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ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2014–2015

Newsround

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The very positive reception granted to last year's inaugural 'Newsround', and the clear demand for an authoritative annual brief of current work in Greece, has ensured its return as a regular feature. As last year, this section is not intended to be exhaustive, but is designed to draw attention to those discoveries which do not appear elsewhere within *Archaeological Reports* but which nevertheless deserve to be highlighted in a manner which complements those more specialized contributions within the current volume and that content available digitally through *AGOnline*/*Chronique des fouilles en ligne* (www.chronique.efa.gr). Again, the very varied nature of this material has meant that, for the most part, it has proved preferable to organize this section chronologically (Palaeolithic through to Early Modern), rather than thematically.

Palaeolithic to Mesolithic

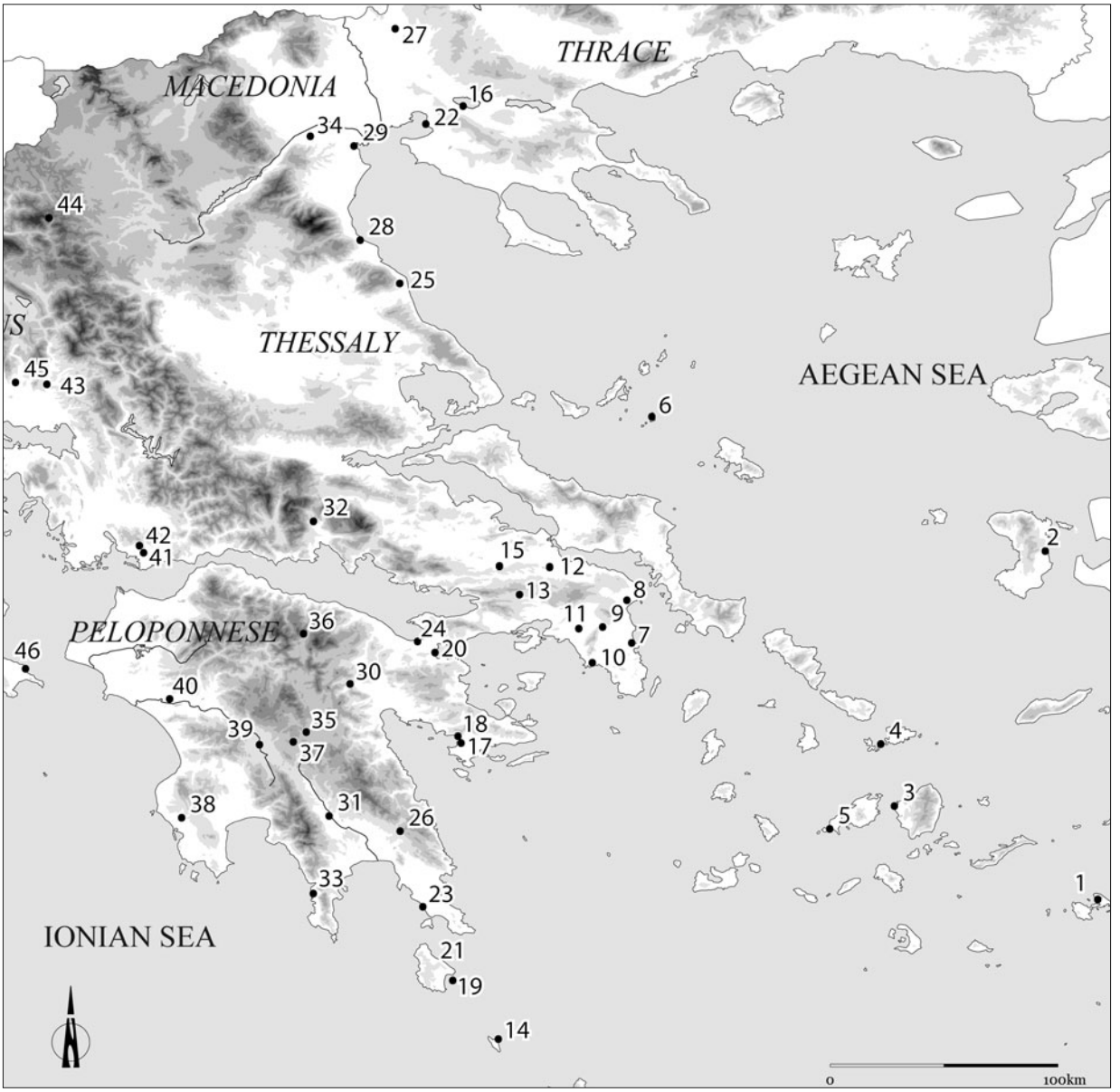
The last decade has witnessed the emergence of the insular Palaeolithic as a major research theme in Greek archaeology: the identification of Palaeolithic tools in the Plakias region of southern Crete (see Strasser *et al*. 2010; Runnels 2014), a sensational herald for similarly early discoveries in the Ionian and Cycladic archipelagos. Now, the identification of Pleistocene activity on the summit and slopes of the **Stélida hill**, **Naxos**, first proposed more than three decades ago (Séfériadès 1983) and again following recent rescue excavation (Legaki 2012), has been confirmed following geoarchaeological survey by the *Stélida Naxos Archaeological Project* (SNAP) (Canadian Institute in Greece/21st EPCA) (see Carter *et. al*. 2014). A major chert outcrop located on the northwest coast of the island, Stélida once occupied a position close to the centre of the pre-Last Glacial Maximum Cycladic landmass known as 'Cycladia'. Middle Palaeolithic lithics were recovered across the site during 2013, with the highest densities in the area of two small rockshelters, A and B, and close to the best-quality chert outcrops at the southern peak. Within this assemblage, Denticulate Mousterian and Levallois flakes and blades (**Fig. 10**) offer the earliest evidence for a Neanderthal presence in the Cycladic archipelago and suggest initial occupation on Naxos perhaps as early as *ca*. 250 thousand years ago. Stélida may have been intermittently accessible overland during the Middle Palaeolithic, though it was certainly



10. Stélida Naxos Archaeological Project (SNAP): Middle Palaeolithic Levallois blades and blade tools. © SNAP/McMaster.

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Map 1. Locations referred to in the text. © BSA. 1. Elleniko (Vathy), Astypalaia; 2. Psomi, Chios; 3.Stélida hill, Naxos; 4. Stadion District, Delos; 5. Despotiko; 6. Skantzoura; 7. Brauron; 8. Plasi-Marathon; 9. Glyka Nera; 10. Varkiza-Vari; 11. Athens; 12. Dendro tou Bali; 13. Mazi plain; 14. Antikythera; 15. Thebes; 16. Koroneia; 17. Bay of Koilada; 18. Salandi Bay; 19. Mentor wreck site; 20. Kenchreai; 21. Kythera; 22. Thessaloniki; 23. Koulenti; 24. Corinth; 25. Velika; 26. Kastelli Keratitsas; 27. Koromilia; 28. Rema Xydias, Platamonas; 29. Methone; 30. Palaiokastraki; 31. Amyklai; 32. Amphissa; 33. Xagounaki; 34. Aigai; 35. Makri; 36. Pheneos; 37. Asea; 38. Pylos; 39. Marathousa 1; 40. Olympia; 41. Rigaiika; 42. Alikyrna; 43. Top Alti; 44. Samarina; 45. Kokkinopilos; 46. Zakynthos, Sinialo reef.

insular during the Lower Mesolithic, when its lithic industry aligns with contemporary sites on Kythnos, Ikaria and Gioura (Carter *et. al*. 2014; also recently Sakellariou and Galanidou 2015). Petrographic, chemical and techno-typological analyses are currently underway to clarify and characterize the Middle Palaeolithic and Mesolithic exploitation of Stélida chert across the Aegean.

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At Megalopolis, Eleni Panagopoulou and colleagues (2015) report the excavation between 2013 and 2014 of **Marathousa 1**, the first Middle Pleistocene site excavated on the mainland and the first Late Palaeolithic open-air site in Greece with both lithic and faunal remains to be subject to systematic excavation. Positioned on the shore of a palaeolake, the site likely represents the product of the seasonal exploitation of lakeside game. The well-preserved lithic assemblage appears to reflect a 'core-and-flake' technocomplex; retouched tools are rare and bifacials are lacking altogether. The faunal assemblage includes cranial and post-cranial elements from a straight-tusked elephant, *Elephas (Palaeoloxodon) antiquus* (**Fig. 11**), in addition to those of cervids, bovids, turtles, birds and micromammals.



11. Marathousa 1: cranial and post-cranial elements from an Elephas (Palaeoloxodon) antiquus *in Area A. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs and University of Tübingen.*

Positioned on the shore of a palaeolake, the site of Marathousa 1 likely represents the product of the seasonal exploitation of lakeside game. The well-preserved lithic assemblage appears to reflect a 'core-and-flake' technocomplex; retouched tools are rare and bifacials are lacking altogether. The faunal assemblage includes cranial and post-cranial elements from a straight-tusked elephant, in addition to those of cervids, bovids, turtles, birds and micromammals.

Geoarchaeological, geomorphological and sedimentological analyses undertaken on the red-bed site at **Kokkinopilos** have confirmed the *in situ* survival of stratified, undisturbed sedimentary deposits (Tourloukis *et al*. 2015). pIRIR dating has yielded a minimum age in the Middle Pleistocene for both artefact-bearing sedimentary units C (172 ± 25 kya) and B (206 ± 19 kya), although both may well be much older. As a result, those pre/early Mousterian (late Lower or early Middle Palaeolithic) bifacial lithics identified at Kokkinopilos now represent the earliest stratigraphically-defined and radiometrically-constrained archaeological material yet identified in Greece (Tourloukis *et al*. 2015: 364–67).

To the north, a series of sites identified in the territory of **Samarina** (Biagi *et al*. 2015) offers evidence for the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene exploitation of western Macedonian highland zones. All are located in an area of the Pindus well-known for Middle Palaeolithic activity (**ID359**, **ID817**, **ID2147**; Efstratiou *et al*. 2014). The most significant of this group, at the summit of **Mount Kirkuri** (**Fig. 12**), yielded a total of 147 lithics dating between the Levallois Middle Palaeolithic and the Bronze Age. The Late Palaeolithic component from Kirkuri was composed entirely of non-local flint and offered close parallels to material from the Klithi rock-



12. Mount Kirkuri: Late Palaeolithic lithic scatter. © P. Biagi.

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shelter. Non-retouched bladelets of similarly non-local flint are reported from two find-spots on the northern slope of **Mount Bogdhanis** to the east. A truncated backed bladelet recovered from the eastern slope of **Mount Vasilitsa** has parallels at Late Palaeolithic Kastritsa, while a non-local black-flint microbladelet-backed point from a small glacial basin to the north of **Samarina** is paralleled in Early Mesolithic Unit IV at Boïla (see recently, Galanidou 2011: 226–27).

The exceptionally small body size of the sheep at Franchthi suggests a managed population already subject to intensive selection and is most closely paralleled by roughly contemporary populations at the sites of Ulucak and Ilıpınar in western Anatolia.

On **Kythera**, a cycle of site revisits designed to test the integrity of, and where necessary clarify, data collected during the *Kythera Island Project* (KIP) has resulted in the identification of a previously unrecognized Mesolithic lithic component within the survey area (**ID4888**). Particularly visible on the stable plateaux in the northwest, these scatters appear to be largely consistent with the Mesolithic exploitation of small game and migratory bird populations. The initial occupation of the island had previously been identified with a modest Middle to Late Neolithic lithic assemblage (Broodbank and Kiriatzi 2007: 260).

Neolithic to Bronze Age

The publication of analyses undertaken on the Final Mesolithic to Initial Neolithic faunal sequence at **Franchthi Cave** (Munro and Stiner 2015) offers an important zooarchaeological perspective on the Mesolithic to Neolithic transition in the southern Argolid. As previously reported (*AR* 59 [2012–2013] 25), the site witnesses a near-wholesale replacement of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) with caprines (sheep outnumbering goats) across the Final Mesolithic to Initial Neolithic transition (Munro and Stiner 2015: 597), as well as a rapid decline in the exploitation of small game and marine resources. A typical meat-focused production model is indicated by an almost 90% Initial Neolithic caprine mortality rate prior to 48 months of age, with a particularly high mortality rate (70%) between six and 12 months. The exceptionally small body size of the sheep at Franchthi suggests a managed population already subject to intensive selection and is most closely paralleled by roughly contemporary populations at Ulucak and Ilıpınar in western Anatolia (Munro and Stiner 2015: 601).



13. Xagounaki: Final Neolithic male/female double burial. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

On the Mani peninsula, C^{14} dating carried out on charcoal and human bone from **Alepotrypa** has clarified a series of distinct occupation phases between the Early and Final Neolithic (*ca*. 6,000–3,200 BC), with the majority of early dates deriving from spaces close to the cave entrance (Parkinson *et al*. 2015; also Bronk-Ramsey *et al*. 2015: 199–200). Beyond the cave, the continued systematic excavation at the Final Neolithic acropolis of **Xagounaki** (**ID4889**) has yielded two extremely rare young adult male/female double burials. C^{14} dated to *ca*. 3,800 BC, the

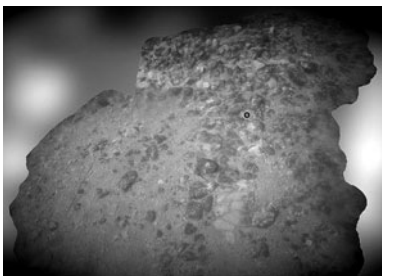
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sex of the deceased has been confirmed by DNA analysis and the intimate 'spooning' embrace of the female by the male in the first of these graves is currently unique in Greece (**Fig. 13**). This arrangement was not repeated with the second male/female pair who were, instead, interred in an extremely tightly-contracted position. Alongside these adult double burials, excavation revealed an articulated Final Neolithic foetal burial and the double child *enchytrismos* reported previously (*AR* 59 [2012–2013] 25). At the settlement, a structure containing a stone 'thermal feature' and a monumental stone terrace wall (Parkinson *et al*. 2015) represent important additions to the meagre Final Neolithic Peloponnesian architectural record. Long after its Final Neolithic abandonment, Xagounaki was selected as the site of a unique Mycenaean ossuary. Approximately 4m in diameter and built of unworked cobbles, the structure yielded the disarticulated remains of dozens of individuals on a floor of river-rolled pebbles (**Fig. 14**). Fine Late Helladic III ceramics, polished stone beads, an ivory pin and a bronze dagger are reported among the grave goods. The general absence of evidence for Mycenaean activity in the area suggests that the dead, or parts thereof, may have been transported some significant distance for burial.



14. Xagounaki: Late Helladic III ossuary. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

Building on preliminary work undertaken during 2012 (*AR* 59 [2012–2013] 27), underwater survey in the **Bay of Koilada** as part of the *Terra Submersa Expedition* (EMA/Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece/Geneva) has identified a substantial Early Helladic settlement off the **Lambogiannas** coast (**ID5045**), similar in size and character to the Early Helladic settlement previously identified *ca*. 2–3km north at **Salandi Bay** (**ID117**). Paved streets and numerous rectilinear, curvilinear and apsidal stone structures extend over an area of *ca*. 2ha (Beck 2015: 43), while a probable fortification wall, *ca*. 2m wide, preserves at least three large (*ca*. 18m × 10m) horseshoe-shaped foundations along its length (**Fig. 15**). Early Helladic II ceramics, stone tools and obsidian blades are also reported on the seabed.



15. Lambogiannas: Early Helladic wall 1 with curvilinear foundation. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs and Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece.

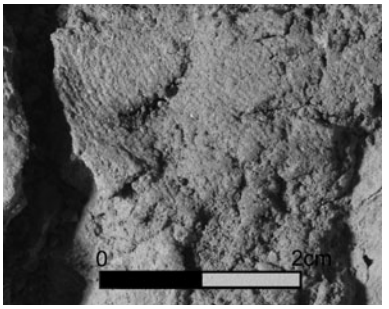
The discoveries at Lambogiannas are paralleled by preliminary publication of the Early Helladic fortified site at **Kastelli Keratitsas** (MacVeagh Thorne *et al*. 2013). Situated on the small limestone acropolis of Kastraki, overlooking the pass through the Marioremma Gorge, the *ca*. 3m-wide double-faced rubble-fill wall of the so-called Upper Enclosure at Kastelli survives in places to a height of *ca*. 2m and may originally have been entirely stone-built and considerably higher. At least three probable curvilinear bastions are noted along its length and a well-preserved gate, *ca*. 3m wide, survives at the northwest (**Fig. 16**). The wall of the Lower Enclosure is more fragmentary, although it appears to have been both narrower (*ca*. 2–2.5m)



16. Kastelli Keratitsas: Upper Enclosure wall. © Netherlands Institute in Athens.

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and shorter. In total, the Upper and Lower Enclosure cover an area of *ca*. 0.39ha, while a monumental wall on the eastern slope encloses an additional *ca.* 0.37ha. A wall of at least 60m connects the northwestern gateway of the Upper Enclosure with a lower plateau preserving possible house walls and a rock-cut well or cistern (MacVeagh Thorne *et al*. 2013: 120); another, traced over at least 140m along the cliff beyond the Lower Enclosure, was apparently designed to defend the principal access route to the site.



17. Elleniko (Vathy): textile impression in Early Cycladic I enchytrismos. *© ASA and University of Ioannina.*

On **Astypalaia**, work continues within the fortified Early Cycladic settlement at **Elleniko** (Vathy) (**ID4703**). The micro-excavation of an Early Cycladic I vessel identified in 2012 (**ID3099**) yielded the remains of a perinatal infant. The fill of the vessel preserved the impression of a funerary textile in which the infant had been buried: an incredibly rare example of a practice which must have been common during the Early Bronze Age (**Fig. 17**). The identification of a further Early Cycladic I *enchytrismos* during cleaning below the prehistoric retaining wall at the north of the peninsula suggests that this area served as a burial area for the young. The huge significance of Elleniko derives from the identification of a substantial number of Early Cycladic 'pecked' carvings which serve to align Elleniko with the Final Neolithic to Early Cycladic petroglyphic tradition known from Korphi t'Aroniou (Naxos), Strophilas and Plaka (Andros; *AR* 60 [2013–2014] 15), Agios Athanaiou (Irakleia) and Keros (**ID4284**). Spiral, wheel, arrow, chequerboard, quadruped and dagger motifs have all been identified; ship petroglyphs are recorded at the gateways to the site, some with the familiar 'fish' motif at their prow (**Fig. 18**). Included among historic graffiti are two examples of an erotic character. The first of these, accompanied by two phalli, records the name ΔΙΩΝ and dates to the late fifth or early fourth century BC. The second, located on the upper plateau of the peninsula, is a *boustrophedon* text, which can probably be dated to the early sixth century BC. It extends across two lines and refers to the relationship of two men: ΝΙΚΑΣΙΤΙΜΟΣ/ΟΙΦΕ ΤΙΜΙΩΝΑ (**Fig. 19**).



18. Elleniko (Vathy): Early Cycladic petroglyph. © ASA and University of Ioannina.

Excavation by the National and Kapodostrian University of Athens has further exposed the important Middle Helladic settlement at **Plasi-Marathon** (**ID2229**; http://www.archaeology.wiki/blog/2015/05/27/new-finds-plasi-marathon-attica/). The substantial double-faced rubble-fill Middle Helladic fortification has been cleaned and clarified, while a large megaron-plan building and a late Middle Helladic kiln are also reported. Occupation continued into the Late Helladic and Early Iron Age, while a well-built temenos wall of polygonal masonry marks the limits of a sanctuary which occupied the site during the Archaic period.

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Rescue excavation prompted by irrigation works in olive groves close to **Amphissa** (**ID4746**) has yielded the first Mycenaean tholos to be discovered in Phokis and one of the very few known from central Greece (**Fig. 20**). The Late Helladic III tomb is unlooted and survives to a maximum height of *ca*. 3m. In addition to commingled skeletal remains, the burial chamber (*ca*. 5.9m in diameter) yielded 44 decorated vessels, two bronze vessels, rings of bronze and gold (one with an engraved bezel), beads of bronze and semi-precious stone, two bronze daggers, a number of zoomorphic and anthropomorphic figurines, and a substantial group of decorated seals. A further group of drinking vessels, kraters, hydriae and amphorae was recovered from a votive pit identified within the dromos.



19. Elleniko (Vathy): boustrophedon-*form inscription. © ASA and University of Ioannina.*

Following the long-awaited publication of historic excavations in the Mycenaean cemetery at **Brauron** (Papadopoulos and Kontorli-Papadopoulou 2014), the funerary landscape of Mycenaean Attica is further augmented by rescue excavations which have extended the limits of the cemetery at **Glyka Nera** (**ID4870**, **ID2258**). Two Late Helladic IIIA2–B chamber tombs (A and B) are reported from the junction of Mesologiou and Nikopoleos Streets, and on the adjacent Aiolou Street. Skeletal remains and grave goods were recovered from two pits in the dromos of Tomb A and from a sealed niche in its northern wall. Further remains piled up at the interior of the burial chamber were accompanied by a group of 22, mostly closed, vessels. Two burial pits were identified in the west of the chamber of which the first, Pit 1, contained the remains of at least 11 individuals, a kyathos, a jar, an amygdaloidal agate bead, a bronze knife, a steatite spindle-whorl and fragments of lead wire. Superimposed layers of bones and ceramics are reported from Pit 2. The slightly smaller Tomb B yielded bone piles along the chamber walls, as well as two contracted burials at the centre. Offerings included 13 vessels, four steatite spindle-whorls, fragments of wire and a sealstone. A further LHIIIB–IIIC1 chamber tomb is reported from the adjacent Byzantiou Street (**ID4867**). Rock-cut pilasters flanked the stomion, while the chamber yielded skeletal remains and a modest assemblage including two stirrup jars and a painted skyphos. Palaeopathological analysis of the wider burial population at Glyka Nera has yielded important data on the diet and lifestyle of the local Mycenaean population (see Papathanasiou *et al*. 2015). Particularly significant is the identification of two probable examples of trephination (both on males), one of which may have been undertaken in an attempt to treat a cyst on the nuchal crest.



20. Amphissa: Mycenaean tholos. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

A significant northwest extension to the Mycenaean cemetery at **Varkiza-Vari** is reported from rescue excavation on the Tsimi plot at Thasou and and Agoriani Streets (**ID4979**). A total of 45

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chamber tombs and 13 shaft graves dating to the period Late Helladic IIIA1 to IIIB2 yielded ceramics, seals, beads, pendants, spindle-whorls, figurines, decorative plaques, knives and lead wire. A westward extension was traced on the nearby Martinou plot. Here 39 graves, the majority of them chamber tombs, yielded a group of 309 intact vessels and 36 phi and psi figurines, alongside spindle-whorls and beads of stone and faience. LHIIIA1–IIIB1 remains are also reported from three other plots on Thasou Street (**ID232**).

The Greek press reports that construction of the national road at **Rema Xydias**, west of Mount Olympus in the area of **Platamonas** (Pieria), has exposed the remains of a Late Helladic settlement and cemetery (http://www.archaeology.wiki/blog/2014/12/16/cemetery-settlement-apsidal-buildings/). Two apsidal buildings represent the first examples of the type to be identified in this region. The first, *ca*.10m in length, appears to have received a rectangular two-room extension along its eastern flank and preserved the remains of clay fixtures in the interior, alongside a large volume of handmade and wheel-thrown Mycenaean-style pottery (**Fig. 21**). Two monumental walls were identified immediately south of these two structures, the function of which remains unclear. In total, 19 cists were also identified; some held multiple adult burials, others were small and most likely held children. Grave goods included handmade and wheelmade Mycenaean-style vessels, bronze rings, bone beads, spindle-whorls, loomweights and a seal stone.



21. Rema Xydias: Late Helladic apsidal building 1. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

Meanwhile, a *synergasia* between the ASCSA, the University of Cincinnati and the 38th EPCA at **Pylos** (**ID4454**) in advance of the construction of a new roof above the Palace of Nestor, has seen excavation through the anthropogenic stratigraphy of the site down to sterile soil in the area of the Wine Magazine (Rooms 104 and 105) and in Court 88. A total of 15 trenches were inserted in those areas where pylon supports were to be anchored, revealing cultural deposits dated between the late Middle Helladic and Late Helladic IIIB.

Early Iron Age, Archaic and Classical

Rescue excavation at **Psomi** (**ID4748**) has revealed the earliest organized necropolis yet identified in the area of modern **Chios**. In use between the seventh and sixth century BC, the majority of graves identified are supine pit burials, although adult burials in pithoi and child *enchytrismoi* are also attested. A single instance of burial in a stone sarcophagus and another in a terracotta sarcophagus of Klazomenean type represent rare variations at the site. Most importantly, Psomi has yielded the first example of an Archaic horse burial to be excavated in the northeastern Aegean (**Fig. 22**).



22. Psomi: Archaic horse burial. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

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On **Despotiko** (**ID4745**), excavation by the 21st EPCA in the Archaic **Sanctuary of Apollo** has exposed a large Classical room complex in the area of the gateway through the temenos, while continued work in Archaic Building Delta has revealed a deposit of ninth-century BC pottery and burnt and unburnt horse, pig and caprid bones, associated with the inception of cult activity at the site. Trenches opened to the west of Building Delta yielded numerous architectural terracottas (**Fig. 23**), zoomorphic vessels, bronze votives and painted Parian pottery. Several vessels bearing inscribed dedications to Apollo are also noted. Augmenting the already substantial sculptural assemblage from the site are a fragment of foot and base-block belonging to an Archaic kouros (**Fig. 24**) and a colossal finger of *ca*. 490–480 BC, most likely deriving from the sanctuary's cult statue.



23. Despotiko: architectural terracotta. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

In Laconia, excavation in the **Sanctuary of Apollo Amyklaios** on Agia Kyriaki has revealed further remains of the Early to Middle Helladic settlement and the Late Geometric peribolos which marks the earliest monumental phase of the sanctuary (**Fig. 25**; http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=62253). The identification of the foundation cut for the so-called Throne of Apollo provides important new data on its dimensions, while traces of the monumental propylon of the sanctuary have also been uncovered at the northwest. The Archaic peribolos has been exposed across the western slope over a distance of *ca*. 50m and, while its course at the south remains unclear, this negates earlier suggestions of a horseshoe-form wall and free access to the sanctuary at the west. In this area the wall had been damaged by the construction of a Roman tank, measuring *ca*. 4m × 4m, with a terracotta tile floor and a coat of hydraulic mortar preserved on the interior wall. Resting on the floor in the centre of this tank was an intact Doric capital with *hypotrachelium* deriving from the temple.



24. Despotiko: kouros fragment. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.



25. Amyklai: Sanctuary of Apollo Amyklaios. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

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A group of four cists and five pits is reported from rescue excavations conducted by the 16th EPCA at 21 Alex. Papagou Street, **Thessaloniki** (**ID495**). Among the former, a probable male burial was accompanied by a local seventh-century BC red-slipped bowl, while a second burial was interred with a prochous and phiale at the feet and a piece of gold leaf over the mouth. The pits contained large volumes of plain and painted local, Attic, Euboean and Corinthian sherds, representing standard Early Iron Age and Archaic shapes. At 9 Alex. Papagou Street, a group of 13 cist graves yielded a further assemblage of plain and painted Early Iron Age to Archaic pottery, as well as a large volume of shell, including murex. Both sites lie adjacent to the major Early Iron Age to Classical site of **Karabournaki**.



26. Pheneos: Archaic to Classical cult building. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs and Austrian Archaeological Institute.

At ancient **Pheneos**, the fourth season of a planned five-year research programme under the Austrian Archaeological Institute at Athens and the 37th EPCA has identified the first evidence of Neolithic settlement on the hill, as well as providing additional detail on the ancient fortification and the Late Antique occupation (**ID4510**, **ID5051**). Measuring *ca*. 3.2m wide and surviving to a maximum height of *ca*. 4.5m, the fortification wall of ancient Pheneos has been traced for a distance of *ca*. 350m across the northern and western slopes of the acropolis. A small gateway has been identified at the eastern edge of the northern slope; a second may have existed at the west, although the wall here is extremely fragmentary. The fortification was augmented with a series of five towers (Π1–5), of which four were semicircular (*ca*. 5.5m in diameter) and the fifth, slightly larger (*ca*. 6m in diameter), was a three-quarter-circle in plan. A bronze coin of Sikyon identified in 2012 provides a *terminus post quem* of 345 BC for construction, with a likely date in the later fourth century BC (Lehner and Spyranti 2014: 3–4). Some 100m east of the chapel of **Agios Konstantinos**, excavation yielded an Archaic to Classical cult building. With internal dimensions of *ca*. 15.5m × 3.7m, the structure is oriented northwest–southeast on an artificial terrace on the eastern slope of the acropolis. Its later, Classical, phase incorporates a number of 'temple-like' fixtures, including a square *eschara* of slate and tile with a border of L-shaped bricks and, *ca*. 8m northwest on the same alignment, a monolithic rectangular stone stele which presumably served as the base for a cult statue (**Fig. 26**). Along the length of the eastern long wall, a series of orthostatic slabs marked the location of several roughly-rectangular votive pits. The richest of these, *ca*. 2m^2, yielded an assemblage which included Corinthian skyphoi, pyxides, bowls, miniatures, lamps, cooking bowls (*Henkelschüsseln*), an inscribed krater, an unusual 'ring-shaped' vessel and several Attic lekythoi. Bronze vessel parts, female terracottas, a small Gorgoneion-form protome, a group of needles, rings and nails



27. Pheneos: Late Antique building. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs and Austrian Archaeological Institute.

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in iron and bronze, an unidentified gold object, a bone bead and an astralagus are also reported. This material can be dated between the early and late fifth century BC. A fragment of Late Classical skyphos evidences a continuation of deposition, albeit at a reduced scale, into the fourth century BC, although an absence of later material indicates a cessation of cult activity within the sanctuary, perhaps prompted by the foundation of the city wall in proximity. An initial Archaic phase of the sanctuary is suggested by material recovered below the votive pits, including a phiale mesomphalos, though an Archaic construction date for the cult building remains uncertain. The excavation of a Late Archaic oven in Area H and a deposit of Protocorinthian pottery in Area L nevertheless provide the first definitive evidence of Archaic settlement on the northern slope (Lehner and Spyranti 2014: 8). Finally, excavation to the east of the **Asklepieion**, in an area of the plain investigated during the 1960s by the Nauplion Ephoreia, exposed a series of three spolia piers (**Fig. 27**), perhaps belonging to a Late Antique double-door arrangement or, more likely, forming part of a stoa. A series of mortared walls identified below these uprights suggests the relocation of Roman Pheneos onto the eastern plain. There is, as yet, no trace of Roman occupation on the hill itself.



28. Alikyrna: room complex. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

Hellenistic to Roman

Construction of the Ionia Odos on the hill of **Chilia Spitia**, between Pleuron and Kalydon at Mesolongi, has revealed extensive remains (*ca*. 2ha) belonging to the Late Classical to Hellenistic city of **Alikyrna** (**ID5049**; Vikatou 2014). A series of four streets has been exposed, *ca*. 4.5m wide, running north–south at a distance of *ca*. 32m, as well as a fifth which, oriented east–west and slightly wider at *ca*. 5.2m, most likely represents the city's main artery. The urban fabric of the ancient city is represented by ten room complexes, of which the majority appear to have served as warehouses, workshops and shops (**Fig. 28**). To the west, a major votive deposit associated with a previously unknown sanctuary was revealed on the eastern bank of the Agios Simeon stream. Measuring *ca*. 6m × 7m, and demarcated at one side by two parallel walls, the deposit yielded over 15,000 sherds and figurine fragments of which the majority are Hellenistic in date (**Fig. 29**). The coroplastic assemblage is dominated by typical female forms, including a large number depicting young girls. Noteworthy among the less common types represented are several with ritual connotations: hydriaphoroi, thymiateria with floral finials and dancers. Among the latter, several ring-dancers follow an Archaic Corinthian type. Male figurines are rare and an unusual example carrying a torch and branches may depict an initiate. Other notable examples include seated pupils with writing tablets, infant girls carrying grapes, erotes (probably belonging to



29. Alikyrna: terracotta votives. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

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30. Rigaiika: Classical to Hellenistic necropolis. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.



31. Rigaiika: glass amphoriskos. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.



32. Aigai: bronze kados. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

composite pieces) and Nikai. Zoomorphic forms include pig, ram, horse, bovid, dove and cockerel, while satyrs and several characters from New Comedy are depicted among a group of terracotta masks. The focus of cult at the Agios Simeon site remains unclear, although Artemis, Dionysus and Aphrodite all represent likely candidates. A three-headed Cerberus suggests the worship of Demeter and Kore, as does a sherd with plastic decoration, perhaps deriving from a kotiliskos associated with the adoration of the Eleusinian Mysteries (Mitsopoulou 2010: 86, figs 7–9). The sanctuary itself may be identified in a complex of at least three buildings located *ca*. 50m above the stream bank. Evidence for contemporary settlement below Chilia Spitia is provided by a Hellenistic potter's kiln at **Thymorachi** (**ID2362**) and by possible house remains to the south of the hill at **Zesti**. Traces of a substantial isodomic water channel identify a probable public installation on the western slope, and a substantial peribolos has also been identified. A group of later fourth-century BC tombs is known on the southern slope (*ADelt* 26 [1972] 325–26) and a Macedonian tomb has previously been reported on the Glezaki plot (*ADelt* 44 [1989] B1: 139).

A short distance to the east, rescue excavation by the 36th EPCA at **Rigaiika** (**ID2397**; Vikatou 2014) has revealed the largest organized Classical to Hellenistic necropolis known in Aetolia-Akarnania. A total of 323 graves flank the ancient road between Alikyrna and Kalydon (**Fig. 30**). The majority are pit and cist graves, although two Macedonian tombs are also noted, of which one was demarcated by a peribolos. Single adult inhumations predominate, although there are instances of infant and child burials. In several cases there is evidence of burning on or near the skeleton, while iron nails in many of the graves attest to the use of coffins or funerary biers. More than 400 vessels were recovered, including pyxides, lekythoi (Elean and red-figure), skyphoi, kantharoi, bowls, kyathoi, lamps, kantharoi, plates, thilastra, glass amphoriskoi (**Fig. 31**), lachrymateria, unguentaria, hydriae and thymiateria. Anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines and astragaloi commonly accompany the young. Several items of bronze jewellery (pins, fibulae, necklaces) were found *in situ* on the deceased, while a range of toilet items (mirrors, strigils) and a small number of silver coins are also reported.

A bronze kados is reported among grave goods from an unlooted Macedonian tomb in the necropolis at **Aigai** (**Fig. 32**; **ID4751**). Fragments of wood identified in the grave most likely derive from the funerary kline. A further Macedonian tomb is reported from **Dendro tou Bali** (**ID4738**). Long known, though previously inaccessible, the tomb belongs to the necropolis of **Tanagra** and fronts onto the main road leading to it. Built of

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isodomic poros, it possesses a 5m-long access corridor with a flight of ten steps and a single vaulted chamber (undecorated and lacking any trace of bench or kline), closed by a marble double-leaf door. To the southeast of the tomb, excavation revealed a possible stone altar (*ca*. 3.48m × 2.58m), beyond which lay a cist tomb, preserving stucco in the interior and yielding offerings of the late third to early second century BC.

Excavation to the northwest of the Altis at **Olympia** (**ID5047**) (DAI/7th EPCA) has exposed the Hellenistic gymnasium in its entirety and its eastern perimeter wall over a distance of 186m (**Fig. 33**). The eastern stoa has also been traced for a total length of 70m, exposing *in situ* column sections and a drainage channel; no trace has been found of the western stoa, which has, in all likelihood, been washed away by the Kladeos. Two kilns, a well, a section of terracotta paved floor and several Roman to Late Roman walls attest to later activity in the same area. Noteworthy among the finds from this work are 350 bronze coins and a Roman bronze of a male deity. Also worthy of note are the recently published analyses of two distinct components of the Olympian ceramic repertoire. The first of these (Barfoed 2015) discusses the Archaic miniature assemblage from the sanctuary in the context of wider Peloponnesian practices; the second (Mommsen *et al*. 2015) presents the results of Neutron Activation Analysis undertaken on red-figure pottery from the site, which demonstrates a distinct absence of southern Italian imports. Even those vessels made with ostensible Italian stylistic or iconographic influence are confirmed as local (northwestern Peloponnesian) products, as is a single lekythos which appears to be of the Agrinion Group. A small proportion are genuine Attic imports (Mommsen *et al*. 2015: 8).



33. Olympia: Hellenistic gymnasium. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs and DAI.

In the waters off northeastern **Delos**, subsurface survey has identified the remains of the ancient city's **Stadion District**, one of the few coastal areas undamaged by modern marine engineering and construction (http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=59132). At a distance of *ca*. 30m from the current shoreline, excavation revealed a partially-preserved complex containing a group of 18 amphoriskoi set into a floor, as well as the remains of a kiln. A second complex, comprising at least five rooms and flanked by two streets, was identified *ca*. 10m from the current shoreline. This building yielded a further group of 15 storage vessels embedded within a beachrock formation, as well as nine column fragments, likely deriving from the building's colonnade. Several large stone plinths identified in proximity probably represent the ancient breakwater, and it seems likely that a second commercial harbour operated in this area during the Late Hellenistic period, complementing activity in the main port (see also Zarmakoupi, this volume).



34. Athens, Kerameikos: well (photo by J. Stroszeck). © DAI Athens.

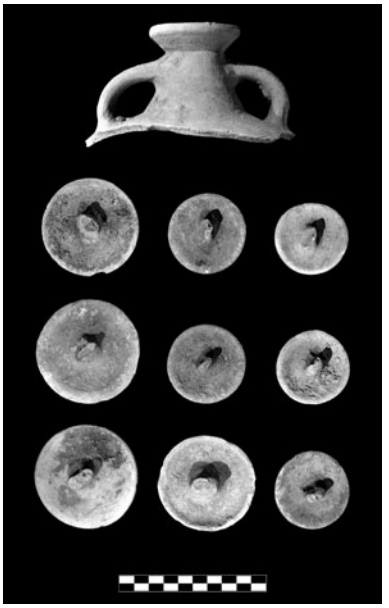
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35. Athens, agora: wall-painting within the Horologeion. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.



36. Kenchreai: Late Roman building. © ASCSA.



37. Kenchreai: Late Roman stoppers. © ASCSA.

Excavation by the DAI of a wellhead within the Hekateion/Sanctuary of Artemis Sotiras at the **Kerameikos** have yielded important evidence for hydromantic practice at early Roman **Athens** (http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=62293). The well itself had been blocked by a marble omphalos, improvised from the inverted lower half of an earlier grave lekythos (see **ID2976**). Its removal exposed the interior of the well, which was lined with rings of semi-cylindrical tiles, bearing semilunate incisions (**Fig. 34**). The upper portion of each of these rings bore the inscription ΕΛΘΕ ΜΟΙ Ω ΠΑΙΑΝ ΦΕΡΩΝ ΤΟ ΜΑΝΤΕΙΟΝ ΑΛΗΘΕC: an invocation to Apollo Paean to offer predictions of the future to the faithful, apparently as part of a hydromantic ritual. With more than 20 similar inscriptions recovered already this year, this discovery confirms the identification of the sanctuary as the seat of the Athenian oracle to Apollo.

Late Antique to Early Modern

Elsewhere at **Athens**, work associated with the conservation and consolidation of the Horologeion of Andronikos Kyrristos, the so-called 'Tower of the Winds', in the **Roman agora** has identified the remains of Byzantine wall-painting previously disguised beneath Late Ottoman plasterwork (**Fig. 35**; http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=62293). Neither the exact theme nor the date of the painting is currently clear, though it is probably to be associated with the Early Byzantine conversion of the Horologeion, evidenced by the incision of crosses across the structure and the presence of Christian burials beyond the northeastern entrance.

An extremely large Late Roman structure is reported from work on the Threpsiades plot on the modern Isthmus-Epidauros road at **Kenchreai** (**ID4880**). Measuring *ca*. 41m north–south and at least *ca*. 26m east–west, its ground floor comprised a minimum of eight large rectangular rooms arranged around a peristyle court, while a large stairway provided access to rooms at first-floor level (**Fig. 36**). At least two Roman construction phases are discernible, intermittently incorporating earlier spolia. Included among a very substantial sixth-century AD ceramic assemblage (*ca*. 50,000–100,000 sherds) are Late Roman Amphorae Types 1–5, African and Phocaean Red-Slip vessels, late African and Corinthian lamps, and numerous stemmed goblets. Various glass vessels and metal objects are also reported. The presence of so many amphorae, alongside numerous stoppers and funnels (**Fig. 37**), suggests the large-scale movement of commodities through the building perhaps as late as the seventh century AD. The original character of the building remains unclear; it may have been a private residence or a public facility, perhaps later repurposed to serve an industrial function.

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At **Thebes**, work by the ASCSA in the **Sanctuary of Apollo Ismenios** continues to provide details of the Early and Middle Byzantine occupation (Wright 2014). A deep pit excavated to the north of the temple yielded a fragment of a probable honorific inscription of the third century BC and, at a deeper level, an almost intact 12th- to 13th-century AD Gunsenin Type 3 amphora, due to be sampled for organic residue. Two ovoid rock-cut graves, each containing between 13 and 15 articulated burials, were identified immediately east of the temple platform in the area of the Byzantine cemetery (**ID2683**, **ID3063**, **ID4215**). Together, these graves yielded a total of seven intact vessels and over 50 coins. Parallels in disposition, preservation and offerings suggest that these burials were interred over a relatively short period, with the possibility that the dead were the victims of a plague outbreak. A well-built circular wall (*ca*. 2m in diameter) of uncertain function was among further Byzantine remains exposed on the northern side of the hill, as was an Early Byzantine grave containing a mass of commingled skeletal remains and a group of 23 intact vessels. For recent analysis of pottery from the large Middle Byzantine complex at 13 Pouliopoulou Street, see Waksman *et al.* (2014).



38. Top Alti: plan of Middle Byzantine church. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

Cleaning of the narthex of the Early Byzantine basilica at **Koromilia** (**ID4808**) has exposed the spolia base of a staircase incorporating a column base and third-century AD tombstone bearing the inscription ΑΠΟΛΛΟΔΩ/ΡΟΣ ΤΕΥΤΑΡ/ΤΥΛΙΟΣ ΕΑΥ/[*ca*. 3–4]Ι ΑΠΟΛΛΩ/[…]. A further marble capital is reported from survey to the west of the chapel, while an assemblage of Early Byzantine ceramics (principally serving and transport vessels), glass and iron nails is reported within the chapel itself. To the south, rescue excavation at **Koroneia** (**ID4807**) has yielded the remains of a post-Byzantine kiln *ca*. 400m southeast of the tower of Agios Vasileios (see recently Bakirtzis 2012). The area immediately surrounding the kiln yielded an assemblage of largely post-Byzantine glazed and undecorated sherds from cooking and serving vessels. A Late Roman tile grave is noted from the south of the plot.



39. Top Alti: Middle Byzantine Church. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

In **Epirus**, a previously unknown Middle Byzantine church is reported from excavation into alluvial deposits on the bank of the Arachthos river at **Top Alti** (**Fig. 38**; **ID5048**). Measuring *ca*. 27.5m × 21.5m, the church was preserved to a height of over 3m (**Fig. 39**). It possessed three apses at the east and, at the west, a propylon with three niches in its northern wall and two inserted into the western. Middle Byzantine wall-paintings were partially preserved in the area of the *vima* and the *diakonikon*; while Late Byzantine (13th-century) paintings survived around the *prothesis* (**Fig. 40**). A long, narrow, extension at the north most likely possessed a cross-vaulted roof; another at the south



40. Top Alti: Middle Byzantine wall-painting. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

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was divided into a series of vaulted chambers. Cells were housed in a wing to the southwest. The monastery for which the church at Top Alti served as the *katholikon* is not attested in historical sources although other Middle Byzantine churches are known nearby at **Katsouri** (Agios Dimitrios), **Gephyra** (Agios Vasileios) and **Rodia** (Agios Nikolaos). For recent discussion of the wider Middle Byzantine occupation of Epirus, see Veikou (2012).



41. Makri: Slavic cemetery. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

In Thessaly, excavation continued within the sixth- to seventh-century AD three-nave basilica of the fortress at **Velika** (**ID4747**; *AR* 57 [2010–2011] 27–28). A stone bench was exposed in the narthex, and two further rooms at the north and south of the building were identified as the sacristy and the priest's chamber. A niche identified in the wall of the southern room yielded an undecorated terracotta cup and several coins of Justinian (AD 527–565). In an adjacent room, imported finewares, glass vessels and coins were recovered, as well as a stamp with the inscription ΕΥΛΟΓΙΑ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΕΦ'ΗΜΑΣ ΑΜΗΝ: most likely used for consecrated bread following the liturgy on major feast days.

In Arcadia, an early seventh-century AD cemetery of 51 Slavic cremation pyres exposed during construction of the national road in the area of **Asea** (**ID4499**) offers an important analogue to the identification at **Makri** (**ID4511**), a short distance to the southwest, of a cemetery of 66 cremation pyres and ten graves of the eighth and ninth centuries AD (**Fig. 41**). Offerings at Makri were modest, consisting largely of handmade vessels and polychrome glass beads, and those from Asea have yet to be reported. Neverthless, the cemetery at Asea and the co-existence of traditional Slavic cremation burials and Christian inhumations at Makri provide important evidence for the migration of Early Slavic groups into the Peloponnese and for the chronology of their subsequent Christianization.



42. Corinth: late 14th- to early 15th-century AD jeton of the Giovanni Sercambi and Nicolao di Bartolomeo Vanni Society. © ASCSA.

At **Corinth** (**ID4878**), ASCSA excavations continued in advance of the conservation of the Frankish monastic and residential complex south of the museum. Much of this work was focused on the room complex known as Unit 2. The discovery of burials prevented excavation to depth across much of the area, though it seems that the complex is a product of two construction phases dating respectively to the mid to late 13th century and the 14th century AD; a coin of William Villehardouin from the foundation trench of Room A makes it clear that it too represents a later addition. Noteworthy among the finds recovered from Unit 1 are several jetons of AD 1358–1400, issued by north Italian merchants trading in the territory of the Acciaiuoli family (**Fig. 42**), as well as much Veneto Ware, Pisana ware and Proto-maiolica from the area of Salento. It has

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43. Palaiokastraki.
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also become apparent that Unit 1 and most of Unit 2 were destroyed not by the earthquake and the Catalan sack of the early 14th century AD, but as a result of neglect in the decades following the Black Death.

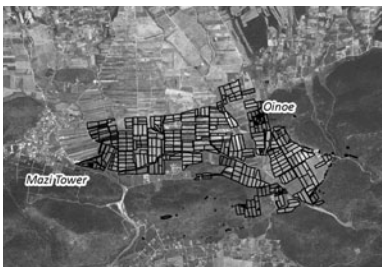
Regional histories

Dimitris Nakassis and colleagues (2015) report on the first of three planned seasons of surface survey in the northwest Argive plain as part of the **Western Argolid Research Project** (WARP) under the auspices of the Canadian Institute in Greece. The survey area (30km^2) is focused on the upper valleys of the Inachos river to the northwest of Argos, subsuming the Classical polis of Orneai on the hill of **Palaiokastraki** (**Fig. 43**) and the probable area of the perioikic settlement of **Lyrkeia**, as well as several major routeways which link the plain with Arcadia and Corinthia, not least the ancient *Klimax* cart road connecting Argos and Mantineia. The first season of survey covered a total area of 5.5km^2 around Palaiokastraki, identifying seven major sites and numerous surface scatters ranging in date between the Early Helladic and the Ottoman to Venetian period (Nakassis *et al*. 2015). Preliminary analysis suggests two major shifts in the settlement history of this area. The first is represented by a significant increase in activity during the Classical and Hellenistic periods, when low, defensible hills provided the focus of settlement (much as in earlier periods); the second occured during the Roman period, when settlement activity nucleated along the north side of the valley, *ca*. 500m from the Inachos river.

Noteworthy among the finds recovered from Unit 1 at Corinth are several jetons of AD 1358–1400, issued by north Italian merchants trading in the territory of the Acciaiuoli family, as well as much Veneto Ware, Pisana Ware and Proto-maiolica from the area of Salento.

To the northwest, bordered by the Kithairon-Pastra and Makron ranges at the Attic-Boeotian border, the small upland Mazi plain has played host to the inaugural season of the **Mazi Archaeological Project** (MAP) (**ID4875**). Surface survey and geomorphological analysis was concentrated in the south of the plain, between ancient Oinoe (Myoupolis) and the Late

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44. Mazi Archaeological Project: intensive survey units 2014. © Mazi Archaeological Project.

Classical to Hellenistic Mazi Tower to the east (Area A), and in the adjacent Kouloumbi plain (Area B) (**Fig. 44**). A total of 109 find-spots were recorded in the former and a further 41 in the latter. Low densities of probable Neolithic to Bronze Age lithics were identified throughout Areas A and B (446 pieces in total), with a particularly dense scatter on the Lioupiarthi ridge. Possible Early and Middle Helladic sherds were recognized only in very low numbers. Three find-spots on the plain to the northwest and south of Oinoe yielded Late Helladic III ceramics, providing tentative support in favour of the recent least-cost modelling of a major Mycenaean routeway through the Mazi plain between Eleusis and Thebes by Sylvian Fachard and Alex Knodell (2015). Early Iron Age occupation on the plain is suggested by a handful of possible Late Geometric sherds, while the concentration of Archaic material in the area of Oinoe may indicate an Archaic foundation for the site (see also Ober 1987: 211–12). Some *ca*. 800m to the south, a later fifth-century BC site was identified at the Stanes Pepas plot, apparently abandoned early in the Hellenistic period and reoccupied during the Roman and Byzantine periods. A second settlement located close to the Mazi Tower yielded very high artefact densities over an area of *ca*. 1ha. Diagnostic sherds from cooking and storage vessels suggest occupation between the late fourth and second centuries BC, and again during the Roman and Byzantine periods. Particularly significant is the discovery of part of the ancient **Eleusis-Oinoe road** at the edge of the Kouloumbi plain. A series of six switchbacks aided descent into the eastern valley and cart ruts are visible at several points. The Classical to Hellenistic cist burial of a child was identified close to the point at which the road enters the plain. Survey at the site of the Velatouri Tower, which monitored the ancient road (Ober 1987: 157–58), yielded pottery indicative of a fourth-century BC construction date. A programme of architectural and photogrammetric recording was mounted across the upper and lower towns of ancient **Oinoe** itself (**Fig. 45**). Numerous buildings, walls and streets recorded within the area of the rectilinear fortification (*ca*. 150m × 136m) were variously ascribed to major building phases during the Late Classical, Early Hellenistic and Byzantine periods. The lower

Possible Early and Middle Helladic sherds were recognized only in very low numbers. Three find-spots on the plain to the northwest and south of Oinoe yielded Late Helladic III ceramics, providing tentative support in favour of the recent least-cost modelling of a major Mycenaean routeway through the Mazi plain between Eleusis and Thebes.



45. Oinoe from the north. © Mazi Archaeological Project.

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town was delimited by a Byzantine fortification, perhaps reusing Classical walls, which enclosed an area of *ca*. 3.9ha. High densities of ceramics, glazed tile, amphorae and beehive fragments indicate intensive occupation within this area throughout the Classical, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods.

A total of 55ha across ancient and 'Macedonian' Methone were subject to archaeological survey under the aegis of the **Ancient Methone Archaeological Project** (see *AR* 58 [2011–2012] 99–100; Myles Chykerda and Kontonicolas 2014). A small group of Late to Final Neolithic sherds from Survey Unit (SU) 090 represents the earliest surface material from Methone, while a large volume of Early to Middle Bronze Age pottery was identified immediately north of the East Hill excavation area (SU047). A high density of Roman material in the area of Macedonian Methone (SU077, SU078 and SU091) suggests that occupation here was relatively long-lived; significant volumes of roof tiles and a plaster-covered architectural block hint at the existence of one or more large buildings in the area.

Renewed excavation at the site of the Antikythera wreck has traced elements of the ship and its cargo over an area of 300m² and permitted the creation of a high-resolution photo-mosaic of the site. Several lead anchors, each more than 1m in length, have been recovered, as well as a bronze rigging ring, structural planks and a section of the lead hull sheath, isotopic analysis of which may allow identification of the ship's home port.

Marine archaeology

Archaeological survey undertaken by the EMA during 2009 off the Laconian coast in the area of **Koulenti** has yielded the remains of a Minoan shipwreck; the first ever identified beyond the Cretan coast and currently paralleled only by the example found off Pseira (Hadjidaki and Betancourt 2005–2006). Much of the ship's Middle Minoan III to Late Minoan I cargo has been looted, although several jugs with cut-away spouts and a pair of amphorae were recovered (Spondylis 2012).

Renewed excavation at the site of the **Antikythera** wreck (EMA/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) has traced elements of the ship and its cargo over an area of 300m² and permitted the creation of a high-resolution photo-mosaic of the site. Several lead anchors, each more than 1m in length, have been recovered, as well as a bronze rigging ring, structural planks and a section of the lead hull sheath, isotopic analysis of which may allow identification of the ship's home port. Other finds include a fragment of bronze kline leg, a near-intact lagynos and, most significantly, a *ca*. 2.1m section of a heavy bronze spear belonging to a colossal statue (**Fig. 46**) (http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=58772; http://www.whoi.edu/news-release/antikythera-finds). The spatial distribution of remains has led to speculation that there may be two separate wrecks at the site, separated by a distance of *ca*. 200m. An assemblage of first-century BC amphorae from Rhodes, Kos, Pergamon and Ephesus at the secondary site mirrors the provenance and chronology of those at the main wreck site, suggesting the archaeological material at the two



46. Antikythera: colossal bronze spear fragment in situ. *© Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.*

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areas represents either a single ship that broke apart or a pair of ships that sailed from a common port. Meanwhile, continued work at the **Mentor** wreck site (**ID4513**, **ID2904**; http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=61814) has revealed additional evidence of the ship's antiquarian cargo. Alongside further modern personal effects, including an intact hourglass, dishes and utensils, a bone comb, a bone chess pawn and a glass stamp bearing the letter 'B', excavation revealed three Rhodian amphora handles (two stamped) of the third century BC and a small intact stone vessel.



47. Zakynthos, Sinialo reef: Spanish wreck. © Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

In the **Sporades**, further details have emerged concerning the EMA excavation of an early fourth-century BC mercantile wreck off the islet of **Skantzoura** (**ID4730**). Lying at a depth of *ca*. 32–38m, the wreck and its cargo cover an area of *ca*. 700m^2. Although subject to multiple episodes of looting, the wreck yielded a substantial ceramic assemblage including *ca*. 250 Thasian amphorae, *ca*. 70 Solocha I-type (Peparethian) amphorae and *ca*. 40 Mendean amphorae, as well as fine Attic skyphoi and kantharoi. This announcement came as the Greek government approved plans to open the wreck of the well-known late fifth-century BC merchant ship at nearby **Peristera** to diving tourism (see Hadjidaki 1996).

EMA excavations off **Zakynthos** at **Sinialo reef** (**ID1600**) have exposed the keelson and part of the mid-deck of a well-preserved 16th-century AD Spanish merchant ship first investigated in 1994 (**Fig. 47**). Estimated at a length of *ca*. 20m, analysis of the primarily oak-framed ship has confirmed its skeleton-first construction. Its cargo appears to have included several barrels of walnuts, while personal effects recovered include glazed and faience ceramics, metal cooking vessels, several late 16th-century AD silver coins of Phillip II and a Maltese-type cross.

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