Post-Myc finds, especially much pottery, come from the area of the tholos, as well as the fill inside it: they indicate that the monument was reused during the LRom period (3rd–4th Ct AD) and perhaps later. A preliminary indication of the forms represented is given: many glass vessels are also present. Three catalogued items (a lamp, a bronze coin and *tegula mammata*) are indicative of the date proposed. It is likely that a Rom farmstead with a bath was situated close to the tholos: local reports of destroyed cist tombs may indicate burials of this period also. It is unclear whether the tholos was reused during this period, and, if so, for what purpose: there is no indication of later cult. The presence of a LRom lamp in the tomb may indicate that it was looted at that time.

Pylos, Palace of Nestor. J. Davis (Director, ASCSA) reports on the continuing study of finds from Blegen's excavations.

All post-BA pottery has been reviewed for the first time by J. Davis and K. Lynch. Activity continued only in certain restricted areas. There is no evidence of continuity in the socio-political institutions of the BA palace into the EIA. Activity almost ceased late in the EIA. The little Ar and later pottery has no connection with ritual or even informal veneration. There is no reason to consider the palace ruins a sacred site.

J. Murphy examined grave goods from Pylos in the National Museum; in the Chora Museum, she restudied with K. Lynch the post-BA pottery from the Kokkevis tholos which dates to the E–MPGeo, with most pottery dating to the MPGeo. L. Schepartz and S. Miller-Antonio analysed the human remains from tholos III in the National Museum.

S. Lafayette determined that much floor plaster retained by Blegen and Rawson had fallen from an upper storey of the palace. X-ray diffraction was employed at IGME to determine the composition of the plaster samples. H. Brekoulaki fully documented the nautilus frieze from hall 64, mentioned by Lang but not illustrated. New joins were made to the 'Two Men at Table' fragment from the throne room, and many to the procession scene illustrated in Lang's pl. Q. The ship fresco from hall 64 has been more accurately reconstructed, but the iconography of a large group of joining fragments with purple decoration from the same room remains a mystery. E. Kottoula completed experiments on the effects of burning on mod. samples of pigments used in the wall-paintings at Pylos.

J. Davis, S. Stocker and G. Cadogan identified Cretan and M ceramics from MH levels, some at least as early as the Old Palace period.

A new Gr edition of C. Blegen and M. Rawson, *Guide to the Palace of Nestor* has been published (Athens, Papademas, 2007) with revisions and updates by J. Davis and C. Shelmerdine.

Romanou. *Kosmos tou Ependyti* (19/01/08) summarizes the annual report of the 38th EPCA. Traces of PH settlement (2700–2250 BC) have been located (and are illustrated), contemporary with the settlements at Akovitika and Voidokoilia. Investigation in the E part of the settlement recovered large quantities of obsidian and bronze, probably from workshops (unique in Messenia). A few metres from this area, a deep well produced large quantities of pottery (ca. 200 vessels, mostly undecorated).

A 2nd discovery in this general area is a large pithos used for a burial. This contained PGeo vessels as funerary offerings.

ELEIA
(7th EPCA: 6th EBA)

Acropoleis of the anc. cities of Eleia. X. Arapogianni (Director, 38th EPCA) (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 5–32) describes work undertaken to clean and present to the public the monuments on the acropoleis of the major anc. cities of the region (Epitalio, Skillos, Prasidaki, Lepreon, Kato Samikon, Platiana, Alipheira, anc. Phigaleia and Koryphe).

Triphylia. J. Heiden (DAI) and C. Rohn (Cottbus) report that the 2007 survey season investigating the settlement and topography of Triphylia was abandoned due to devastating forest fires in the research area: the project will continue in 2008.

Olympia. *Eleutherotypia* (07/03/08) reports geophysical prospection aimed at locating the hippodrome, as part of a 5-year research programme undertaken by R. Senff (DAI) and G. Chatzi-Spiliopoulou (7th EPCA). The topographical significance of a building complex found by the 7th EPCA S of the entrance to the Olympic Academy in the winter of 2006–2007 and identified with the Sanctuary of Demeter Chamynes is emphasized. Pausanias placed this sanctuary SE of the stadium: built on a height, it was a vantage point from which spectators could watch chariot races. Current prospection thus focuses S and E of the stadium.

Publications: H. Kyrieleis (with contributions by B. Eder and N. Benecke), *Olympische Forschungen* 31. *Anfänge und Frühzeit des Heiligtums von Olympia: die Ausgrabungen am Pelopion 1987–1996* (Berlin, De Gruyter, 2006); H. Baitinger and T. Völling, *Olympische Forschungen* 32. *Werkzeug und Gerät aus Olympia* (Berlin, De Gruyter, 2007).

Linaria (Lagoumia). O. Vikatou (7th EPCA) reports (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 1, 385–86) the discovery of 4 tombs in the course of work to divert the main road beside anc. Olympia. The remains of 4 human skeletons were found. Pottery – comprising 3 prochoiskoi, a fragmentary Minyan kylix, 2 further fragmentary vessels and part of a handle – indicates a date at the end of the MH. Also found were a lead weight, 3 stone tools, 2 clay weights and a clay bead.

Linaria (Spilies). O. Vikatou (7th EPCA) reports (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 1, 386–87) the discovery of part of a PH settlement. Poorly preserved architectural remains were uncovered at a *d.* of 0.2–0.3m. In one trench lay part of a curved foundation oriented N–S, 6m. *l* and 0.9m *w.*: adjacent to this was a round construction (*di.* 2.7m). To the E lay a 2nd N–S wall 3.3m *l.* which at its S end starts to curve to the E. Another trench produced just sherds, while a 3rd also produced remains of a building. The excavation produced a quantity of EH and MH sherds and stone tools, many of which had traces of burning. The PH finds were generally in poor condition because of ploughing and slope erosion. The site lies on a low hill ca. 3km from Olympia, with a direct view over the Alpheios valley: rescue excavation covered only the area threatened by road construction (part of the project to divert the main road by anc. Olympia) and the site is undoubtedly more extensive.

Miraka (Velmacheika). O. Vikatou (7th EPCA) reports (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 1, 387–96) the discovery of part of a Rom settlement and cemetery. Between them, a wall (preserved for 4m) and a round hearth probably belong to a PH settlement badly damaged by cultivation. A few EH sherds and stone tools were found.

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Remains of a Rom settlement lie close by, to the SE. Foundations of 2 buildings were examined, with remains of others visible on the surface over a wide area. Building 1 (maximum dimensions 19.2m *l.* x 7.3m *w.*) has only its foundations preserved, with indications of 3 rooms or areas. Building 2 is larger (50m x 20m) and better preserved: it had 8 rooms and was used for storage (the base of a large pithos was found *in situ*). Finds included spools, Rom sherds mainly from amphorae, as well as some LRom pottery of the 6th–7th Ct AD, faunal remains, glass vessels, olive pits and 7 poorly preserved coins of which only one 4th Ct BC coin of Sikyon could be read. To the W, a channel linked the buildings to a neighbouring stream.

Three 6th–7th Ct AD tombs were located in the same area as the buildings. Tomb 1 is a cist, probably of stone in secondary use, oriented E–W, containing a female burial in extended, prone position. Beside the skull was an undecorated trefoil-mouthed oinochoe and, lower down, 2 silver earrings decorated with grape clusters. The oinochoe, decorated with bands of incised wavy lines, dates to the 6th Ct AD and the earrings to the 6th–7th Ct. Tombs 2 and 3 were slab cists, oriented E–W, and contained single burials but no goods. These tombs relate to the reuse of the buildings and do not form part of an organized cemetery.

The Rom cemetery lies on a low mound ca. 100m W of the settlement. The following tombs were investigated. Tomb 1: lined with terracotta slabs; contained a 1st Ct AD skyphos. Tomb 2: tile grave, with one burial, containing a glass amphoriskos. Tomb 3: tile grave with one bronze coin of Claudius (41–54 AD) placed by the lower jaw of the deceased. Tomb 4: disturbed tile grave, with a poorly preserved skeleton, a terracotta lamp, a tear-bottle and an amphoriskos. Tomb 5: tile grave containing a glass tear-bottle and a broken pottery vessel. Tomb 6: poorly preserved skeleton with sherds of one vessel. Tomb 7: pit grave, 2.2m x 0.8m, containing one female burial in extended, prone position but with iron nails indicating a wooden bier.

Goods were placed in the S part of the tomb and around the lower body up to knee level. Offerings comprised: 18 glass vessels (including flasks, tear-bottles and a phiale, mostly 1st Ct AD); a large bronze phiale at the deceased's feet; a large bronze amphora at her right. Between these last 2 was a wooden chest of which only the bronze fittings (lock, bindings and carrying strap) survive. This contained a silver spoon, a silver bracelet with a crystal ornament and snake-head finials, a silver coin and small tear-bottles. Pottery comprised a relief skyphos decorated with ivy and vines, a lagynos and a plate with a relief double spiral on the lip exterior and the interior stamp ZOILI. Tombs 8 and 9, next to 7, were tile graves with no goods.

This tomb group dates to the 2nd half of the 1st Ct AD. This is the first time that offerings of the quality of those in tomb 7 have been found in the area of Olympia. The cemetery lies ca. 2km from the Altis and less than 1km from the cemetery at Frangkonisi which produced the important collection of glass vessels now on display in the Olympia Museum.

Skafidia. *Ta Nea* and *Eleutherotypia* (11/06/07) report the discovery of a large Rom bath, part of a large public or private complex, situated next to the river Yardanos. Sixteen rooms around a peristyle court were richly appointed with a variety of marble wall cladding, arched ceilings with relief decoration, mosaic pavements and wall heating. The large rectangular frigidarium had niches around for statuary, and mosaic pavements with geometric patterns and depictions of dolphins.

Anc. Elis. J. Rambach (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 63–92) publishes an EH I chamber tomb cemetery discovered in 2004 by X. Arapogianni in rescue excavation immediately E of the building housing the Archaeological Collection of Elis.

Chamber tombs of the end of the 4th–E3rd millennium BC (ca. 3400–2800) were dug directly into the hardened sand layer on which the Archaeological Collection building was constructed. Only the lowest parts of the first 5 tombs dug (the level with the skeletal remains) escaped clearance by the mechanical digger. Subsequent systematic investigation of the site revealed a total of 24 tombs, mostly chamber tombs reused on several occasions (2–16 individuals, with an average of 5–8 bodies). A few cist graves were found, usually set close to the entrance of a chamber tomb and containing a single burial in contracted position without offerings. In most cases these are probably tombs of juveniles. In total, remains of 150 individuals were found in the cemetery, including juveniles and children of a wide age-range.

The tombs lay in 2 rows (one somewhat higher than the other) in a curved line close to the NE edge of a semicircular mound of sand which sloped down to the N and E, towards the river Peneios. Their entrances were consistently oriented NE or E, towards the river. In the upper row, the dromos was at surface level, while in the lower, it was dug down more deeply: the stomion was so narrow as to allow only a single person to crawl in. The chambers were 1–1.2m *h.*, with flat roofs. In most cases, the stomion was found open: only T16 had been closed with a large stone slab and T8 with a wall of large river stones. All the tombs had been filled with stony river sand probably in a later flood. Several tombs were joined with their neighbours via a small passageway (e.g., T16 and T9), then blocked up with slabs.

The chamber tombs were constructed in a similar fashion to Myc examples, with a dromos, stomion and wide chamber. Most chambers had a curved niche at the rear and 2 small niches at the sides. In the rear, slightly raised, niche, a body was usually found in primary disposition, contracted (or sometimes extended) – in the latest cases, it is clear that the head was oriented towards the entrance. In a few cases, 2 skeletons were found side by side. In the side niches were skeletal remains in secondary disposition, the remains of earlier burials in the chamber. In the upper row, where burial customs seem to have been less consistently observed than in the lower, niches were sometimes omitted, and bodies therefore laid less carefully on top of, or sometimes across, each other. In some cases in the upper row of tombs, bodies were laid face down. In the lower row, rules were more strictly adhered to: only one or 2 skeletons were found in primary disposition (always in contracted position), one in the raised niche and the other on the floor in front of it. The difference between the 2 rows may be chronological, with the upper slightly earlier than the lower.

Grave goods were relatively few – mostly fine, handmade pots of grey-black clay with a burnished surface and incised decoration or pattern burnishing. Closed vessels were most common, with some one-handled cups and one example of a double vessel. The most notable non-ceramic find was a bone plaque, a class of find previously known in the EH Cyclades: Aegean connections are also indicated by a sandstone pendant. Further pendants of semi-precious stones and animal tooth were also present.

Remains of Hel constructions were discovered E of the EH cemetery.

Kyllini Harbour Project. J. Pakkanen (Finnish Institute/London) and K. Preka-Alexandri (EMA) report on a new study of the coastal and underwater remains of this anc. naval base and Crusader harbour, the principal installations of which are today partially submerged and well preserved.

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Fieldwork in 2007 focused on mapping the coastal and archaeological features both on dry land and in the sea, and cleaning the partially submerged features. Marine geomorphological studies were begun by G. Papatheodorou and M. Geraga (Patras): marine surveying techniques employed were sub-bottom profiler and side-scan sonar.

Survey revealed 3 possible entrance-ways to the currently silted harbour basin: recorded features include, in addition to moles, breakwaters, quays, and several possible towers.

ACHAIA
(6th EPCA: 6th EBA)

Aigeira. G. Ladstätter (Director, Austrian Institute) reports on continued excavation of the public guesthouse on the Solon terrace, N of the acropolis. This was originally built in the LCl period and substantially extended in the L3rd Ct BC. After it ceased to function as a public guesthouse it was modified for an as yet undefined purpose and remained in use until the end of the Hel period (*AR* 53 [2006–2007], 32–33).

Work continued in the functionally interconnected ensemble of rooms in the SE of the extended guesthouse, excavation of which began in 2005. In 2007, the feeder room and the andron were fully excavated (**Fig. 46**). In both rooms, the stone-built bottom course of the walls, covered in white plaster, and the floors, executed in terrazzo on a pebble bedding, are almost completely preserved. The square feeder room (6.4m x 6.4m) contains no specific features: its 4 doorways, originally equipped with stone thresholds, indicate its central function, giving access to the rest of the complex. In the andron (6.4m x 4.6m), the central floor area and the surrounding pedestal for the placement of 9 klinai survive in their entirety. In the SE corner of this room, where stone-robbing had extended even to foundation level, a small Hel sandstone capital from a rectangular pillar was found. It probably belonged to a window of the andron. The well-preserved floors contain several drainage features: the NE and SE corners of the andron contain 2 channels which run under the klinai pedestal, permitting water spilt inside the room to drain outside to the E of the building. A further channel runs in the S part of the W wall of the andron, collecting water from the SW corner of the andron and the SE corner of the feeder room and draining it to the S. Confirming previous impressions, the stratigraphic sequence indicates that these 2 rooms, and probably most of the extended guesthouse, were intentionally abandoned in the LHel period. Immediately above the floors was a fill of fine clay, notable for the scarcity of finds, which was the result of gradual wash deposit. Above it was a massive fill of clayey earth from the mud-brick superstructure, containing very small fragments of roof tiles and other ceramics, all heavily disturbed by recent viticulture.



46. Aigeira: room ensemble, andron

In a sequence of rooms to the W of the ensemble described above, excavation continued in some areas and new soundings were opened. Immediately W of the feeder room are 2 small, nearly square rooms, A and B, entered from the W via a N–S oriented room, C. Beyond it to the W is a large area, D, probably an open yard. Although they partially reuse some walls from the extended Hel phase of the guesthouse, these rooms must have been built after the abandonment of the feeder room and probably much of the SE ensemble of the extended guesthouse. This is indicated by the facts that the dividing wall between rooms A and B abuts the secondarily walled-up W door of the feeder room and that the floor level of these rooms, of which some levelling fills survive, is distinctly higher than that of the feeder room and andron. These levelling fills contained diverse secondary Hel deposits but also numerous Hel bronze coins, which date them to LHel and suggest a chronological separation from the extension of the guesthouse. A clear idea of the use of these rooms has not yet been reached, but the abandonment of the andron suggests that the erection of this group coincided with the cessation of the structure's function as a guesthouse. The latest, similarly unclear phase of use is indicated by a wall corner discovered in area C: its foundations cut into secondary deposits over the aforementioned levelling fills.

The lower soundings in the area of this group of rooms revealed, immediately beneath the Hel levelling fills, a 0.5m thick, extremely hard layer of clayey earth and densely packed small pebbles. Apart from some lumps of mud packing, this fill contained exclusively PH sherds. A preliminary classification identified a few LMyc sherds, but mostly fragments of MNeo open vessels. This homogenous fill is so far identified over an area of 9m x 4m, but is expected to extend beyond the area so far excavated. It can be surmised that this material represents a secondary deposit of MNeo material originally from the Solon terrace. Older excavation data for the Hel use of the area indicated that water for bathing and banqueting was provided by a local well, indicating local access to water on this natural terrace, an impossibility on geological grounds for the remainder of the settled area at Aigeira. Access to local water and to small arable areas closely fits MNeo settlement patterns – so far the oldest known anthropogenic activity in the Aigeira area.

W. Gauss (Austrian Institute) continued to study finds from the excavations by W. Alzinger in the SE area below the acropolis (1972–1981). Examination of PH finds from excavations on the acropolis was continued by S. Jalkotzy and E. Alram (Vienna) in preparation for publication. A new study of the historical finds from the acropolis was begun by G. Schwarz, M. Poulkou and S. Karl (Graz).

Aigialeia. A. Pontrandolfo (SAIA/Salerno) reports on the 6th season of surface survey conducted in collaboration with M. Petropoulos (Director, 39th EPCA) and the KERA/EIE (Centre for Greek and Roman Antiquity, National Research Foundation).

Activity focused on the area around the villages of Ambelokipi and Vella, on the left slope of the Krios, and on the village of Monastiri on the right bank. Extensive research across the entire territory was added to the systematic survey. Its aims were: the location of natural water sources (useful

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