who had planted trees in the Sanctuary of Dionysos. Part of an epistyle of the funerary monument of Dionysios ([-] YΣΙΟΥ) was found east of the ancient road. Part of a life-size marble male figure found inside the naiskos perhaps belonged to the cult statue of Dionysos. Within the sanctuary was a piece of a marble arm of a female statue smaller than life size, terracotta figurines of enthroned females, part of a head of a cat, a dog, two bird figurines and a series of clay votive ears and horns of bulls, as well as ritual vessels, all dating from the mid fifth until the mid fourth century BC.



72. Megara: excavation sites, 2004. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

Very near the sanctuary to the north is a small area with an entrance at the east between pilasters. Figurines were recovered of birds and seated goddesses, a marble figurine of a woman, and an arm and torso of a marble female statuette, suggesting that this is a naiskos to Aphrodite. This sanctuary probably belonged to the deme of Upper Pergase

#### Farmsteads

East of the Sanctuary of Dionysos, mentioned above, on Thivaidos Street, near to **Seneca Street**, a Late Roman farmhouse was revealed with a central rectangular courtyard

and six rooms arranged on three sides. A large stoa opened off the south side: a short distance from the courtyard was the wall of an external peribolos. Room 1 on the eastern side contained a large pithos, parts of other storage vessels, a large number of bronze coins and many terracotta loomweights. Near the south peribolos was part of a marble mortgage horos of the fourth century BC (πεπραμένον ἐπὶ λύσει). The beneficiary was Andromenes of the deme Paionidai and the price was 4,000 drachmai (XXXX).

A rare instance of a residence preserved in **Acharnes** came to light in excavations around 1km north of the sanctuaries on Thivaidos Street **to the west of**

**Monimatiou Street:** a small farmhouse dating to the Early to Late Classical period with at least two (fifth- and fourth-century) phases. In the first phase the building was elliptical and contained lamps and animal bones. On top of this structure was a later room and a large courtyard to the west with a peribolos.

A large and rich Roman farmhouse was excavated at **Ortansias and Paschalias Streets**, with a central open courtyard, developed in successive building phases from the Early to Late Roman periods. The estate had its own pottery workshop with a kiln, storage areas, a honey production installation, and baths with hypocausts and warm and cold rooms.

The complex was destroyed in the fourth century AD and the area used as a Late Roman to Early Christian cemetery with burials in pots and pit graves. One grave contained a marble inscription:  $\pi\alpha\iota\delta\iota\ \eta\rho\omega\iota$ .

Findings from the house include domestic pottery, lamps, a marble weight, part of a terracotta relief plaque with the head of the god Hermes, Roman and Byzantine bronze coins, and an inscription on a headless Herm stele of the first to second century AD. This inscription is from the ancient deme of Pergasidai and mentions one of its citizens and some hydraulic works ( $\sigma\upsilon\delta\epsilon\upsilon\ \delta\phi\epsilon\iota\lambda\omicron\mu\epsilon\acute{\nu}\omicron\upsilon\ \delta\epsilon\ \tau\eta\varsigma\ \pi\epsilon\rho\iota\acute{\alpha}\kappa\tau\omicron\upsilon$ ). Another inscription among the building material of the house was a horos of the fourth century.

Within the peribolos wall to the northwest of the house was the tomb of a victorious pentathlete with pieces of a column krater of the beginning of the fifth century BC.

At **126 Dimokratias Avenue (Gerovouno, Acharnes)** excavations for a side road of the Attiki Odos uncovered a Late Roman farmhouse with two wings immediately west of Dimokratias Avenue. Inside the eastern part of the house was an area with hearths and large storage pots. Near the north part of the west wall were two *enchytrismoi* inside an amphora. One room had a flight of stairs to an upper level.

At least two chronological phases could be observed from the construction of the walls: in the first phase the walls are built with irregular stones of small and medium size and lime mortar, while in the second phase they are wider and built with larger stones and less mortar (mainly on the insides). Both phases date to the Late Roman period (third to fifth century AD). The *enchytrismoi* are from the sixth century AD. Within and around the complex, 40 bronze coins were collected, plus many fragments of glass vessels, a column base, lamps, pithoi and two bread stamps with a cross design.

### Megara

The detailed reports and plans of excavations conducted at Megara by the 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA between 2001–2004 have done much to further our understanding of the topography of this ancient city (Fig. 72). Several sections of the city walls have been excavated: At **1 Thermopylon Street** a stretch of the walls (15m long, 5.35m wide) running northwest-southeast was preserved at the euthynteria and the lowest course. The north and south faces were built of sandstone blocks, and the fill was of small stones and earth. The mud-brick which covered the eastern part of the walls was found *in situ* on the upper surface. Pottery dated to the end of the fourth century BC. At **21 Evpalinou** a 15.9m-long section of the *proteichisma* was preserved to seven courses, built of blocks of grey limestone in the isodomic system. At the eastern side of the property and in contact with the outer north face of the *proteichisma*, a stairway of nine steps was

preserved. The fill of the wall produced domestic pottery (amphorae, lekanes), while utilitarian closed vessels (an amphora, a black-glazed drinking vessel and black-glazed skyphos sherds) collected from the foundation ditch of the wall dated the construction to the second half of the fourth century BC. A further section of the *proteichisma* was revealed 78.5m away from this plot at **47 Evpalinou Street**, oriented east-west and of greyish limestone isodomic masonry five courses high. At the north face of the west section of the wall was a flight of five steps. The fills contained Late Classical domestic pottery. A parallel wall in the same stone, 11.3m north of the *proteichisma* and preserved to three courses, appears to be a side wall probably of the same date.

North of the ancient city walls excavation on an unnamed road at **Tachi** north of Alepochoriou Street revealed 28 graves of a cemetery. All the burials were in sarcophagi of shelly limestone, the dead supine with hands parallel to the bodies and heads to the north. The graves were of three periods.

(1) First half of the fifth century BC: grave 4, a child burial, contained a peplophoros figurine, the head of a female figure and parts of an egg; grave 6 contained the burial of two adults with a Corinthian kotyle, kylikes, a black-figure lekythos and a lekythos of the Cock Group; 20 contained an adult burial with a lekythos; 21 contained 21 pots including a black-figure lekythos with Amazons and Athena fighting the Giants, a lekythos with Dionysos and Ariadne and another of the Cock Group, Corinthian black-figure kotyles and a pyxis (Fig. 73).



73. Megara, Tachi site: grave 21. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

(2) End of the third to the beginning of the second century BC: nine graves including grave 2, an adult burial with spindle-shaped unguentaria and pottery at the head, hands and pelvis, a small oinochoe and two unguentaria at the left foot and at the chest 17 gold olive leaves; grave 11, of two adults, with textile remains, 30 clay spindle-shaped unguentaria, a lead *katadesmos*, an iron strigil, a pitcher and a stamnos; grave 15, of a child, with 68 intact unguentaria and 22 gold olive leaves, of which 11 were at the chest and the remainder later collected with the bones.

(3) Roman period: graves 24, 25, 27, 28. A peribolos contained graves 27 and 28. Finds included glass unguentaria, bronze coins, six gold leaves and parts of strigils.

Nine Archaic tombs were discovered in the northern part of the city at **12 Theseos Street**. Three (1, 5, 8) were cist graves with monolithic cover slabs, five (2, 3, 4, 6, 9) were sarcophagi and one (7) a pit grave: they were oriented either north-south (1, 4, 5, 6) or east-west (3, 7, 8, 9).

The tombs contained one to four burials, the deceased supine, arms bent at the elbows. The dead in those tombs oriented west-east had their heads to the east, while in those oriented north-south the heads were to the south (except in grave 1 where it was to the north). Sarcophagi 2, 3 and 6 contained child burials and the remainder adults, but sarcophagus 9 contained one adult and one child.

Graves 1, 4 and 6 had no goods, but other graves contained pottery (aryballoi, undecorated oinochoae,

kotyliskoi and one-handled kyathoi), terracotta items (pyramid loomweights) and bronze objects (rings and pins) (**Fig. 74**).

Tomb 1, a cist grave of grey limestone with a monolithic cover, contained an adult with no goods, but the west long side of the tomb bore the inscription ΦΙΛΟΝΟΣ in letters 0.11–0.14m high, dating to the sixth century BC.



74. Megara, 12 Theseos Street: grave 1, west wall inscribed ΦΙΛΟΝΟΣ. © Ministry of Culture and Tourism: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.

## PELOPONNESE (ARCHAIC TO ROMAN)

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## Introduction

The Peloponnese is large area, and as such has attracted much archaeological interest. The volume of reported material means that there are some significant emerging trends visible in the data for 2010. First, as in other areas of Greece, there is a significant push towards interdisciplinary research, with archaeological science, careful contextualized readings of primary sources and new methodologies visible within single projects. Second, there is also an increased focus on issues of scale and spatial relationships – both across landscapes, in the continued use of archaeological field survey and various remote sensing techniques, and within landscapes, in the exploration of surface/sub-surface relationships. And third, there is evidence of a much more critical approach to topography that seeks to understand not only the physical layout of urban spaces, but the ways in which cultural memory shapes those spaces over time.

## Archaic

Archaeological discoveries relating to the Archaic period were relatively rare in 2010, especially as compared to previous years of *AR* (2008–2009; 2006–2007 especially). The vast majority of reported work continues to focus on religious structures, associated sanctuaries and cemeteries.

In the Corinthia, east of ancient Corinth, at the **Sanctuary of Poseidon at Isthmia** (as reported by E. Gebhard [ASCSA/Chicago]), study of identified vessels of the sixth and fifth centuries BC continued. They were likely associated with the sacrificial feast that accompanied the Isthmian games. These included large stewpots and covered serving platters, as well as kotyles, skyphoi and one-handed cups. The pottery distribution suggests that only a portion of the meat was roasted on the altar, while the rest was boiled and served near the large circular reservoir.

South of Kleonai, at ancient **Tenea** (modern Klenia, near Chiliomodi), police seized large parts of two kouros from antiquities thieves. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism reports that kouros A is 1.82m high and kouros B 1.78m high, and that both are of marble and likely from the same workshop. They date the statues to *ca.* 650–625 BC. Rescue excavations at the reported find-spot discovered the right foot and part of the base of kouros A and the right foot of kouros B, associated marble sarcophagi and an extensive ancient cemetery, at present comprising 43 Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic graves. The kouros are to be restored at Corinth prior to display. The recovery of these kouros is both a blessing and curse: not only were antiquities thieves apprehended, but a previously unknown cemetery was saved from further depredations. However, the continued focus of illicit activities on cemeteries and religious sites is undoubtedly distorting our knowledge of funerary rites and associated social structures for particular areas.

Southwest of Kleonai, at **Nemea**, work continues on the reconstruction of the **Temple of Zeus**, focusing on sections of entablature. Targeted excavation in two areas

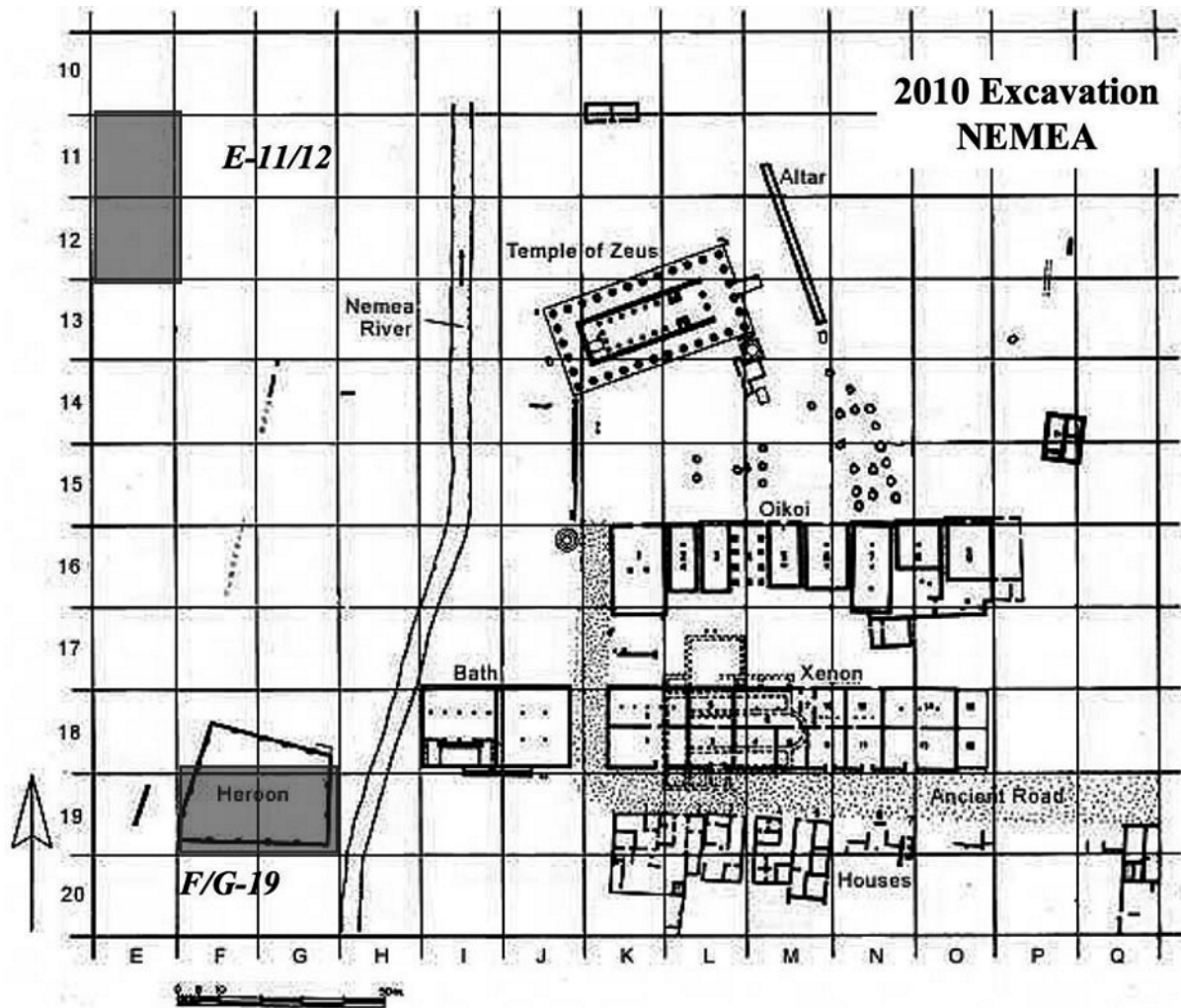
of the sanctuary (D/E-11/12 and E/F/G-19; **Fig. 75**) sought to enhance understanding of early historic and prehistoric levels, and produced well-stratified deposits of Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic material. The continued refinement of the ceramic chronology at the site is of the utmost importance, given the generally patchy understanding of local coarseware production endemic throughout the Peloponnese.

Excavation east of the Heroon (Area E/F/G-19) produced evidence suggesting three major phases to the Heroon: pre-Archaic (perhaps Geometric), Archaic (perhaps sixth century) and Hellenistic to Roman phases. The foundations of the Classical/Hellenistic enclosure wall in places lie directly on top of the Archaic wall and elsewhere on fill, suggestive of an increase in investment and perhaps expansion of activity around the Heroon in the Classical/Hellenistic periods. Within the Archaic matrix, characterized by yellow soils, were several whole vessels. Layers of soil and cobbles were laid angled in alternating directions, east-west and west-east, but always up-slope to the east. Cut into this was a pit with evidence of burning and postholes, that may suggest a small tent-like structure (**Fig. 76**). Such deliberate handling of the landscape is curious, and it is not clear how the different elements relate.

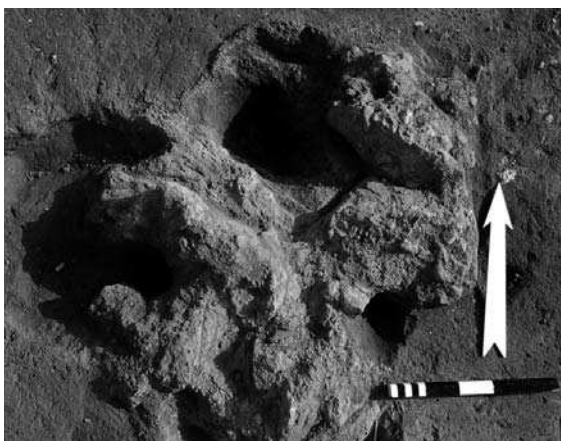
Another trench was opened to explore the area of stones (the 'rock garden') found in 1980 west of the Hellenistic Heroon wall (*Hesperia* 50 [1981] 60–65). The date and function of this stone packing remain unclear: it may be associated with religious architecture (perhaps a mound) or landscape alteration to aid drainage around the Heroon. The Archaic phase is represented by some pottery consisting of fine kotyle sherds, plus some whole vessels (kotyles, miniature kraters, a mug, small bowl and olpe). The clean matrix suggests intentional deposition within a relatively circumscribed period of time: no finds are earlier than the later Archaic period and none are later than the first half of the fifth century BC.

A ground penetrating radar survey, with electrical resistivity tomography (ERT), was conducted by A. Sarris and N. Papadopoulos (Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas). The aim was to map the stratigraphy of the sediments and address the question of the location of the hippodrome. In conjunction with excavations in D/E-11/12, no positive evidence of the hippodrome was found, though several interesting anomalies were identified. These will be examined through excavation in subsequent seasons.

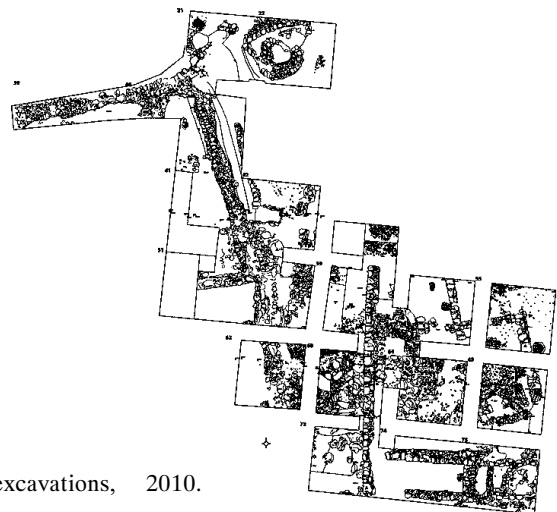
Similar work at **Mycenae**, in the Argolid, corroborates this picture of use over time. Continuing excavations in the lower city of Mycenae, reported by S. Iakovides (ASA), uncovered distinct separations between Bronze Age material and more recent Geometric and Archaic constructions (**Fig. 77**). The previously reported (*AR* 54 [2007–2008] 27–29; 55 [2008–2009] 19–21) Hellenistic structures (including a potter's workshop and an apsidal building) were shown to interface with structures from earlier periods, re-using wall foundations and building material in some cases. Similar re-use was evident for the Archaic period in a strong Mycenaean wall that had been extended to the south. The evidence points to punctuated habitation in this area, with strong foci of activity in the Archaic and Hellenistic periods (and in the Geometric and Bronze Age), with little evidence for extensive use in intervening periods.



75. Nemea: location of excavation trenches. © ASCSA.



76. Nemea: F19 Trench 1, centre, pit (from south).  
© ASCSA.



77. Mycenae: Lower city excavations, 2010.  
© Archaeological Society of Athens.



### Classical

Archaeological material relating to the Classical period is similarly under-represented in the Peloponnese. Most frequently, material of this period forms a part of multi-component sites. This makes discussion of purely ‘Classical’ material quite difficult. What is interesting, however, is the narrative that emerges when this material is contextualized amongst other historic periods.

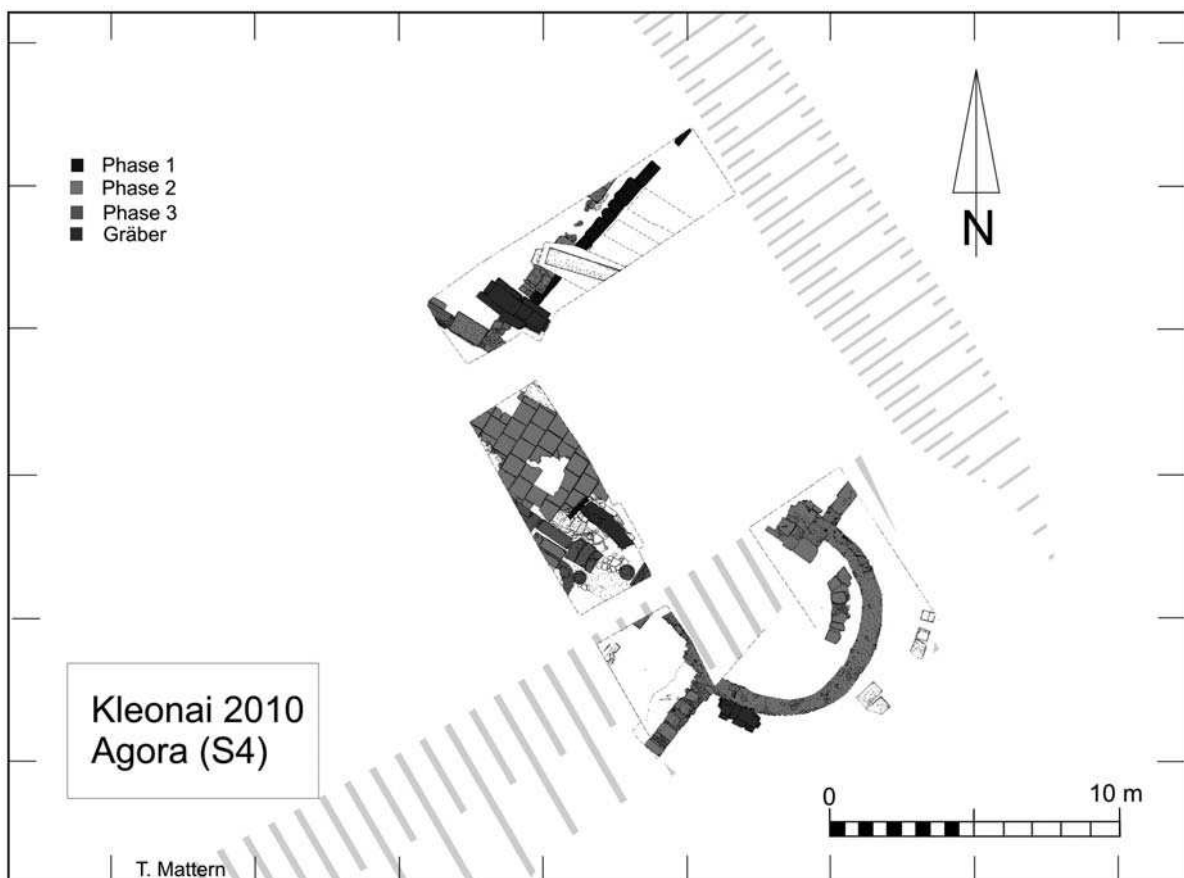
For example, south of ancient Corinth, near modern Mafpos and on the ancient road to Argos, lies **Kleonai**. Excavations, directed by T. Mattern (DAI/Marburg), focused on buildings close to the agora, adjacent to a road or path that led to the southern city gate. An apsidal structure, likely a Byzantine church (**Fig. 78**), points to the religious use of the area. Remains of Late Classical and Hellenistic monuments and statue fragments were previously reported in 2006, and an inscribed block with erased inscription was recovered in 2010.

The church is likely representative of religious continuity. That it was the inheritor of an earlier sanctuary is perhaps indicated by the earlier walls and exedrae, by numerous and sometimes well-preserved Late Classical and Hellenistic spolia (especially capitals and columns; **Fig. 79**) and by the rise in terrain in this area of the agora. The unusual location of this agora and the course of the city wall to the north may reflect an extension of the city perhaps related to the integration of new inhabitants after the conquest of Mycenae in 465/464 BC.



79. Kleonai: overhead view of trenches from the south. © DAI.

The importance of broader contextualization can also be seen among the *poleis* of the ancient **Triphylia** regional survey in Elis. Located southwest of Olympia, the area was variously controlled by Eleans, Spartans and Arcadians in antiquity. This survey aims to study and record the visible remains of the various *poleis* of the region, including Hypanam, Epitalion, Pyrgos, Samikon, Platiana and Vrestos (amongst others). By itself, the



78. Kleonai: contexts at the edge of the agora, indicated by phase. Phase 2 is the apsidal building (church). © DAI.

Classical material tells little. Examined diachronically, however, that material suggests some interesting developments. The fifth season of fieldwork was carried out under the directorship of J. Heiden (DAI).

Primarily, the extent and duration of occupation in this area was elucidated. On a plateau south of modern Gryllos, a settlement, perhaps corresponding to ancient **Hypanam**, was dated by surface finds from the Mycenaean to Hellenistic period.

On the summit of the highest mountain in the area, **Mount Minthi**, an 8 x 8m foundation was discovered in association with a Byzantine church. The altar may belong to Zeus (**Fig. 80**).

Ancient **Epitalion** was identified on a large plateau to the northwest of the Zoodochou Pigis monastery, near the mouth of the Alpheios. Surface remains consisted primarily of coarsewares, tile and large quantities of Late Classical and Hellenistic sherds.

In **Ag. Elias**, near the eponymous church, cut limestone blocks, Lakonian roof tiles and some Classical fineware sherds were discovered. According to the surveyors, 'This may be the site of **Pyrgos**, the southernmost *polis* in Triphylia, to which the Temple of Athena at Prasadaki likely belonged as an extra-urban sanctuary'.

Finally, evidence suggests that **Samikon** was a Hellenistic foundation of the Triphylian League. Geological cores were drilled to determine the site of its ancient harbour and to identify whether the Kleidhi hills were islands in antiquity. Results suggest that this area cannot have been the town harbour.

The 1:1,000 city plans of **Samikon**, **Platiana** and **Vrestos** made in 2009 were supplemented with additional detailed studies at 1:50, primarily of fortifications (**Fig. 81**).

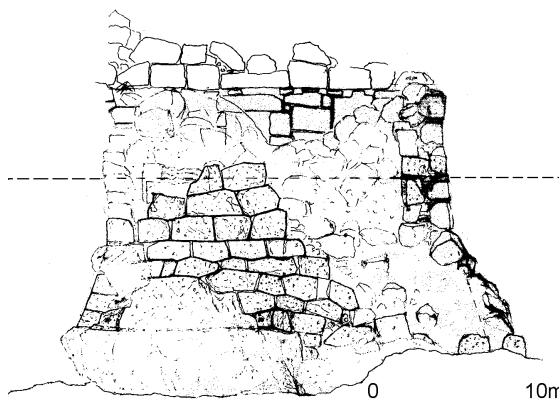
This superficially disparate series of observations relating to the Triphylia provides some interesting information when viewed *en masse*. The increasing autonomy from Elis and the foundation of the Triphylian League in the Classical period corresponded to an extension of settlement in the region. Increasing regional insecurity under the Arcadian League (which absorbed the Triphylian League in the fourth century) led to a programme of fortification repair and renewal, as demonstrated by the detailed city plans. The diachronic contextualization of Triphylian archaeology shows a region with its own religious and community identity continuously subsumed into larger political units.

Related to this is the way in which cultural memory frames activity, as at **Kanakia** (on the southwest of the island of Salamis), where the perceived epic past framed contemporary Classical practice. To speak of the Archaic and Classical periods is to compartmentalize behaviours that drew on a rich seam of historical knowledge and community memory. It is a standard *topos* amongst both ancient and modern sources that the past frames the present: for post-Classical Greece, the Classical period is the referent. Indeed, it helped shape the entire cultural movement of the Second Sophistic. What is interesting is to see similar notions at play in the Classical period itself.

At **Kanakia**, an acropolis with Mycenaean habitation with an associated cemetery on a plateau to the southwest has been the focus of study since 2004. The team (as reported by Y. Lolos [Ioannina]) has been excavating a Classical/Hellenistic temenos on this plateau since 2008. The temenos is composed of two levels, bridged by a ramp



80. Mount Minthi: large altar foundation on summit with Byzantine church. © DAI.



81. Samikon: tower 6 of city wall. © DAI.

or stairway, leading to a Π-shaped construction (3.5 x 2.5m), open on the front with an exit at the rear north wall. To the west, a bothros probably received liquid offerings. This pit was filled in two events, most likely associated with the destruction and subsequent clean-up of the shrine.

Much of the pottery from the 2010 excavation of the bothros and surrounding area appears to be Late Classical to Early Hellenistic, with the most common forms being lekane, wide-mouthed cooking pots, imported transport amphorae (from Thasos and Mende amongst others), pithoi and beehives. Common shapes in Attic black-glaze are phialae, small bowls, skyphoi, kantharoi, closed shapes as oinochoae and olpae, and lamps. Associated small finds include pyramidal loomweights, various metal utilitarian objects and 13 coins. The relationship between ceramics and small finds (especially the coins) is especially important for dating the temenos. The bronze coins include Athenian issues of the late fourth and early third centuries.

A careful reading of the archaeological data suggests to the excavator that the foundation of the shrine relates to the annexation of Salamis to the Athenian state at the end of the fifth century. Its destruction likely took place in the early third century BC, perhaps in relation to the Chremonidian War (268–263/262 BC), judging by

ceramic and numismatic evidence. The shrine was apparently intended for hero worship, probably of Ajax (and perhaps also the mythical Kychreas). Alongside epigraphic and literary evidence, the spatial relationships of the various periods of the site lend credence to this idea. The Mycenaean ruins on the acropolis are visible from the temenos on the plateau, itself located within an old cemetery with visible Mycenaean elements. The shrine was deliberately placed on the plateau in order to emphasize religious connections with the epic past.

In contrast to this, recent work at ancient **Troizen**, as reported by M. Giannopoulou (26<sup>th</sup> EPCA), highlights that re-use of pre-existing standing architecture need not have associations with identity and cultural memory. Three new forts of the defensive system of the Classical city were found, one on the hill of Vigliza (southeast of Ano Fanari) and two at the coastal sites of Megali Magoula and Limanakia (both overlooking the sea). The fort at Megali Magoula was built amongst the ruins of the Middle Helladic settlement and incorporated the remains of the prehistoric fortification wall in its own defenses.

#### Hellenistic and Roman

The Hellenistic and Roman Peloponnese are best discussed together, partially because of the problems in periodization that have been noted elsewhere in detail (Pemberton [2003]; Stewart [2010]), but also because of the sweeping political changes that occurred during this time. There are many specific points that can be drawn out of the material: continuities in religious practice; extended networks of connection beyond the Peloponnese; refinements in our understanding of the inhabited landscape; and the general underlying interpretative strand of ‘change’. This change is visible not just in terms of architecture or settlement patterning, but also in the continued illuminations of the gaps in archaeological knowledge and the refinement of practice.

Such new knowledge is evident in the archaeological field survey at **Aigialeia** in Achaia. It continued in 2010 in the upper Krios valley, under the direction of A. Pontrandolfo (SAIA/Salerno), Z. Aslamatzidou (Director, 6<sup>th</sup> EPCA) and A. Rizakis (KERA/EIE). The survey focused on the area between modern Perithori and Seliana, targeting a series of natural and artificial terraces on the right bank of the river Krios, plus portions of the associated mountain slopes (**Fig. 82**). Prospection revealed scattered, roughly-cut, conglomerate blocks, as well as discernable wall lines, roughly half-way up the northwest slope of the target area. The evidence is suggestive of a system of paths and trackways, connecting the lower valley with the hilltop. Artificial terracing appears to be evident on the south, east and west slopes, and is thought to be associated with the recovered terracottas and cut-stones. As the surveyors report, ‘archaeological evidence on the upper slopes, ca. 1km from ancient Seliana and on the junction of routes towards Arcadia and the Krathis valley, suggests another pole of activity from the Early Helladic period to Late Antiquity in this part of the territory’. In other words, the continued use of archaeological field survey emphasizes the multi-nodal nature of the inhabited landscape. The narrative of settlement is continuously being extended beyond the old *polis-chora* dichotomy to allow for hierarchies of interaction along various networks within territories.

Survey projects are also contributing to a deeper understanding of settlement patterning and the spatial organization of the inhabited landscape elsewhere in the Peloponnese.

Off the southern coast of Lakonia, the **Kythera Island Project** (as reported by E. Kiriatzi [BSA] and C. Broodbank [London]) continues to illuminate the settlement history of the island. Importantly, preliminary period distributions for diagnostic sherds have been compiled (see the online database for specifics) and show clear peaks of activity in the Classical and Late Roman periods. The trend is borne out by detailed study of specific sites: surface material from Ag. Georgios (KIP Site 111) supports the data from the Sakellarakis excavations (which are soon to be published). No material securely pre-dates the Classical period, with two-thirds of material being Roman (*ca.* one-third) or Middle Byzantine (*ca.* one-third).

Study of shoreline scatters highlights the problems inherent in assessing surface material in areas with high levels of surface attrition and alteration. Characteristic of low-density scatters (as opposed to identified ‘harbour’ sites) are high proportions of amphorae (including relatively large numbers of imports from Africa, the western Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Levant) and decorated bowls. It is suggested (see the online database for more detail) that these may represent cast-off ships’ equipment; they certainly highlight the importance of the island for inter-regional trade in the eastern Mediterranean. The wide date-ranges of recovered ceramics at these shoreline sites complicate interpretation, but can potentially illuminate changing preferences dependent on small shifts in coastal morphology, ship technology, shipping routes, and local coastal activities and settlement.

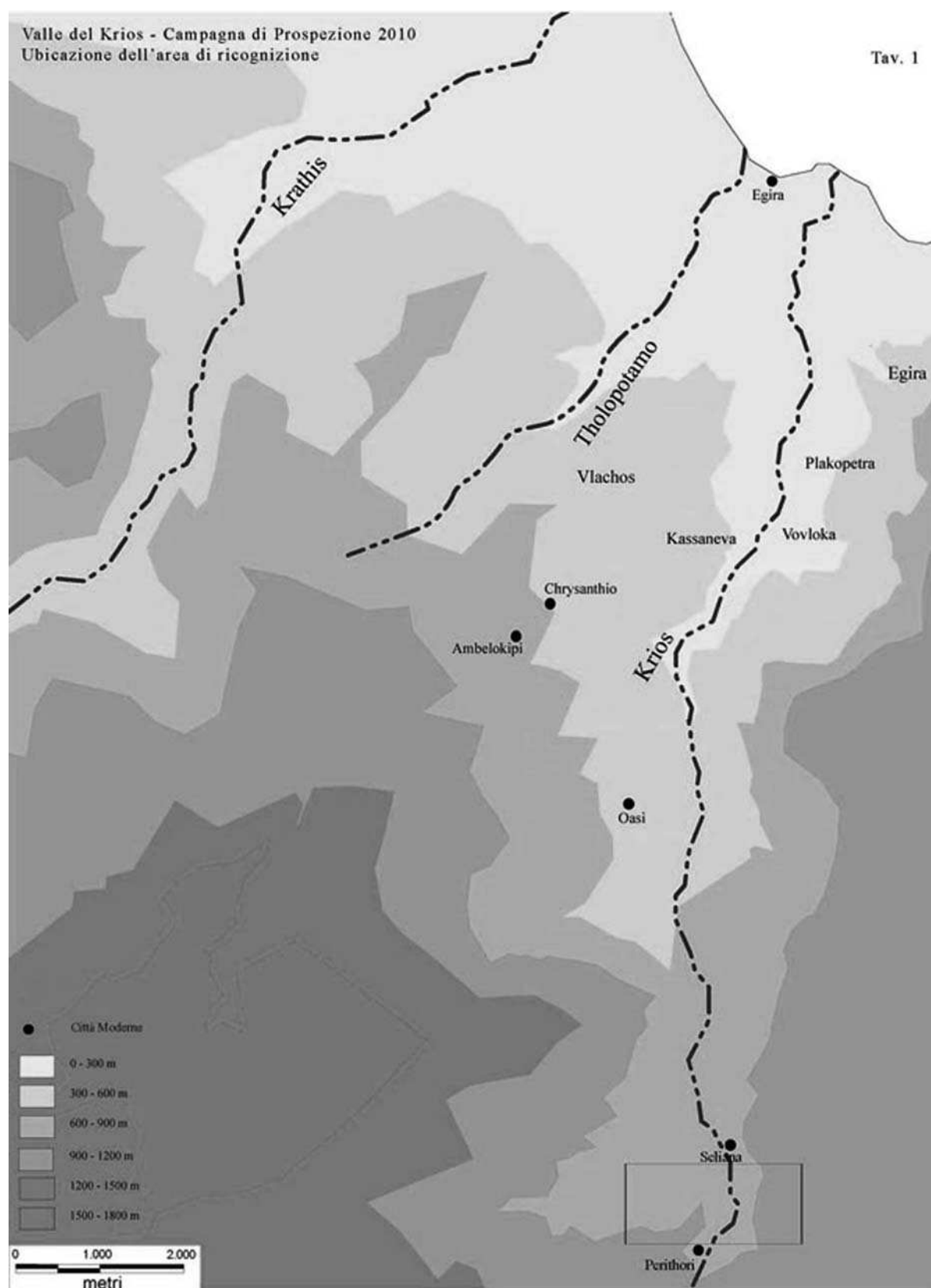
To the north of Kythera, in the southwest Elaphonisos of Lakonia (south of **Epidauros Limera**), in the area of ancient **Boiai**, a collaborative surface survey has been underway since 2008, under the direction of E. Mantzourani (University of Athens) and A. Maltezou (5<sup>th</sup> EPCA).

Three areas were investigated. Area A extends from Viglafia to modern Neapolis, area B covers the south-western part of Elaphonisos, and area Γ lies south of Neapolis, from Palaiokastros to Koraka.

Thus far, 31 sites were located in area A (Early Helladic, Classical, Hellenistic and Late Roman), 12 in area B (Early Helladic, Classical/Hellenistic, Roman and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century) and 13 in area Γ (Early Helladic, Archaic/Classical, Hellenistic/Roman and early to mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century).

Large quantities of stone tools (of obsidian, flint and other local stones), pottery of all periods (but chiefly historic times) and Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine tile comprise the surface finds. Structures identified include traces of an ancient road in area B (**Fig. 83**), remains of settlement walls and graves.

One of the most exciting and potentially fruitful aspects of this project is the accompanying underwater geophysical survey, which began in 2010 under the direction of G. Papatheodorou (Patras). This aims to map the geology and geomorphology of the sea-bed in the area of Neapolis, and between Neapolis and Elaphonisos, in order to understand better the coastal palaeotopography and any accompanying material culture. By incorporating underwater and terrestrial survey in one project, morphological changes can be incorporated into archaeological interpretations.



82. Aigialeia: survey area, 2010. © SAIA.



83. Epidauros Limera: part of the ancient road in area B (Elaphonisos). © E. Mantzourani.

Similar interdisciplinary applications of archaeological science are evidenced at **Kouphovouno** in Lakonia (northeast of Sparta). Beyond the extensive work carried out in relation to prehistoric deposits, resistance and magnetometer surveys (carried out by M. Boyd, and reported by R. Sweetman [BSA/St Andrews]) sought to illuminate areas of Roman habitation. Several anomalies were detected, including roughly circular burned features and potential kilns. A large wide north-south anomaly may be architectural and appears to be associated with the potential kilns. Weak north-south results may be read as terracing or roads.

At ancient **Corinth**, the urban topography has been refined by studies under the direction of G. Sanders (ASCSA). Soundings made to locate a western intersection between the *decumanus* south of the South Stoa and the southern extension (the ‘Kenchrean Road’) of the *cardo maximus* (the ‘Lechaeum Road’) confirmed the proposed path of the road illustrated in the Corinth volumes, and prove that the Kenchrean Road did not extend the line of the *cardo*.

A section of colluvium eroded off Acrocorinth was excavated, revealing Late Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and Hellenistic pottery. Dug into the colluvium was a cellar of the Hellenistic period, containing a dumped fill dating to the early third century BC. Another mid third-century fill contained sherds of a kantharos with four lines of an inscription on the interior (**Fig. 84**). Intriguingly, Sanders reports that ‘a preliminary reading identifies on line 1 part of a personal name; line 2, “a crescent-shaped... [offering? and]”; line 3 “a plaque to the hero... [and]”; line 4 “fresh frankincense...”’. The excavation of the colluvium is important for establishing the impact of erosion on artefact recovery upslope.

At the **Sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia**, R. Senff (DAI) directed architectural and environmental studies. The integration of interdisciplinary research methods is proving particularly fruitful here. Erosion and flood have always had an impact on the topography of the sanctuary, and efforts were made to shed light on the sedimentary history through systematic coring and geoelectric profiling by sampling the area southwest of the sanctuary by the ancient Kladeos shore wall, to the west of the modern Kladeos river-bed and in the Alpheios plain.



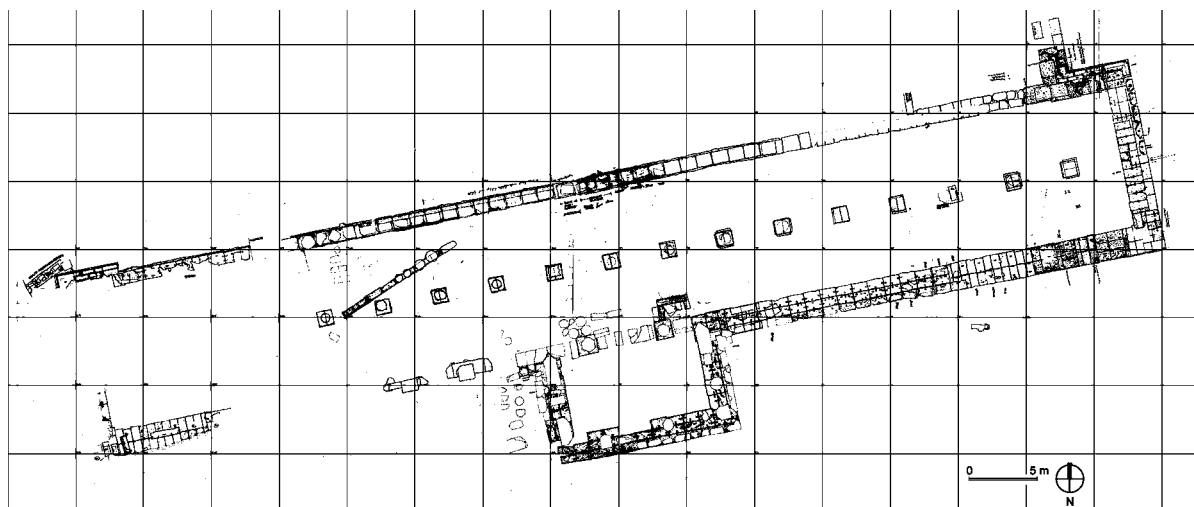
84. Ancient Corinth: inscribed kantharos. © ASCSA.

The so-called South Stoa was also a focus for study. The stoa, built in the mid fourth century BC and repaired during the Early to Middle Roman period, lies at the southern edge of the old excavations, conducted between 1875 and 1881, and again in 1937/1938 and 1938/1939. In 2010, a stone-by-stone plan was made at a scale of 1:50 (**Fig. 85**). Trials on the efficacy and economy of terrestrial laser scanning (TLS) were also conducted (**Fig. 86**). Work at Olympia continues to highlight the balance between excavation, restoration, consolidation and archival research in understanding the diachronic history of the site.

Southeast of ancient Corinth and south of Isthmia, J. Rife (ASCSA) supervised the study of ceramics from tomb 22 on the **Koutsongila** ridge at **Kenchreai**. Most of these ceramics are Early to Middle Roman, and relate to the primary phase of burial. A few finds, however, date to a secondary phase of temporary occupation during the Middle Byzantine period (10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> century AD). What emerges from this are the material traces of the disjuncture between ancient funerary spaces and the lived experience of subsequent inhabitants. What had been the respected tombs of local inhabitants become the foci of habitation in later centuries.

Continued work at ancient **Troizen** relating to Classical, Hellenistic and Roman burials may also help to illuminate social relationships and funerary ritual through time. Groups of Classical, Hellenistic and Roman tombs were excavated in both the west and east cemeteries. Most of the graves were oriented east-west and are predominantly limestone cists with some tile graves. Sarcophagi are rare in all periods. In general, there is a relatively high quantity of bronze items in graves of the Classical period, suggesting to M. Giannopoulou (26<sup>th</sup> EPCA) the existence of local metalworkers’ shops (a hypothesis strengthened by a large amount of bronze from foundry activity discovered in the Asklepieion area). By contrast, pottery was generally rare, but did include imports from Attica and Corinth.

Elsewhere at the site, the location of the theatre has been identified thanks to the discovery of a Corinthian capital decorated with a theatrical mask, below the Temple of Aphrodite Akraia near the eastern fortification wall.

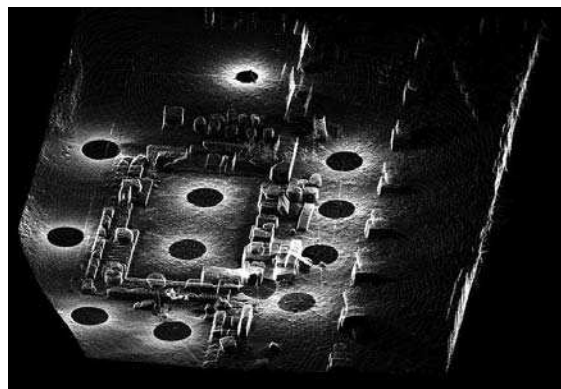


85. Olympia, South Stoa: preliminary plan. © DAI.

Continuities are in evidence in many sites examined in 2010. Classical and Hellenistic shrines see elaboration in the Roman period; and while continuities of cult may be in evidence, continuities of practice may not be.

Extensive archaeological work in **Argos**, with the focus of study by Anne Pariente (Lyon/EfA) and Christos Piteros (4<sup>th</sup> EPCA) being the **Nannopoulos plot**, highlights this. Previous reports (AR 52 [2005–2006] 29–31; 53 [2006–2007] 18–19; 54 [2007–2008] 27) have focused on the excavation of Byzantine graves in the abandoned agora and the excavation of a monumental exedra that fell out of use in the sixth and seventh centuries AD. Study of the exedra's orchestra fill identified fragments of architectural elements dating to the Hellenistic and Roman periods. In conjunction with the previously reported ceramic data of 2006, this is suggestive of a gradual transformation of this area of the public agora into a primarily religious space, with the abandonment of some structures and the modification of others into early churches and associated out-buildings from the third to sixth century AD.

At **Tegea** in Arcadia, excavation continued west of the theatre at **Palaia Episkopi**, as reported by A.-V. Karapanagiotou (39<sup>th</sup> EPCA), D. Athanasoulis (25<sup>th</sup> EBA) and K. Ødegård (Norwegian Institute at Athens). The majority of the recovered archaeology dates to the Byzantine period, but the associations between the later and earlier phases were clarified. The concrete floor reported in 2009 and associated with a Byzantine winepress was explored further, and is suggested to date to the Hellenistic period. Excavations to the east uncovered a first-century BC floor; finds included pieces of charcoal and several whole vessels, including a Megarian bowl and terra sigillata, but nothing post-Hellenistic. A trial trench (5 x 10m) opened in the north of the study area revealed evidence of probable industrial activity, namely many cuts and fills and remains of charcoal and clayey silt. This may be associated with the production of tiles or pottery. Most of the pottery from this area is Roman, including several Corinthian lamp fragments of the second to third century AD. The relationships are unclear, but do seem to suggest that industrial, religious and domestic activities co-existed within a relatively small area.

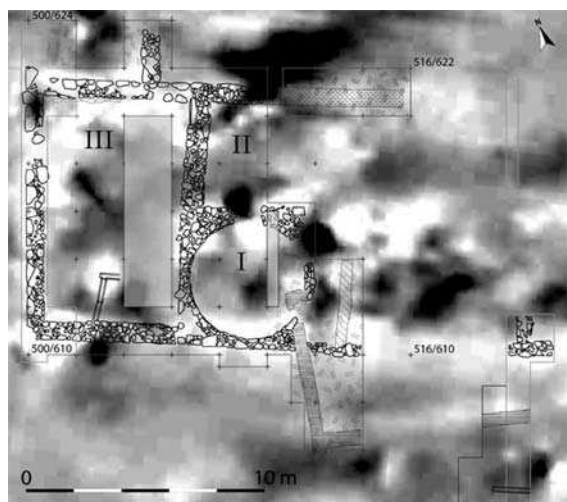


86. Olympia, South Stoa: detail of the scatter plot created by TLS scan. View from the east of the protruding central south façade. © DAI.

West of Tegea, at **Arachamitai** (north of Asea) the Finnish Institute at Athens, under B. Forsén, continued its excavations at Ag. Paraskevi. A magnetometer survey and trial trenches located a 30 x 11m Late Hellenistic building (Fig. 87) and another 65 x 65m square structure with a central courtyard. The 30 x 11m building is connected to a sacred deposit and a sanctuary of the Late Archaic to the Late Hellenistic period. The courtyard structure, of uncertain function, dates to the third or fourth century AD. A new five-year programme of excavation was begun in 2010, focusing on the 30 x 11m building and its surroundings, which appear to be primarily religious in nature. The project presents a tantalizing opportunity to trace the shifting nature of religious practice through architectural changes.

The courtyard of the Roman structure was accessed from the west along a ca. 15m-wide passage flanked by rows of small square rooms. It was previously reported (AR 54 [2007–2008] 32) that part of the northern flank of this passage was built on top of the Late Hellenistic building. Trial excavations in one of the square rooms indicate that the superstructure was likely quite light and only one storey.





87. Arachamitai: plan of the 30 x 11m building overlaid on the magnetometer map. © Finnish Institute at Athens (B. Forsén).

The walls of the Late Hellenistic 30 x 11m building were traced, revealing outer walls 0.5–0.6m thick and composed of head-size stones with dirt fill. Parts of the foundation and socle survive, though the upper courses, probably of mud-brick, are now lost. The thickness of the walls and strong foundations suggest a two-storey structure. The pottery and other finds recovered inside the building mainly date to the second to first century BC, and the evidence suggests two building phases.

Three rooms within were partially excavated, revealing a collapsed roof of Lakonian roof tiles. In Room I, a tile mosaic was discovered below the tile collapse. The room's function is unclear, though it appears to date to the later construction phase of the building. It drains to the west (through Room III) via an open pipe, and the only significant artefact was a Late Hellenistic lamp. Excavations in Room II suggest a storage room, revealing three floor levels – two of packed earth and one paved with re-used tile – and large amounts of pottery (storage and tablewares) and other finds (including multi-coloured millefiore glass, two coins and fragmentary female figurines). Fragments of similar figurines were found outside the building, on the south side.

The large rectangular Room III, in the west end of the building, had a floor of packed earth. It contained seven coins and large amounts of pottery that indicate it may have been used for communal eating and drinking. Evidence of earlier activity pre-dating the building was recovered below the floor in this room, with fourth- and third-century BC black-glazed pottery decorated with ribbing and grooves. Other finds include a handle of a bronze mirror, whose closest parallels are the Caryatid mirrors of the Sikyon school (Fig. 88). Scattered architectural fragments dating to the Archaic period, including part of a painted sima, suggest this building was perhaps a temple.

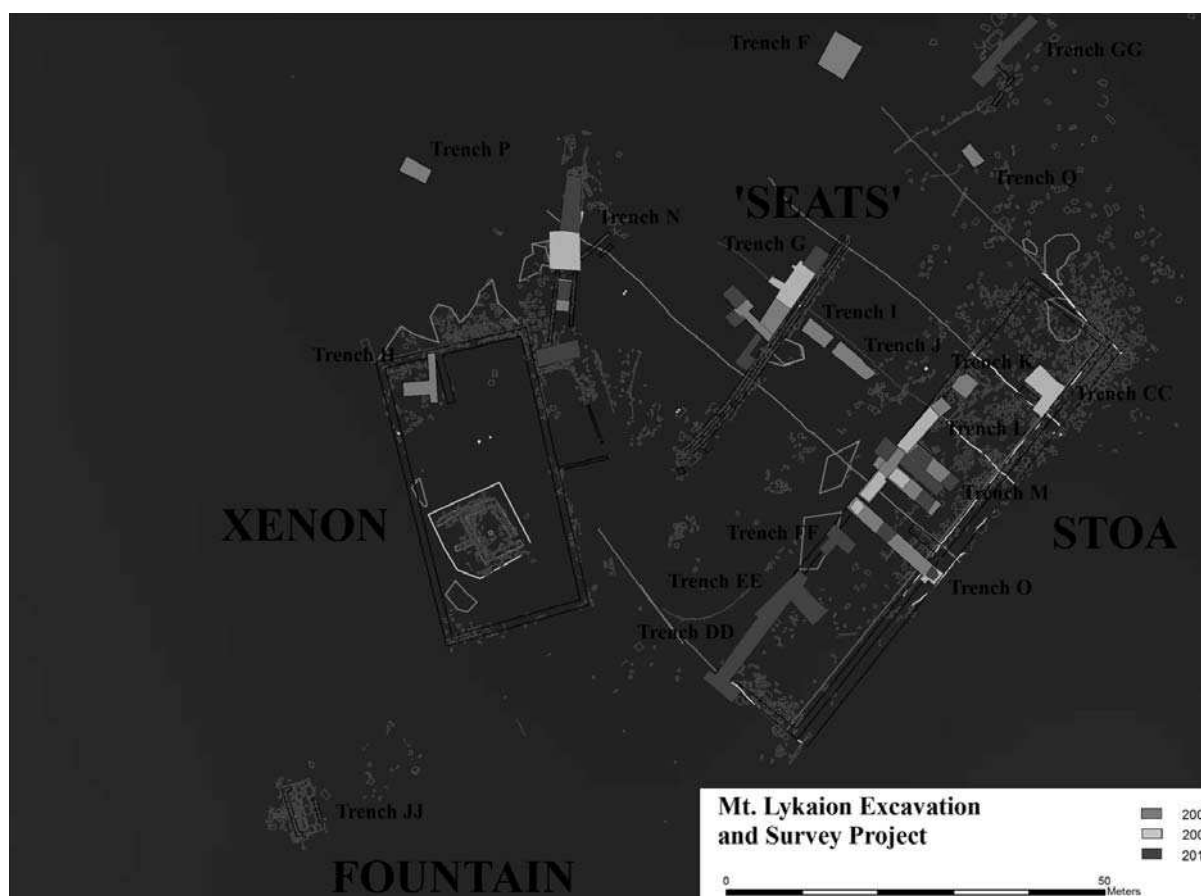
Further indication of cult activity and its continuation at the site is given by tile stamps evident in the roof collapse: stamps bearing fragmentary APTEM... and ΔΕΣΤΙ... and ΠΟΙΝΑ... strengthen the assumption that the roof-tile stamps give the genitive form of the goddesses worshipped at the site, Artemis and Despoina.

Further to the west, the work of M. Petropoulos (Director emeritus, 39<sup>th</sup> EPCA), D. Romano (Pennsylvania) and M. Voyatzis (Arizona) continued at the Sanctuary of Zeus at **Mount Lykaion** (on the modern-day mountain of Ag. Elias). The upper sanctuary altar deposits continue to shed light on religious practice, and there is evidence of an almost continuous sequence of activity (pottery and burnt debris) from the Late Neolithic through to the Hellenistic period: the earlier excavations of Leonardos (*AE* [1898] 248–72) and Kourouniotes (*Praktika* [1903] 50–52; *AE* [1904] 153–214; *PAE* [1909] 185–200) had only suggested activity beginning in the Late Geometric period, so this is a significant discovery. While the nature of votives changed over time, the persistence of the dedicatory activity speaks to the long-standing importance of the sanctuary for the region. The previously reported work of Y. Pikoulas (Thessaly) (*AR* 53 [2006–2007] 24; 54 [2007–2008] 32–33; 55 [2008–2009] 27) on the roads and trackways of the sanctuary environs seems to corroborate this (Fig. 89).

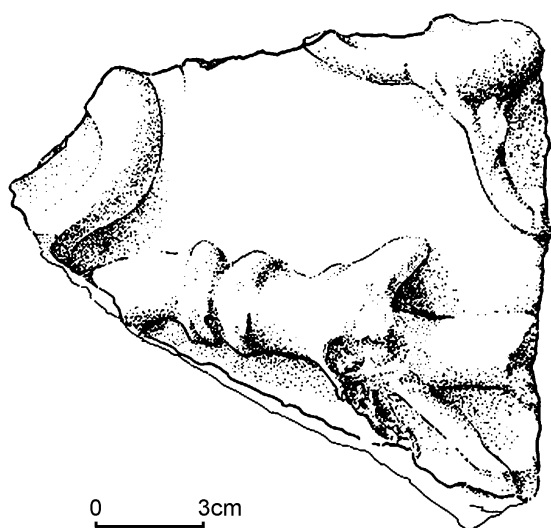
Continuities in religious focus are also evident in the Sanctuary of Poseidon at **Isthmia**, in the Corinthia, though these continuities occur in previously unsuspected areas of the sanctuary. T. Gregory (Ohio State) reports on the area north of the sanctuary, where conservation of the mosaics in the Roman Bath continued. Investigation of a large Early Roman complex north of the bath also continued – as reported in 2009, its walls appear to rest on Classical foundations. Various artefacts – stamped roof tiles, antefixes, sima fragments – found north of the Roman bath, in the Hexamilion Outworks, in Tower 14 of the Byzantine fortress and on the Theatre Terrace (Figs. 90, 91) suggest the possibility of a rectangular courtyard or complex joining these areas of the sanctuary and providing a previously unknown centre of activity at Isthmia.



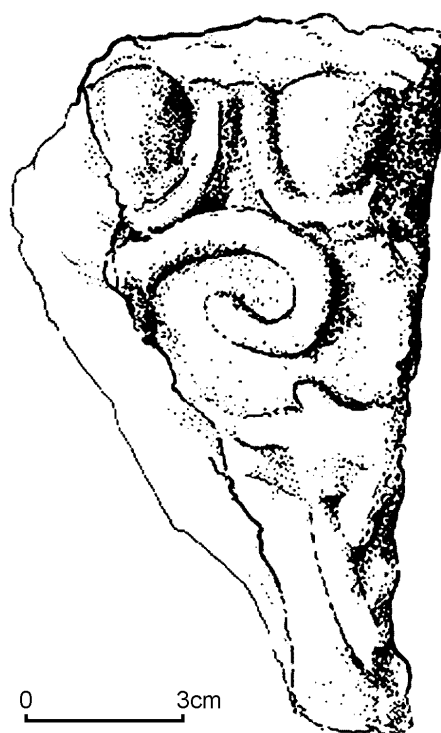
88. Arachamitai: handle of a bronze mirror depicting a Caryatid. © Finnish Institute at Athens (B. Forsén).



89. Mount Lykaion: plan of stoa area, 2010. © ASCSA.



90. Isthmia: IT 887 from the Theatre Terrace. © ASCSA.



91. Isthmia: IT 901 from the Theatre Terrace. © ASCSA.

Excavations directed by X. Arapogianni (ASA/Director, 38<sup>th</sup> EPCA) at ancient **Thouria** in Messenia provide information about local religious activity and cult practice, and by extension, local community identities. Building Γ, partially excavated in 2009, was further delimited, exposing the entrance on the south side, with part of the characteristically Peloponnesian ramp preserved. In the northwest corner, an *in situ* 'treasure-receptacle' was discovered. This is a square block with a rounded hollow in the centre, surrounded by a sill to support a metal cover. An inscription on the upper face of the 'receptacle' dates to the late fourth or early third century BC:

Ἐπὶ ἱεροθυτᾶν ἐποιήθη Ἀγία,  
Ἀρικλείδας, δαμιουργῶν Θίω-  
νος, Ἀλκάνδρου, Καλλικράτης.  
ἀρχιτέκτων Θεόδωρος

In 2009, remains of a marble offering table were found in the same area. The excavator suggests that this indicates that the building is a temple and the work of the architect Theodoros. It certainly highlights the broader networks to which religious sites could and did belong.

Hints of these networks can also be seen in the rescue excavations of various Ephoreia staff. At **Aloni Boliari** (near modern Platiana, south of Olympia), the acropolis slopes were examined by G. Hatzi (Director, 7<sup>th</sup> EPCA). On the east slope a probably public, temple-like structure with few finds was identified, while on the southwest slope a monumental Hellenistic (fourth- to third-century) tomb was examined. Finds included a composite female statue with a marble head set onto a soft limestone body.

Further south, close to the administrative border with Messenia, at **Perivolia** (near modern Phigaleia) excavations continue on a sanctuary of an as-yet-unknown deity. Within the temple, the base of the cult statue was exposed. The altar and offering table with lion-paw feet were restored by Ephoreia conservators on the model of fourth- to third-century examples of Arkadian derivation as at Alipheira and the Temples of Athena and Zeus Sotiras at Phigaleia.

Similar work carried out by P. Themelis (ASA) at **Ithome** (in Messenia) elucidates cult activity at the Temple of Eileithyia. On the south slope of Ithome, northwest of the Temple of Artemis Limnatis, the remains of a tetrastyle prostyle Ionic temple were investigated, and the remains of a marble cult statue recovered. While details are scarce, work of this nature has the potential to further extend our understanding of the rich religious life of the area. The close associations between religion and local identity are especially important for Messenia, post-Leuctra.

North of Tegea, near **Mantineia** at **Milia**, a child burial in a marble sarcophagus was recovered by A. Karapanagiotou (39<sup>th</sup> EPCA) in a known ancient cemetery. The Hellenistic and Roman finds include the first gold found in this cemetery, but more interesting are the hints of funerary rites associated with élite juveniles.

Urban topography continued to be refined at several sites in the Peloponnese. At **Messene** (in Messenia), excavations by P. Themelis (ASA) continued in the theatre and in the east of the agora, further improving understanding of the building sequence in this area. At a tomb east of the bouleion, fragments of a stele were discovered outlining a third-century alliance between Messene and five Cretan cities (the *poleis* of the Apteraioi, the Eleuthernaioi, the Sibrytioi and the Anopolitai, with the fifth perhaps being Phalasarna).

Within the city of **Sparta**, in Lakonia, rescue excavation continues to be the primary source of topographic information (**Fig. 92**). On the **property of Vr. Leopoulou (O.T. 127)**, a road was discovered leading to the acropolis, likely part of the dense Late Roman road network already documented in this area. An associated kiln site pre-dates the road, dating to the third to early fourth century AD. On the **property of A. Rigou (O.T. 127)**, the remains of a Roman to Byzantine orthogonal building were discovered during excavations in 2008–2009, which may be associated with a recovered Middle Byzantine church and olive press (see *Late Roman and Byzantine Greece*). During rescue excavations on the **property of N. Panoutsakou (O.T. 127)**, several architectural features were recorded, including walls forming an orthogonal building with a doorway, and water channels, tombs, a floor mosaic, a silo and a mortar floor. The western part of the plot had successive building phases of the Roman and Late Roman periods. The water channels seem to continue into the neighbouring **property of G. Kalopisi (O.T. 127)**. The continued presence of both domestic and industrial structures in an area outside the Late Roman defences is particularly interesting.

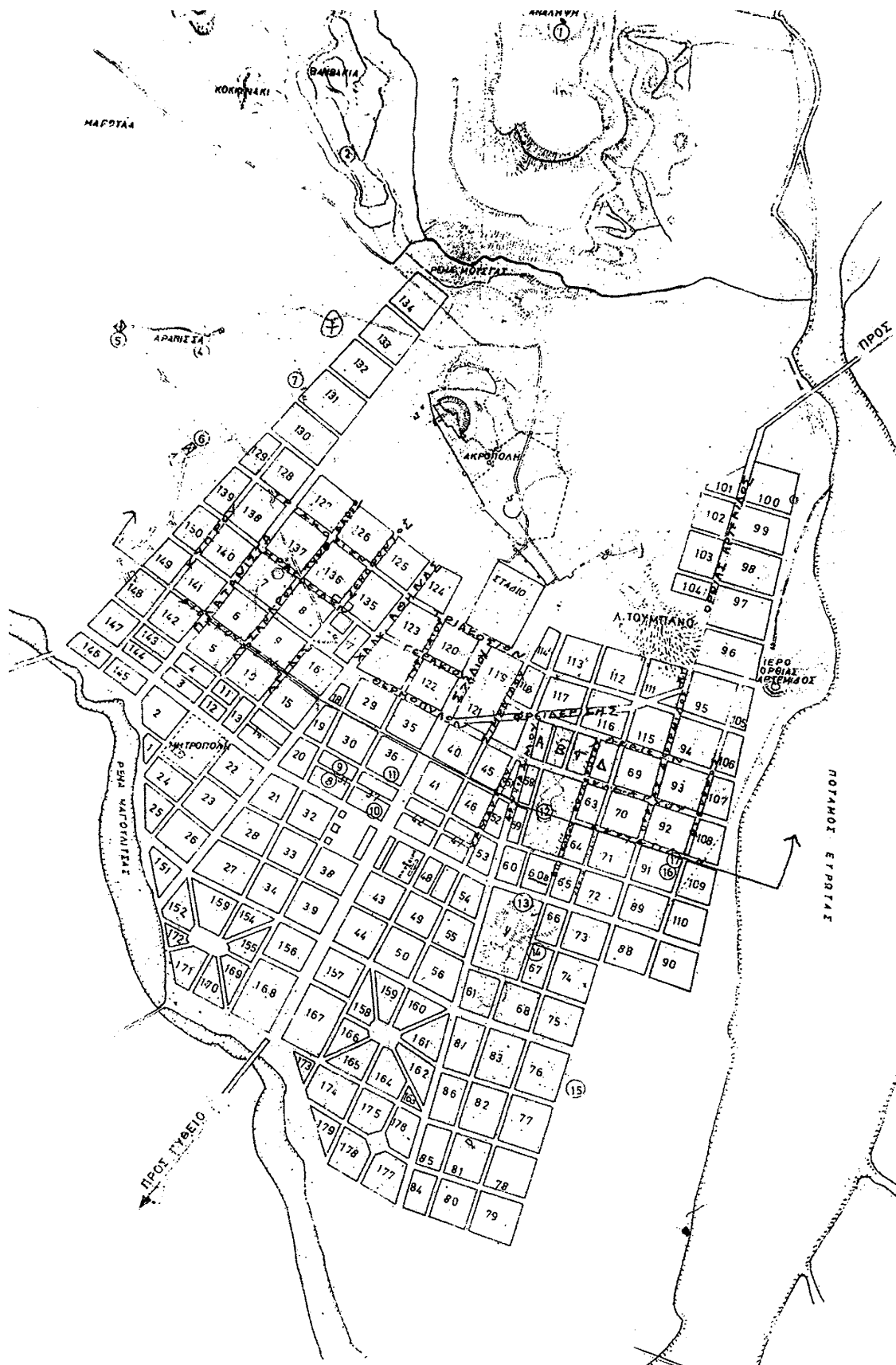
Perhaps most significantly, continued research touching on specifically Hellenistic and Roman questions is further undermining the old *topos* of the depopulated, culturally insignificant and economically isolated Peloponnese. Many of the sites discussed above highlight this re-evaluation, but it is vitally important to acknowledge the extensive contributions made by the staff of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in this area. Not only have they continued to work under difficult circumstances, but their efforts lie at the forefront of more careful readings of the archaeology of the Peloponnese. For example, in modern Amaliada, northwest of Olympia, in the courtyard of the **Monastery of Ag. Athanasios (Kouroutas)**, extensive Roman settlement remains were discovered, including a probable Roman bath complex. This agrees with more recent readings of the western Peloponnese that see it as a focus for Early Roman habitation and an important node in connecting south Italy with the Greek mainland.

Worth flagging up separately are the important discussions for a proposed Parrhasian Heritage Park of the Peloponnese that are underway – this would be the first large-scale heritage park in Greece, and would protect and unify aspects of Arcadia, Elis and Messenia (see <http://parrhasianheritagepark.org>). M. Petropoulos (Director emeritus, 39<sup>th</sup> EPCA), D. Romano (Pennsylvania) and M. Voyatzis (Arizona) of the **Mount Lykaion Project** are leading discussions, and should be congratulated for spearheading such an important venture.

### Key trends

The regional overview provides insight into several broader trends evident within the archaeological work conducted in the Peloponnese in 2010. These trends will undoubtedly help shape interpretation and further research in the years to come. It is hoped that it will be useful to lay these out here as a foundation for future discussion in subsequent editions of *AG*.

Any discussion of the Peloponnese from the Archaic to Roman period is immediately faced with several significant problems. Any such review, drawn from recent preliminary reports of archaeological work, is necessarily



92. Sparta: property divisions within modern Sparta. © BSA.

selective, drawn as it is primarily from the reports on sites in *AGOnline*. But it is selective not only in terms of what sites to include, but also in terms of overall organization. A chronological focus masks the sometimes quite marked differences between regions in the Peloponnese, and period divisions are sometimes only generally defined in the available literature. Historic periods especially tend to ‘bleed into’ one another, and the continued (but unavoidable) reliance on diagnostic pottery from major production centres for dating only exacerbates the issue. Moreover, the sheer volume of reported work can make it difficult to synthesize and contextualize the preliminary reports adequately – interpretations should be read as tentative.

Be that as it may, the archaeological reports can be broadly separated into continuing trends and emerging trends, some of which have been alluded to already.

Amongst the continuing trends are aspects of archaeological practice. Rescue and salvage excavation has always played a prominent role in the activities of the Ministry but there has been a recent push amongst staff to make the results of such excavations more widely available. This is evident not only in the more detailed reports available in the *ADelt*, but also in the widening participation of Ephoreia staff in multilingual publications (for example, Cavanagh *et al.* [2009]).

Surface survey remains a consistent and widely-practised methodology in the Peloponnese, with several projects either being directed or co-directed by Greek staff. Gone are the days when survey was seen simply as a tool for archaeological prospection, an attitude that persisted in some quarters of the archaeological establishment well into the new millennium. Developments and refinements to technique are evident in several of the projects noted above: the **Kythera Island Project**’s near total coverage of the island and intensive methodology is providing quite nuanced readings of the landscape over time, and the activity of A. Rizakis (at **Aigialeia**) continues to set the agenda for our understanding of Roman Achaia. Indeed, Rizakis’ extensive publication activities (Rizakis and Leponiotti [2010]; and the forthcoming proceedings of the conference on *Villae Rusticae*) represent significant contributions to our understanding of the Roman Peloponnese. The recent publication of the intensive survey of Mastos, in the Berbati valley helps fill in the archaeological gaps in the Argolid (Lindblom and Wells [2011]).

In a similar vein, surface survey’s inherent interdisciplinarity is still in evidence. The incorporation of microstratigraphy, ceramic petrography and fabric analyses, and geophysical research is complementing and refining data derived from field-walking. The relationship between surface and sub-surface archaeology remains a thorny issue, but continued use of a wide-ranging and multifarious archaeological toolkit is the surest way to understanding the complexities of that relationship.

Much of the archaeological work is still carried out by large foreign schools on the sites carved out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or on ancillary offshoots. The research focus on urban sites and the religious topography of major sanctuaries continues to be justified by the nature of discoveries in 2010. The focus of the American School on the Corinthia is providing a rich seam of archaeological data relating to several *poleis* and sanctuaries through time. The strong time-depth of these excavations provides vital data for sequencing, as well as important contextual infor-

mation for neighbouring regions. **Isthmia** and **Kenchreai** highlight the subtle readings of religious practice that are possible from such consistent regional research.

Similarly, such long-standing topographic concentrations allow for a greater understanding in habitation sequences and a greater subtlety in the reading of occupation histories. The re-use of architecture and related material between periods is now seen to have connotations denoting the development and expression of notions of cultural memory. In other words, not every example of re-use is simply pragmatic – they can be read as well as assertions of shared links with the past or a wish to emphasize particular religious associations, as at the potential shrine to Ajax at **Kanakia** on **Salamis**. Other expressions of community identity can perhaps be seen in the foundational activities in the **Triphylia** and the liminal sanctuaries noted by the associated survey project. The recent publication by Whitmarsh (2010) draws together similar themes of community memory and cultural identity in relation to Roman Greece.

Closely related to this are the restoration projects at **Olympia**, **Nemea**, and **Messene**. Careful contextualized restoration and consolidation are now key aspects of projects that used to be defined pejoratively as ‘big digs’. It is important to note the debate between restoration and conservation – they are not synonymous terms. Restoration, as a practice, is not without its detractors – each column of the Temple of Zeus at Nemea that is re-erected and refluted serves to punctuate that debate. Restoration helps to emphasize for the public how sites and monuments sat in the landscape, but it also reifies contemporary interpretation.

Emerging trends visible within recent archaeological work largely focus on issues of interpretation. Whereas the focus on the archaeology of religious activity is a continuing trend, the way in which much of the material is being read is certainly quite new. Refinements of archaeological techniques are highlighting the variable foci of activity within sanctuaries – as at **Mount Lykaion** and **Isthmia**. Moreover, the totality of the religious culture of the inhabited landscape is now very much in evidence: the documentation of regional sanctuaries, local cemeteries (with their evidence of community funerary ritual) and associated access routes across broader landscapes means that individual sites are no longer read in isolation, but as part of larger cultic networks reflective of past belief and practice.

A similar perspective can be seen in the identification of non-standard urban topographies. The various urban surveys now in operation, coupled with systematic targeted excavation, are helping to refine the ways we read ancient urban centres. The rigid schema of the 1980s and 1990s are giving way to much more organic readings of urban plans. Continued study is also likely to illuminate the relationship(s) between *poleis* and their subordinate towns and villages, and their supporting economies.

Many of these emerging trends have, at their heart, a more contextualized or holistic methodology. The incorporation of faunal studies and microstratigraphy at **Isthmia**, the geophysical research at **Olympia**, **Kouphovouno** and **Arachamitai**, and the complementary terrestrial and underwater surveys at the **Saronic Harbours** Project and south of **Epidauros Limera** in the area of ancient **Boiai** all speak to this.

Perhaps the most interesting development in the archaeology of the Peloponnese is the blurring of distinctions between the various archaeological cultures of researchers at work in the region. The various foreign schools and the Greek archaeological services used to exhibit much more recognizably different approaches, both in terms of the method and theory that drove archaeological practice and in the subsequent interpretations. While it is certainly possible to see differences in research focus amongst the various projects discussed in this volume, methodological differences are harder to pinpoint on the basis of nationality. Questions of religious practice and belief are no longer studied simply through temple architecture or excavation. Regional economies are not only elucidated through the placement of 'dots on maps'. Urban topography is no longer simply proving or disproving Pausanias. Continued dialogue amongst active archaeologists is creating a shared pool of knowledge that is shaping the practice of archaeology in the Peloponnese.

The best illustration of this lies in the many new publications relating to the archaeology of the Peloponnese. The lifting of the archaeological gaze is evident in several interpretative studies. The collection of essays offered to Madeleine Jost (Carlier and Lerouge-Cohen [2010]) examines the archaeological history of religion and the landscape in a contextualized manner. The essays examine the impact of recent archaeological work on the religious landscape of Arcadia and tie archaeological understandings to careful readings of Pausanias – still the most influential primary source on Greek religion.

The comparative approach lies behind a new volume edited by Friesen, Schowalter and Walters (2010) that examines the religious life of the Hellenistic and Roman Corinthia. Much of the work presented in the volume is inherently interdisciplinary, with art-historical, numismatic, epigraphical, literary and archaeological sources woven together to assess the depth of religious life in the area, with case-studies examining aspects of Isthmia and Kenchreai, as well as specific cults such as those of Demeter, Asklepios or the Sacred Spring.

The study of the terracottas of Elis also shows similar interpretative trends. The new publication by Froning and Zimmermann-Elseify (2010) not only publishes the figurines excavated in the 1960s and 1970s for the first time, but contextualizes them in light of networks of interaction stretching across the northern Peloponnese. The vast majority of the terracottas are of local production, and in design, technology and quality have demonstrable links

with excavated examples from Olympia. More surprising is the potential link with terracotta workshops at Corinth, especially amongst fifth- and fourth-century examples. The recent publication of the terracottas from the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore at Corinth (Bookidis [2010]) will undoubtedly facilitate more explicit comparisons.

This brief review cannot hope to do justice to the full range of publications, emerging and continuing trends or the richness of the archaeological data produced by the projects discussed. There can be no denying that Greek archaeology (and archaeologists of Greece) face significant challenges in the coming years; perhaps the perceived emphasis on interdisciplinarity will translate into a new wave of collaborative projects that seek to maximize diminishing resources.

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**CRETE (PREHISTORIC TO ROMAN)****John Bennet***Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield***General observations**

One of the more momentous events in Cretan archaeology in 2010 was the passing of Professor Yiannis Sakellarakis on 28 October. He will be sorely missed by Cretan archaeologists, especially those involved in the Minoan period, particularly for his excavations in and around the town of Archanes, in the **Idaeon cave**, at the Minoan-style peak sanctuary on **Kythira** and those he had resumed in 2004 at **Zominthos**, whose 2010 season is noted below. These discoveries form part of his great legacy to our field. On the other hand, Professor Peter Warren is thankfully very much with us and his contribution to Minoan archaeology was marked by the presentation of a volume, *Cretan Offerings*, containing 36 chapters that reflect his broad academic interests ranging in period from Early Minoan to LMIIIC, and on topics that include rural landscape, Minoan religion, plants and chronology (Krzyszowska 2010).

This is a relatively slim year for reports on new activity on Crete. Last year's *AG* included summaries not only of *ADelt* 55, covering activity up to 2000, but also of the proceedings of the first conference on *Archaeological Work in Crete* (see *AR* 56 [2009–2010] 169). Together these contributed to a list comprising over 100 sites reported last year. This year only 25 sites are listed, although some of these comprise activity within more than one area. The reduction is likely to be temporary; the next volume of *ADelt* (trailed in *AR* 56 [2009–2010] 1) is in press, but not yet available at the time of writing. In addition, a second meeting on *Archaeological Work in Crete* was held in Autumn 2010 and its publication too will feed into *AG* in due course, while in March 2011 in Heidelberg the conference *Minoan Archaeology: Challenges and Perspectives for the 21st Century* emphasized the future of the field. In October 2011 the 11<sup>th</sup> *International Cretological Congress* will be held in Rethymnon.

This year's regional summary represents only a small sample of the overall activity that took place in 2010; in particular, it under-represents the huge amount of work undertaken by archaeologists employed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism whose reports will soon be available in the publications cited above. It is based mostly on reports directly submitted by the teams in charge of work, augmented by mentions of relevant publications that have appeared since the last *AG*.

**Palaeolithic/Mesolithic**

In many ways, Crete, the fifth largest island in the Mediterranean, is a microcosm for the archaeology of Greece, displaying many qualities of a small mainland. However, it has been an island for hundreds of thousands of years, and its insularity explained the lack of a documented pre-Neolithic human presence, despite occasional claims to the contrary and the discovery of a pre-Neolithic human presence on the island of Cyprus. Discoveries in 2008 almost certainly altered this picture with the identification through survey of Mesolithic (*ca.* 11,000–9,000 BP) and probable Lower Palaeolithic (*ca.* 130,000 BP) artefacts at a number of locations in the **Plakias** region of west-central Crete. Even at these early

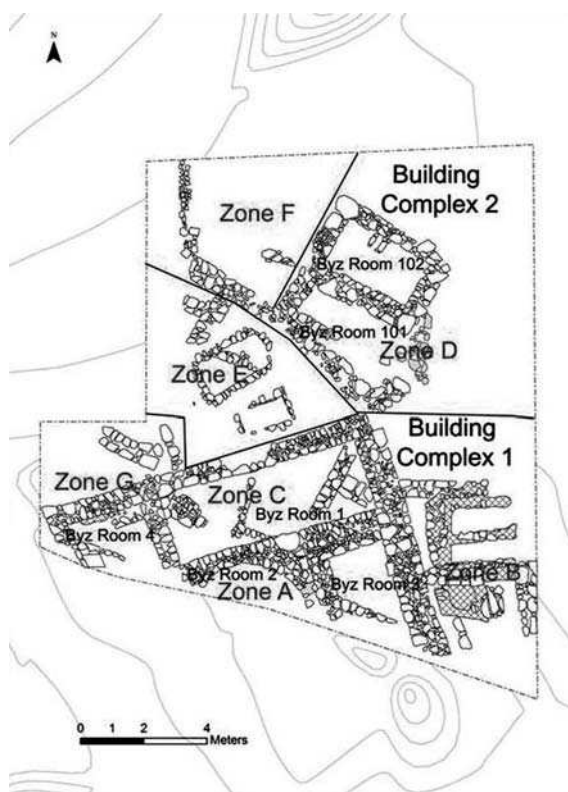
dates, Crete was separated by sea from nearby mainlands, raising the possibility that human sea travel took place much earlier than previously thought. The material has been debated since those initial announcements, but a first detailed publication of the evidence has now appeared (Strasser *et al.* [2010]; see also Strasser [2010], the latter piece referring to planned excavation at one of the Mesolithic sites). The earliest prehistory of Crete may well be rewritten and these results should also be compared with earlier discoveries on the island of **Gavdos**, south of Crete, briefly presented in 2009 (Kopaka and Matzanas [2009]).

**Prepalatial (Early Minoan to MMIA)**

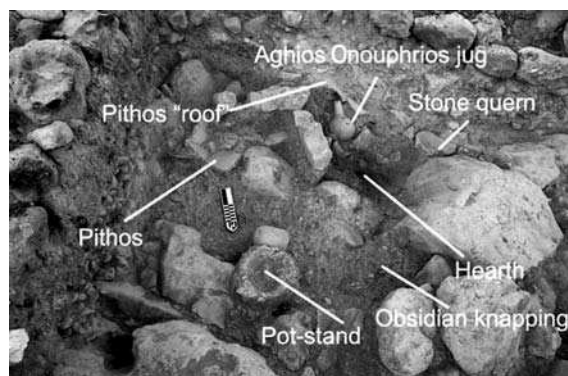
Prior to the discoveries above, the earliest securely documented human presence on Crete was the earliest Neolithic occupation at **Knossos**. Although research continues on systematic restudy for publication of the Neolithic material from **Knossos Kephala**, there are no further reports on the Neolithic period for any sites on Crete in 2010–2011. However, the millennium preceding the appearance of the Minoan palaces, the Prepalatial period, offers both new publications and new discoveries.

The results of combined excavation and survey of the two Early Minoan to Middle Minoan tholos tombs at **Moni Odigitria** (*cf.* *AR* 50 [2003–2004] 82; 51 [2004–2005] 114–15) have now been published (Vasilakis and Branigan [2010]), allowing not only a detailed understanding of the tombs themselves and their contents (including high-quality osteological analyses), but also an overview of the long-term history of the Upper Ayiopharango catchment to set alongside results of the 1970s survey of the Lower Ayiopharango (Blackman and Branigan 1975; 1977). This publication joins the detailed publications of two of the tholos tombs at Archanes Phourni (Panagiotopoulos [2002] Tholos E; Papadatos [2005] Tholos Γ) and the more recent discovery at **Livari Skiadi**, as well as the ongoing work on burial structures at **Petras Kephala** and at **Sisi Kephali tou Agiou Antoniou/Boupho** (below). In addition to this publication of a specific site, there have been publications of petrographic analyses of ceramics in Early Minoan west Crete (Nodarou 2011) and from the site of **Aphroditis Kephala**, near Vasiliki in eastern Crete (Nodarou 2010).

New material of the very beginning of the Bronze Age (Final Neolithic/EMI) has been identified in a fourth season of excavation at **Priniatikos Pyrgos**, according to B. Molloy (Dublin), B. Hayden (Pennsylvania Museum), J. Day (Dublin) and V. Kontza-Jaklova (Pennsylvania Museum), where, in addition to finds of many other periods (Middle and Late Minoan, Geometric, Classical, Byzantine) in the general area of Trench II (**Fig. 93**) a small EMI domestic area was uncovered (**Fig. 94**). Also revealed were Final Neolithic/EMI–II obsidian fragments, including flakes, rejuvenated cores and debitage, suggesting working *in situ* (**Fig. 95**). The presence of obsidian may suggest a similarity with other north-coastal Minoan sites with Cycladic materials and/or artefacts, such as Herakleion Poros, Ag. Photia or Chrysokamino. Obsidian was also found, along with ceramics, in EMII material from soundings carried out in spaces 2, 3, 10 and 19 within Building Π of Quartier Δ at **Malia**, in the course of excavations resumed in 2010 after a study season and reported by M. Pomadère (EfA/Picardie) (**Fig. 96**). This material, assigned by the excavators to the EMI/II



93. Priniatikos Pyrgos, Trench II: building complexes, rooms and zones. © IIHSA.



94. Priniatikos Pyrgos: EMI domestic deposit. © IIHSA.

transition, may push back slightly the earliest occupation of the site, previously considered to lie within the EMII period. J. Soles (ASCSA/North Carolina) and C. Davaras (Athens) report on a second season of resumed excavation of the island settlement of **Mochlos** in 2010 that revealed the site's earliest known structures in the form of a building complex, occupied in EMI and IIA–B, on the east edge of the Prepalatial cemetery, and apparently housing an obsidian workshop in its early phase (Fig. 97). Excavations in Areas 3 and 4 of the site, as a whole targeted on recovering its earlier phases of occupation, revealed a fairly wide distribution of EMII material, suggesting an overall size for the settlement in this period of 0.6ha (see also Soles and Davaras [2010]).



95. Priniatikos Pyrgos: Early Minoan obsidian. © IIHSA.

New burials spanning the EMII–MMIIA period continued to turn up in 2010 in the fourth season of excavations at the coastal site of **Sisi Kephali tou Agiou Antoniou/Boupho** (Fig. 98), as reported by J. Driessen (Belgian School/UC Louvain) and I. Schoep (Belgian School/KU Leuven). To date, the remains of at least 81 individuals have been recovered in the cemetery area defined as zone 1 and the condition of the skeletal material suggests frequent, regular human activity within the cemetery. Excavation of a further funerary structure (Building 1.19; Fig. 99) now implies that the cemetery of built house-tombs may extend all the way around the lower terrace that marks the northern edge of the site.

A report by Rena Veropoulidou (Thessaloniki/Ministry of Culture and Tourism) on shells from the EMII site of **Trypiti** on the coast south of the Asterousia range indicates a total assemblage of ca. 4,500 items, mostly from middens and food preparation areas, and predominantly of species that were locally available. The total assemblage exceeds that collected from much larger coastal or near-coastal sites (**Kommos**, **Palaikastro** and **Knossos**) and is 20 times greater than that from the site of Myrtos Phournou Koriphi, comparable both in size and date. The size of the assemblage reflects improvements in recovery techniques applied in modern excavations and demonstrates the potential for bioarchaeological analyses to enhance our understanding of ancient diet.

#### Palatial (MMIB–LMIB)

Two new general publications are relevant to the Bronze Age as a whole and can be mentioned here. The new *Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean* (Cline [2010])



96. Malia, Quartier Δ, building Π: soundings in 2010. © EFA.

includes concise site histories of the major Cretan sites of Ag. Triada, Kato Zakros, Chania, Knossos, Kommos, Malia, Palaikastro and Phaistos, as well as summaries of the development of Minoan society and discussions of various categories of Minoan material culture. A recent University of Athens PhD summarizes settlement architecture on Crete in the Bronze Age (Koutsoubos 2010).

Presentations of specific bodies of material relevant to the period include a comprehensive study of Middle Minoan three-sided soft-stone prism seals (Anastasiadou

[2011]), of MMIII ceramic deposits from **Phaistos** and **Ag. Triada** (Girella [2010]) and of vessels with applied plastic decoration from the peak sanctuary of **Vrysinas** (Tzachili 2011).

V. Watrous (ASCSA/Bufalo) reports on a first season of excavation at **Gournia** in 2010 focused mainly on areas to the north of the Bronze Age town (**Fig. 100**), towards the coast, where survey in 2008–2009 had revealed terracing and possible harbour installations. In addition to refining the ceramic sequence, remains of a possible



97. Mochlos: aerial view of Prepalatial obsidian workshop. © ASCSA.



98. Sisi/Kephali tou Agiou Antoniou (Boupho): topographical plan. © Belgian School at Athens.

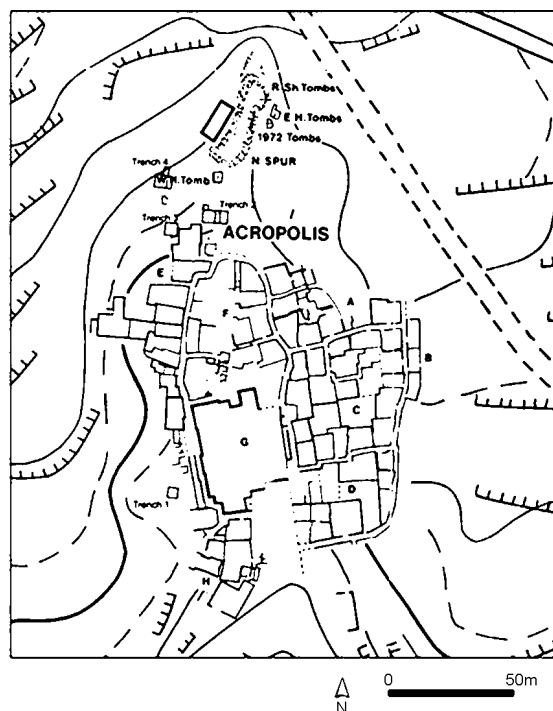


99. Sisi/Kephali tou Agiou Antoniou (Boupho): burial building 1.19 in the west part of the cemetery. © Belgian School at Athens.

Protopalatial (MMIB) circuit wall were uncovered immediately north of the town and, slightly further north, outside the town area, a small two-roomed structure dated to LMIB that contained storage vessels (one with a Linear A inscription) and may have been used for the storage of food and liquids (wine and/or wine). Survey and further excavation at this site with a long history of investigation are combining to reveal a coastal settlement with some

similarities to those at **Kommos** and Herakleion Poros. On a smaller scale the excavations in Quartier Δ at **Malia**, referred to above, are further elucidating urban organization, including the layout of streets, in this part of the extensive Minoan town west of the Palace and southeast of Quartier M. Notable is the recovery from a pit of early Protopalatial (MMIB–IIB) fineware ceramics and bone/shell assemblages, while continued excavation in Room 17 (**Fig. 96**) of an MMIB destruction level uncovered prestige objects, such as a bronze dagger (**Fig. 101**) and indications of administrative activity (three prismatic seals, a nodule and fragments of a possible clay bar with seal impressions). The deposit shows similarities in function to Quartier M, suggesting another contemporary focus of élite activity, including administration, within this part of the settlement in the Protopalatial period.

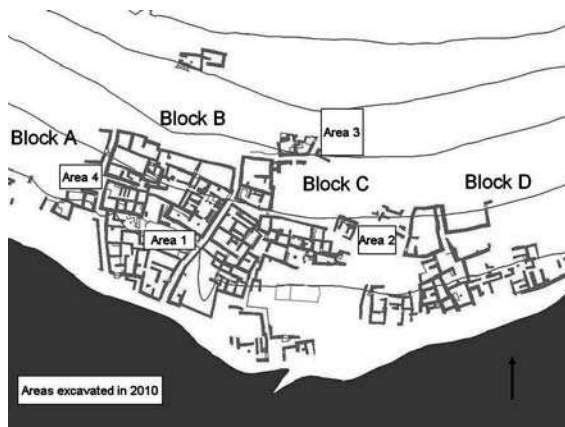
In addition to the remains of earlier settlement mentioned above, excavation at **Mochlos** in 2010 also elucidated the Neopalatial phases of the site, revealing a stone-vessel workshop belonging to LMIB in Area 2 and the town's main street in Area 3 (**Fig. 102**). However, in the remains of a wall that collapsed in LMIB in Area 4, one of those objects that cannot fail to grab our imagi-



100. Gournia: trench plan, 2010. © ASCSA.



101. Malia, Quartier Δ, building Π, room 17: bronze dagger. © EfA.



102. Mochlos: the Neopalatial settlement, showing 2010 excavation areas. © ASCSA.

nation came to light: a rectangular elephant-ivory pyxis *ca.* 0.11 x 0.14m that had contained two amethyst-bead necklaces among other valuable items. The lid (**Fig. 103**), although missing its top-right section, shows a scene with parallels in seal iconography that the excavator, J. Soles, has suggested might possibly depict a coronation, a reading that invites comparison with interpretations of Augustan Roman imagery, notably the *Gemma Augustaea* (see his presentation at the ASCSA annual open meeting at: <http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/news/newsDetails/videocast-open-meeting-2011/>).

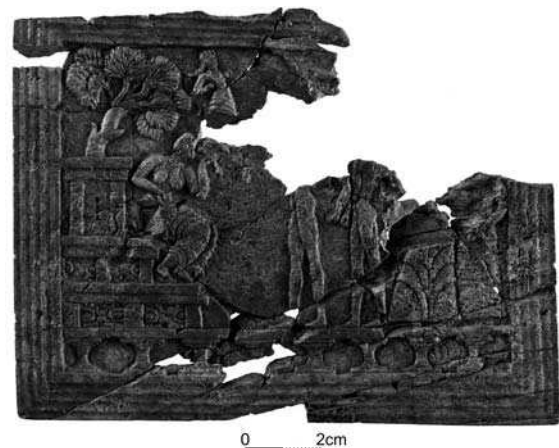
Finally, the late Y. Sakellarakis (ASA) reported on a seventh season of excavations at the site of **Zominthos** that lies on a small upland plain high in the Psiloritis (Ida) massif south of the town of Anogeia on a probable route to the **Idaeian cave**. Work continued on the main Middle Minoan to Late Minoan complex, which includes some well-preserved architecture, including interior windows (**Fig. 104**). The location was also occupied in the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman, as well as the Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman periods, and these later phases are also reflected in the Venetian and later cheese dairies and manufacturing facilities in its immediate vicinity. Near one of these, at the location **Ta Mnemata** only *ca.* 200m distant from the Minoan complex, are remains of a two-room Mycenaean (LMIIIA2–B) structure, while not too far distant from **Zominthos** itself is the site of **Kouroupetos**, where a second season of excavation was carried out in 2010 at a LMIIIA2 burial cave. Sakellarakis also carried out cleaning in the Bronze Age and later **Idaeian cave** sanctuary, some kilometres to the south of Zominthos, cleaning areas below the adyton and revealing fragments of bronze, gold, ivory and ceramics of many periods. One of his last large-scale publications, together with his wife, is a presentation of the cave and its material (Sakellarakis and Sapouna-Sakellarakis [2011]).

#### Final (LMII–IIIA2) and Postpalatial (LMIIIA2–B)

The term ‘Final’ is used to define the period when the palace at **Knossos** was functioning, with its Linear B administration, prior to its destruction within the LMIIIA2 period. Three newly published studies draw on the Linear B documents from **Knossos** to explore this period.

Petrakis’s Athens PhD thesis examines the economic organization and political geography of LMIII Crete through a detailed analysis of the inscribed stirrup jars bearing the term *wa-na-ka-te-ro* (Petrakis [2010]), while Greco seeks to elucidate the management of sheep rearing by **Knossos** (Greco [2010]). Slightly broader in its remit, in that it also examines Postpalatial Crete and draws in comparisons from the mainland, is Privitera’s study of centralized storage in the 15<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> century BC (Privitera 2010). Finally, in addition, there is a new study of the ‘warrior grave’ phenomenon at **Knossos** in the 15<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century (Miller [2011]).

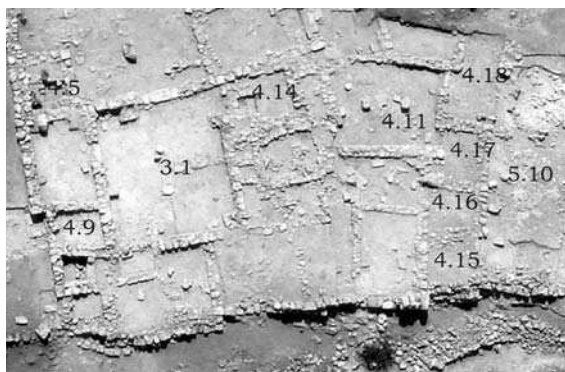
Returning to **Sisi**, the architectural complex CD in zones 3 and 4 (**Fig. 105**) excavated on the summit of the Kephali tou Agiou Antoniou/Boupho hill and explored further in 2010 is unusual in the LMIIIB period, when it went out of use, both for its size and for its elaboration, including a large columnar hall. It may well have been the only substantial structure on the site at the time, since Building F, in zone 6 to the southeast (**Fig. 98**), had apparently been destroyed in the LMIIIA2 phase. This pattern of a single large building complex at a coastal site in LMIIIB may resemble that in Quartier N at **Malia** a few kilometres west along the coast (*cf.* Driessen in Cline [2010] 566–67).



103. Mochlos: ivory box, lid. © ASCSA.



104. Zominthos: window openings between rooms 14 and 15. © Archaeological Society of Athens.



105. Sisi/Kephali tou Agiou Antoniou (Boupho): building CD with spaces explored in 2010. © Belgian School at Athens.

Spanning most of this period is the extensive cemetery excavated in 2003–2005 at 73–77 Igoumenou Gabriel Street in **Chania** reported by M. Andreadaki-Vlasaki (Secretary General of Antiquities, Ministry of Culture and Tourism/Director, 25<sup>th</sup> EPCA) and E. Protopapadaki (25<sup>th</sup> EPCA). The 60 excavated tombs extend over an area of almost 0.2ha and the Bronze Age examples include 32 pit caves, one of which (Tomb 40) is the earliest and largest in the cemetery and dates to LMII,

six shaft graves and a group of 15 chamber tombs in the northern part of the site. The tombs contain the offerings one would expect from high-status burials of this period: extensive decorated fineware ceramics, bronze swords, spearheads and daggers and sealstones. In addition, the skeletal remains have been analysed to determine sex and age, and to assess health. The burial types resemble those of Final Palatial Knossos and further underline the importance of **Chania**, the only site other than **Knossos** to reveal a Linear B tablet archive in this period, possibly a successor to that based at Knossos until LMIIIA2. (For a more detailed description, see Andreadaki-Vlasaki and Protopapadaki [2009]). Further unrobbed Minoan tombs containing ceramics and valuable objects are reported by the 23<sup>rd</sup> EPCA in the Teke/Ambelokipi region north of **Knossos**.

#### Iron Age (LMIIIC to Geometric)

S. Wallace (BSA) has published a study of the development of Cretan settlement in the landscape from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the fifth century (Wallace [2010]). She also reports on a second season of study of material from excavations in 2008 at the LMIIIC to Subminoan site of **Karphi** and conservation work there. A welcome addition to funerary material from the period is the publication of a group of 16 Protogeometric to Geometric chamber and tholos tombs excavated in 1998 (AR 47 [2000–2001] 130–31) close to modern **Kounavoi** (ancient **Eltyn(i)a**) (Rethemiotakis and Englezou [2010]).



106. Gortyn, Prophitis Ilias: general plan. © SAIA.



### Geometric to Archaic

Two new rich seventh-century BC tombs were excavated in the Orthi Petra cemetery of ancient **Eleutherna** in 2009–2010, according to N. Stampolidis (Crete/Museum of Cycladic Art), the 26<sup>th</sup> season of work at the site. Both were chamber tombs. The first (*ca.* 700–650 BC) contained the remains of four females, one probably in her late 60s, the others much younger; the second (*ca.* 680–600 BC) contained only two skeletons, a female in her 20s and a young man in his late teens. Both were élite tombs with metal vessels and gold jewellery; the woman in the second tomb had been covered with a white wool or linen cloth onto which were sewn gold decorations.

Of roughly similar date is the **Prophitis Ilias** settlement that lies on a hill approximately 1km east of the acropolis of **Gortyn** (Fig. 106). N. Allegro (SAIA/ Palermo) reports on the 2010 season of excavation that started in 2005 (AR 52 [2005–2006] 109) and further revealed the urban layout of this eighth- to seventh-century settlement. Buildings are arranged on terraces that follow the slope, along at least one east-west running street, separated by narrow alleys that run north-south. After abandonment by the end of the seventh century, the site was re-used down to the first century BC, perhaps partly for ritual, if the remains of walls over the early settlement are those of a temenos. The excavator remarks on the arrangement of the eighth- to seventh-century structures in blocks, suggesting a form of planning attested in western Greek colonies. Elsewhere in **Gortyn**, the largest Classical, Roman and Byzantine site on the island, work in 2010 focused on the Roman, Late Roman and Byzantine periods and is reported elsewhere (see Dunn elsewhere in this issue).

A second season of collaborative investigation at **Dreros** between the EfA and the 24<sup>th</sup> EPCA continues to shed further light on this predominantly Archaic to Hellenistic *polis* site. A. Farnoux (EfA/Paris4), S. Apostolakou and V. Zographaki (24<sup>th</sup> EPCA) report investigations in several areas of the site. In addition to clearing in the agora (sector 1), work focused on a terrace near the summit of the west acropolis (sector 3) where a second substantial Hellenistic building was revealed, containing loom weights and an exterior oven; it is suggested that this may have had a public function. In sector 4, on the summit of the west acropolis, the temple/*andreion* first explored in 1917 was investigated, showing that it in fact lay on two terraces. Beneath a nearby pavement, evidence for a sanctuary area was uncovered in the form of ceramics and several bull figurines dating to the LMIIIC to Geometric period (Fig. 107), suggesting earlier cult use before the construction of a building on the summit. Elsewhere, further evidence of substantial buildings was uncovered, notably one in sector 5, *ca.* 50m north of the agora (Fig. 108), which appeared to show evidence of a destruction level attributed to the sack of the city by neighbouring Lyktos.

### Classical to Roman

Other than the continued excavations at **Dreros** mentioned immediately above, there is little archaeological fieldwork to report. However, there has been an important publication on Cretan ceramics of the period 600–400 BC by Erickson (2010). The author devotes chapters to presentation of material from **Eleutherna**, **Knossos**, **Gortyn**, the Ierapetra isthmus and **Praisos** and its territory, which feeds into historical interpretation in the final two chapters. The book's explicit goal is to address this period of the supposed 'gap'

in Cretan material culture and the result is a much more nuanced picture. Also published in 2010 is an epigraphical and textual study of 12 Hellenistic to Roman gold lamellae from funerary contexts inscribed with Bacchic-Orphic texts; seven are in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens, with the provenance **Eleutherna**, while two more (plus a further three without inscription) were recovered from burials at Sfakaki near Rethymnon (*cf.* AR 50 [2003–2004] 91–92) (Tzifopoulos [2010]).

### Comment

It is difficult to discern patterns in a relatively small number of reports, but some general points are worth noting. Firstly, among the reports for 2010, many relate to sites with a long history of excavation – **Knossos** (since 1878), **Gortyn** (1884–), **Phaistos** (1900–), **Ag. Triada** (1901–), **Malia** (1915–), to pick the most striking examples – or to sites to which archaeologists have returned after a considerable gap – **Mochlos** (1908), **Printiatikos Pyrgos** (1912), **Dreros** (1917). Clearly, despite a common perception among the general public, even sites excavated for over a century still have new data to offer and the application of modern techniques to sites



107. Dreros, sector 4: bovid figurine. © EfA.

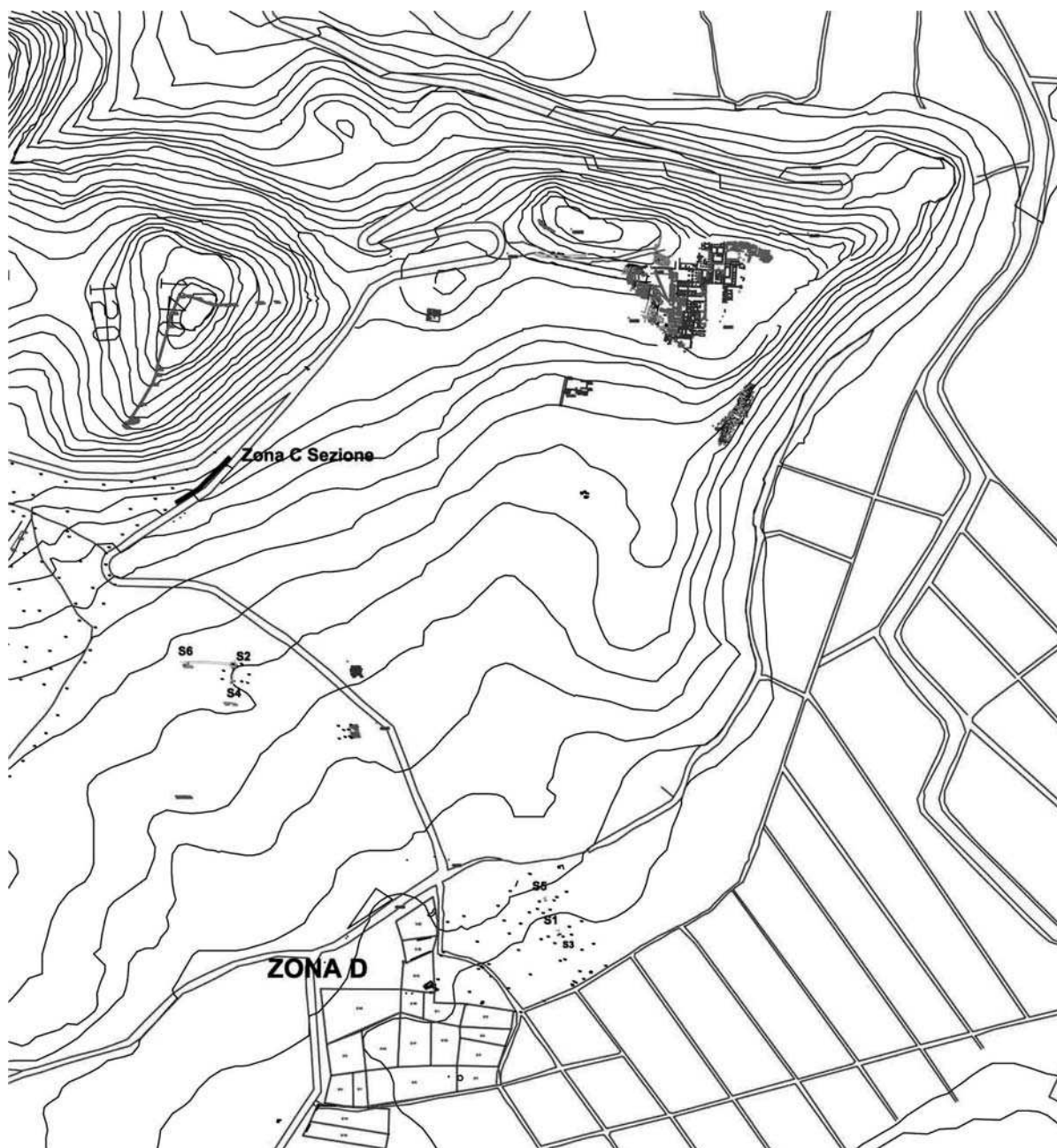


108. Dreros, sector 5: rectangular building and, to the north, the two rooms added later. © EfA.

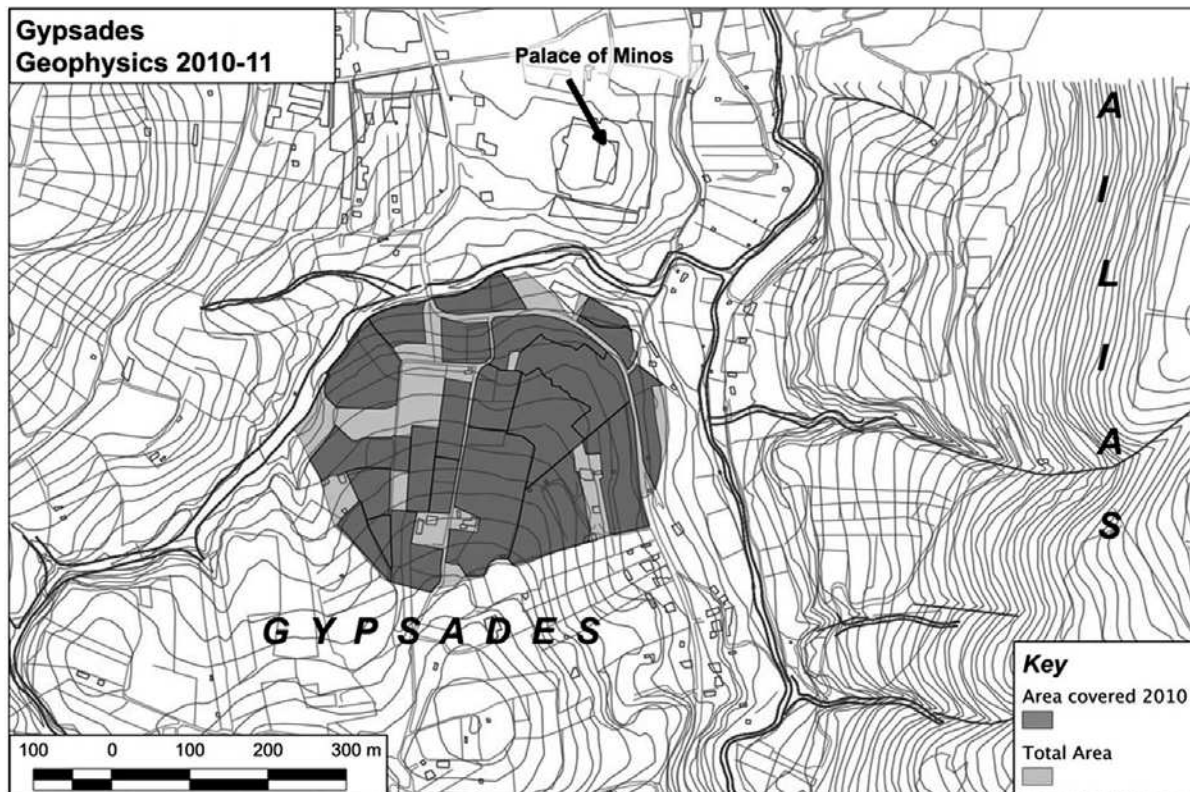
first explored many years ago can reveal hitherto unknown or understudied aspects of the lives of their inhabitants or users. Among these modern techniques are scientific and bioarchaeological analyses that are increasingly deployed in fieldwork, as the examples noted above demonstrate.

The focus on sites with long exploration histories is, I suspect, a genuine pattern, not just a function of the absence among this year's reports of many notices of interventions, often in a rescue context, on smaller, less well known sites. This year's reports are also relatively unusual – for an island that has seen much survey activity – in not presenting the results of active or recently completed archaeological surveys. The three surveys whose work is

mentioned relate to two of the sites mentioned above with the longest history of excavation, **Knossos** and **Phaistos**. M. Bredaki (then Director, 23<sup>rd</sup> EPCA), A. Vasilakis (then 23<sup>rd</sup> EPCA) and T. Whitelaw (BSA/London) report that study continues on material from the **Knossos Urban Landscape Project (KULP)**, a collaborative project between the BSA and the 23<sup>rd</sup> EPCA that seeks to document remains throughout the Knossos valley. A first extensive presentation of results was given by T. Whitelaw at the AGM of the BSA and is available as streamed video at: [http://www.bsa.ac.uk/pages/media\\_lib.php?cat\\_id=95](http://www.bsa.ac.uk/pages/media_lib.php?cat_id=95). The 23<sup>rd</sup> EPCA is also in collaboration with the SAIA on the **Phaistos Survey**, which completed its fourth season in



109. Phaistos: survey areas. © SAIA.



110. Knossos, Lower Gypsades: position of geophysical survey relative to the Palace. © BSA.

2010 (*cf.* AR 54 [2007–2008] 110), as reported by M.D. Benzi (SAIA/Pisa), F. Longo (SAIA/Salerno) and M. Bredaki (then Director, 23<sup>rd</sup> EPCA). This survey operates a strategy that resembles more that of the original **Knossos Survey** (Hood and Smyth [1981]) or of that around **Mycenae** (French *et al.* [2003]). The **Phaistos Survey** records features onto a large-scale plan (Fig. 109) and combines this with study of material collected over the site's long history of investigation as well as targeted cleaning (for example, in Zone C of a long section exposed by the road leading down from the **Phaistos** acropolis to the plain to the south) or small trials to clarify particular issues. This represents a productive field technique since it allows both surface and sub-surface remains to be investigated simultaneously where appropriate. Elsewhere at **Knossos** J. Bennet (BSA/Sheffield), E. Hatzaki (Cincinnati) and A. Bogaard (Oxford) report on geophysical (magnetometer) survey carried out within the larger urban site on Lower Gypsades in 2010 (Fig. 110), and followed up in early 2011 with a second phase of resistivity survey.

What we see in the above surveys is the bringing together and systematization of information gathered in many different contexts over many years of investigation, in the case of **Knossos** contextualized by a systematic surface survey of the entire valley. This trend is also being developed in other regions without formalization under a single project title. So, for example, the excavations at **Priniatikos Pyrgos** and **Gournia** tie in to the systematic surveys carried out in the Vrokastro, **Gournia** and **Kavousi** regions, as well as excavations at **Kavousi** (Vronda, Kastro), **Azoria**, Katalaimata and Chalasmenos.

All of these contribute to create a potentially highly detailed overview of a substantial region of eastern Crete. The resumption of investigations in 2006 at **Lato**, **Anavlochos** and **Dreiros** (*cf.* AR 53 [2006–2007] 102–03) has similar potential, especially when combined with the new excavations at **Sisi** mentioned above and the ongoing excavations and regional survey (*cf.* AR 53 [2006–2007] 104) of the site at **Malia**. In the Mesara, the combination of long-term excavations at **Gortyn**, **Phaistos**, **Ag. Triada** and **Kommos** with survey results from the immediate vicinity of **Phaistos** mentioned immediately above, the **Kommos** area and the western **Mesara** as a whole again offers the potential for understanding long-term regional history in unprecedented detail. The focus on existing sites and the inter-linking of multiple archaeological datasets mean that we are potentially on the threshold of being able to write regional histories at new levels of resolution for several areas of the island.

In closing this brief regional review of recent work in Crete, I note a third trend not entirely unconnected with the second: the expansion of information available on the internet. As indicated in the introduction to this edition of *AG*, this year's reports are based on *AGOnline*, the digital resource developed jointly by the EfA and the BSA to provide more detailed searchable summaries of archaeological activity as they become available (<http://chronique.efa.gr/index.php/>). Moreover, most projects now have some form of web presence, in some cases quite sophisticated and extensive. A great deal of information is available for **Priniatikos Pyrgos** (<http://www.priniatikos.net/PPhome.html>), including interactive, video and virtual reality content, and **Sisi** (<http://www.sarpedon.be/>).

The **Itanos** Survey Project (*cf.* AR 51 [2004–2005] 100–01) has an interactive site database that facilitates live mapping of the sites of all periods recorded during the project (<http://prospection-itanos.efa.gr/>). The site of **Kommos** has three websites: a general one with overall information (<http://www.fineart.utoronto.ca/kommos/index.html>), a depository for publications and field records (<https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/handle/1807/3004>) and one devoted to conservation of the site (<http://www.kommosconservancy.org/>), an increasingly important aspect of post-excavation work in Crete and elsewhere. For the site of **Zominthos** there exist both an artistically-designed interface that presents information about the site and its surrounding area, in Greek, including recent reports (<http://www.zominthos.org/>) and blogs covering each season's work back to 2005 on *Archaeology* magazine's interactive site (<http://www.archaeology.org/interactive/zominthos/>). Further, the institutions that oversee and facilitate archaeological (and other) research in Crete are developing their web presence. Thus, both the BSA and ASCSA now upload streaming video of presentations they host (referred to above in relation both to **Knossos KULP** and **Mochlos**), while the Institute for Aegean Prehistory East Crete Study Center not only makes its newsletter (*Kentro: The Newsletter of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete*) available for download in pdf format, but has this year initiated an electronic version (*eKentro*) that can be read on-line or downloaded (<http://www.instapstudy-center.net/e-newsletter/Fall2011/index.html>).

The ability to present extensive visual materials, in colour, to have searchable text and the potential for interactive content, from searchable databases to GIS mapping and virtual reality, is clearly a valuable addition to the range of tools available to all those seeking to keep up with the pace of archaeological activity in Greece.

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