

51. Fiskardo: Rom chamber tomb

In the SW part of the same plot, was a Rom chamber tomb (8.2m x 5.8m) with a form of antechamber (**Fig. 51**). Inside, and in irregular arrangement, were a vaulted tomb, an undecorated stone sarcophagus and a cist tomb containing 2 *enchytrismoi*. The façade of the vaulted tomb had the appearance of a building with a pediment and a fully functional low stone door (with a knob on each side to open to the overworld and the underworld). A 2nd Rom chamber tomb was excavated on the plot opposite. Both tombs were found intact and with a rich range of grave goods, including glass and ceramic vessels, gold earrings, rings and a pin, the gold coin placed in the mouth of the deceased, a ring with a depiction of Eros, gold leaf, bone pins, bronze attachments with relief decoration, and bronze coins and keys. The report emphasizes the quantity and significance of the Rom remains found in this area in recent years (citing a paved courtyard surrounded by oikimata, a planned cemetery and a bath), which underline the importance of Fiskardo as a naval station linking Italy with mainland Greece and in direct contact with Nikopolis.

Lefkada
(36th EPCA: 22nd EBA)

Agios Nikitas. *To Vima* and *Ethnos* (06/03/08) report the discovery (and partial destruction) of a Myc tholos tomb in the course of work to widen the road from Ag. Nikitas towards the crossroads of Kathisma, in an area where Myc activity has not previously been attested. Rescue excavation by the 36th EPCA (under its Director, M. Stavropoulou-Gatsi) followed. The tholos was small but contained many burials with grave offerings (illustrated) including small vases, 2 steatite sealstones, beads of different materials, a bronze leaf-shaped point and clay spindle-whorls.

Kerkyra
(8th EPCA: 21st EBA)

G. Arvanitou-Metallinou, *Η Προϊστορική Κέρκυρα και ο ευρύτερος περίγυρός της: Προβλήματα -Προοπτικές. Πρακτικά ημερίδας τιμητικής στον Αύγουστο Σορδίνα. Κέρκυρα 17 Δεκεμβρίου 2004* (Kerkyra, Ministry of Culture, 2007) includes detailed discussion of much PH material from the island and from neighbouring regions (notably Thesprotia and Kephallonia) previously noted in *AR*. Notably, G. Arvanitou-Metallinou reviews in detail evidence for PH textile production at **Ermones** (*AR* 51 [2004–2005], 67).

AITOLIA AND AKARNANIA
(36th EPCA: 22nd EBA)

Agios Nikolaos Varasovas. *To Vima* (18/01/08) cites a report by A. Paliouras (Ioannina) of excavation of a monastic complex of the 9th-19th Ct (including a small church dedicated to Ag. Nikolaos) in this cave located high above the Gulf of Patras. Among the structures documented were monastic cells, a tower, a water conduit, kitchen and dining facilities and an oven, and a cemetery behind the church. Deep in the interior of the cave was an area for retreat.

Lithovouni Makryneias (anc. Akrai?). *To Vima* (08/03/08) reports the publication of the book *Λιθοβούνι Μακρυνείας* by the Syllogos Akron 'Panorama' (2007), which includes an illustrated account of finds from the 5th–M3rd Ct BC cemetery discovered in rescue excavation by Ph. Zapheiropoulou in the mid 1970s (*AR* 22 [1975–1976], 17; *ADelt* 31 *Chr* [1976], 172). 68 cist tombs were found across 2 hills S and SE of Lithovouni. Many contained rich goods, including much jewellery, bronze mirrors and strigils, silver and glass vessels, and pottery (notably Cor, Attic and Elean). One tomb, containing the burials of 2 youths, had 2 identical gold medallions with relief protomes depicting an unidentified human face, a small gold shield with the image of a thunderbolt and a haematite inset, a gold pendant, gold earrings with winged erotes, a necklace of gold beads and a glass vessel. In the same area, but slightly closer to Lake Trichonis, a LMyc tomb containing weapons was discovered in 1963.

Kouvaras Fyteion. *Kathimerini* (13/07/07), *To Vima* and *Ta Nea* (17/07/07) report the discovery of a LH IIIC cist tomb during construction work for the Ioniki Odos at a site close to the Agrinion bypass, ca. 10km NW of anc. Stratos. The tomb, made of limestone slabs, measures 1.48m x 0.78m, and contained a single burial in contracted position. The rich grave goods comprised a gold high-footed cup, a bronze Naue II sword 0.884m *l*. (the handle of which was wrapped round with gold wire), a bronze dagger (Sandars Type D, 0.4m *l*.), a bronze spearhead, tripod lebes and an unidentified object which may be one or more greaves. The grave is dated by 2 LH IIIC vases – a 2-handled amphora and an open vessel.

PHOKIS AND WEST LOKRIS
(14th EPCA: 24th EBA)

Kalapodi. W.-D. Niemeier (Director, DAI) reports on the 4th season of renewed excavation in the sanctuary at Kalapodi. The identification with the oracular Sanctuary of Apollo of Abai, noted in 2006 (*AR* 53 [2006–2007], 41) is supported by a new inscription discovered in 2007. Cleaning of the walls of the Church of the Dormition of the Virgin, W of the village, revealed a fragment of a statue base with a dedication by the polis of Abai to the emperor Constantine. This provides further evidence that Abai was located in the valley of Kalapodi and not in the Exarchos valley further S, as commonly believed since 1819 (Sir William Gell).

Excavation continued to concentrate on the M–LAr S temple and its predecessors (**Fig. 52**). Further impressive remains of the Persian destruction were uncovered W of the W pteron, on and near the ramp found in 2006, covered by later layers of rubble which contained architectural fragments of the Cl N temple. The destruction is attested by a deposit of fallen roof tiles, charred wooden beams and burnt mud-brick. Fragments of Cor helmets indicate that these were suspended

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from the temple together with the chariot wheels discovered in recent years (see *AR* 51 [2004–2005], 55–56; *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 68; *AR* 53 [2006–2007], 41–42). Large flat limestone slabs probably belonged to the back wall of the W pediment, which appears to have fallen westwards during the destruction. Excavation of the W end of the LGeo–EAr S temple revealed it to be apsidal. Among and underneath the fallen mud-bricks of the apse were charred wooden beams and iron lance points (the latter placed as votives in the temple). After the final destruction – as elsewhere on the site – further votives had been placed on the rubble of the apse, namely another iron lance point and a bronze garment pin.

In 2005, a Geo altar of fieldstones was excavated under the E pteron of the LAr S temple (see *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 68, fig. 105). This suggested that an associated Geo temple was located further W, under the cella of the LAr temple. The discovery of this Geo temple was therefore no surprise, but the rich associated finds were unexpected. This was a temple *in antis*, ca. 4m *w.*, built of mud-brick on stone foundations. Only its E end and entrance could be uncovered, as most of it is overlain by the simple open structure of Cl date that was constructed in the former Ar cella, now transformed into an open courtyard. An application has been submitted to the Central Archaeological Council for removal of that structure to allow further study of the Geo temple and the earlier phases in the centre of the sanctuary.

The Geo temple was given up in ca. 740/730 BC for the building of the larger successor. Before the floor of the Geo temple was sealed with vertically set mud-bricks, votives were deposited on it (**Fig. 53**): an 80cm iron sword of the Naue II type, an iron obelos and numerous bronze objects, pins, fibulae, bracelets, finger rings, pendants in the shapes of birds and of a ram, a masterpiece of Geo miniature art (shown here as the **cover illustration**), and also necklaces of faience beads. These votives had been burnt in an offering fire which caused the explosion of the liquid, most probably olive oil, in a handmade amphora standing next to the sword. Whereas the sword and the obelos are male votives, the ornaments are female votives. Parallels come from rich female burials in the area.

The excavation of Myc strata near the NE corner of the LAr S temple (see *AR* 53 [2006–2007], 42–43) was continued to a *d.* of 1m, down to natural soil. The LH IIIC layers contained rich ceramic finds, but also votives such as stone pendants, sea shells and the claw of a bird of prey, a flat bead of blue glass with the depiction of a sphinx and an amulet of green stone in the shape of a frog, which is most interestingly of ENeo date (compare R.J. Rodden, *Antiquity* 38 [1964], 294–95, pl. 54 right) (**Fig. 54**).

The lowest LH IIIC layer contained a destruction horizon with fallen burnt mud-brick and shattered pithoi which had once contained grains and pulses. This layer also yielded fragments of 2 quernstones. These finds indicate a building used to store supplies for ritual meals and then to prepare them. Its remains are probably located immediately to the N, underneath the massive foundations of the S pteron of the Cl N temple. The layer below, directly above the natural soil, revealed earlier Myc finds of the LH IIIA and IIB phases, such as fragments of pottery and terracotta figurines, including a mounted figure, indicating that the sanctuary's origins go at least as far back as the palatial Myc period.



52. Kalapodi: S temple from SW after completion of 2007 season

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53. Kalapodi: destruction layer of Geo S temple with votives *in situ*

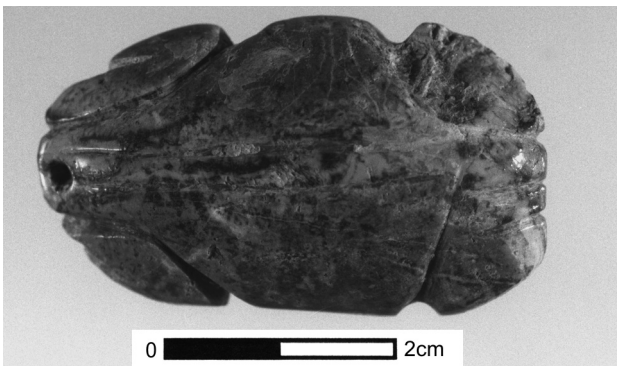
Publication: R.C. Felsch, H-O. Schmitt, *Kalapodi* 2. *Zur Stratigraphie des Heiligtums: Die Bronzefunde. Die Angriffswaffen* (Mainz am Rhein, Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 2007).

BOEOTIA
(9th EPCA: 23rd EBA)

D. Grosman, *Aerial Reconnaissance in Boeotia: Preliminary Report on the 2006 Test Season* (Ljubljana, University of Ljubljana, 2007), circulated as a university research report to specialist libraries, presents a valuable collection of new aerial images and discussion of their significance in understanding landscape change and site identification.

Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project (EBAP). B. Burke (Canadian Institute/British Columbia), B. Burns (Southern California), S. Lupack (London) and V. Aravantinos (Director, 9th EPCA) report on the first season of a project aiming to document and interpret evidence for land use, settlement patterns and burial practices in E Boeotia over an extended chronological period, but with a primary interest in the LBA. The study area focuses on the plains surrounding mod. Arma, Eleon and Tanagra, which are bounded by Mt Teumessos and the Soros range along the S and the Ipatos mountains on the N, chosen partly because of the intrinsically interesting sites present (Eleon and Tanagra) and partly because this area connected Thebes to the sea and was, therefore, a major route for external contact.

In a 4 week season, 277 units were surveyed across ca. 20ha. With a focus on the elevated settlement provisionally identified as Eleon, intensive methods were adopted. Walkers 10m apart covered individual transects totalling over 18km. Large quantities of diagnostic artefacts were identified in almost all areas surveyed. Preliminary analysis was conducted on all collected ceramic and lithic objects, which are now stored in Thebes Museum. More detailed analysis focused on material from within the walled area of Eleon. Even the region surrounding the walled settlement was relatively rich in artefact counts: average field density was 0.45 sherds/m^2, with only 30 fields of density higher than one sherd/m^2.



54. Kalapodi: ENeo stone amulet in the shape of a frog, from an LH IIIC level

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