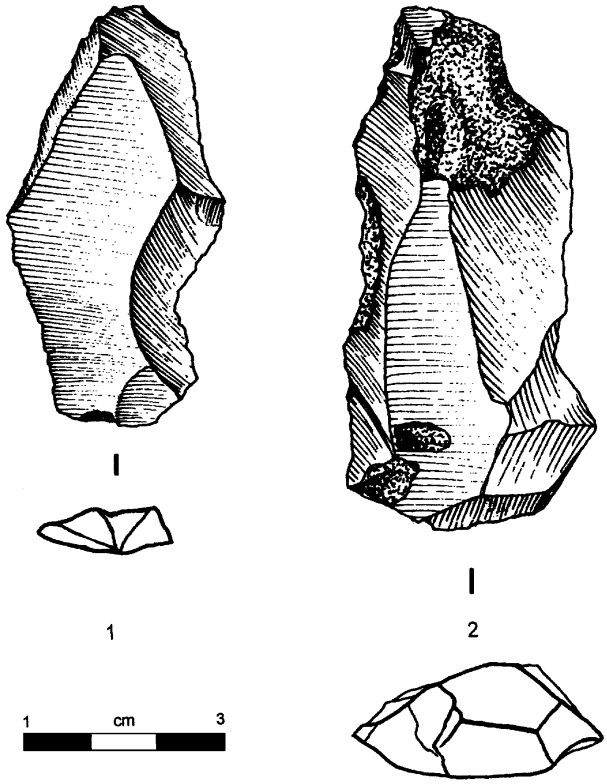


28. Gytheio, Lakonis cave: MPal Levallois flake

general date in the MPal (90,000–35,000 BP). Stone tools from the upper levels, including some in a distinctive black flint, were typologically characteristic of the Upper Pal, particularly the EpiGravettian phase of Greece and the Balkans. In the study of the animal bones, several ox and deer species (*Bos primigenius*, *Cervus elaphus* and *Capreolus capreolus*) could be identified.

Alepochori, A Kouveleiki. E. Stravopodi (EPS) reports (*ADelt*, 1005–07) on further excavation of this cave. More fragments of pottery, stone (flint and obsidian) and human bone were recovered. A clearer report is given by *Eleftheros Typos* (31/08/2006) and *Ethnos* (06/09/2006), who summarize the investigations of this and one other cave, both occupied in Neo times (5300–3900 BC). Finds include flint and obsidian tools, marble figurines and some pottery, and animal bones (principally sheep/goat). These are interpreted as evidence for a mixed herding and agricultural way of life.

Mani, Pal survey. A. Darlas (EPS) reports (*ADelt*, 1011–12) on the preliminary results of a survey of caves around anc. **Oitylos**. Numerous stone tools and other objects of various phases within the Pal were recovered from several caves in the area.

Mani survey. L. Moschou (5th EPCA) corrects two mistakes in *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 41. The koinon of the *Eleutherolakones* [not Eleftherolakonoi] was founded in 15, not 146 BC, and the finds date after that. At the sanctuary of **Kionia**, the remains of two Doric structures (temples or heroa) are to be found, one peripteral (LHel) and one distyle in antis (Rom), both previously published by L. Moschou.

MESSENIA (7th EPCA; 5th EBA)

Anc. **Thouria**. Emmanuele Greco (Director, Italian School) and Xenia Arapoyianni (37th EPCA) report on the results of the 2006 season of collaborative survey at this anc. site.

The survey has employed the 'urban survey' model, i.e. an analysis done within the limits of an urban centre. An ample portion of the city has been examined. Together with the results of the geophysical surveys and the analyses of the structural remains *in situ*, the investigation has provided a meaningful base of knowledge from which to begin a programme of stratigraphical analysis. The investigated area has been inserted into a detailed topographical map, with the aid of GPS and GIS.

Anc. **Messene**. Petros Themelis (ASA) reports (*Ergon*, 32–43) on excavation in the agora, in the area of the theatre and the sanctuary of Artemis Limnatis during 2006.

In the **agora** work concentrated on the examination of a rectilinear Hel underground structure built of limestone ashlar blocks held together with iron clamps covered in lead. Entrance was through a narrow opening, covered apparently by a stone lid (**Fig. 29**). This building is tentatively identified with the *thesauros*, or **treasury**, mentioned in Plutarch's life of *Philopoimen* (19), when the Messenians seceded from the Achaian league in 183 BC, which was then at war with Rome (see also *Ta Nea* 18/10/2006). The Messenians imprisoned and thereby suffocated the 70-year old Achaian general, Philopoimen, in this treasury. Further excavation in the NE corner of the agora confirmed the earlier hypothesis (*AR* 51 [2004–2005], 31) that the **stoa** had an exterior Doric row of columns and an interior colonnade in the Cor style. A further niche (2.58m by 6.5m) in the NE corner had two pilasters flanking two columns. Opposite the niche, a Byz kiln had been constructed from earlier spolia. Near this kiln but within the stoa two stone measuring devices for dry goods were found *in situ*, suggesting that this area was the *agoranomion* of Messene.

In the **theatre** more re-used Hel pilasters were found incorporated in the Rom proscenium. Amongst the re-used material was a Hel inscription commemorating the Olympic victory of a Messenian in the boxing. In the E parodos the body of a Rom statue with a toga (**Fig. 30**) and in the W parodos a re-used fragment of a Cl (5th Ct BC) relief showing the head of one of the Dioskouroi, another fragment of which had been found in 2002 (**Fig. 31**), were found. Further seats and statue bases were also found.

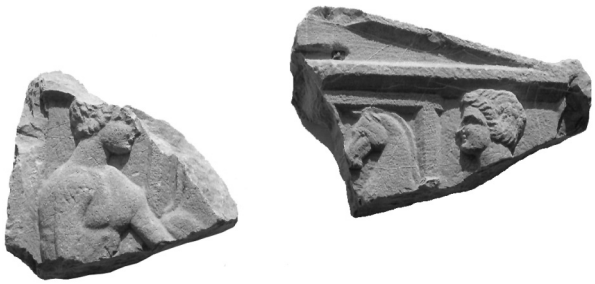


29. Messene: Cl/Hel *thesauros*

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30. Messene: body of Rom statue with toga



31. Messene: fragment of 5th Ct BC relief of Dioskouroi

Cleaning, excavation and restoration took place in the **Sanctuary of Artemis Limnatis**, first excavated by Philippe Le Bas in 1842–1843 but subsequently covered by vegetation and partly looted. Le Bas recorded a Cor temple, distyle in antis, the remains of an altar and other architecture. The remains of a stoa and spring can still be seen. Cleaning revealed remains of a badly damaged pebble mosaic (decorated with spirals and maeanders) covering the floor of the cella of the temple (**Fig. 32**), the base of the cult statue and the altar.

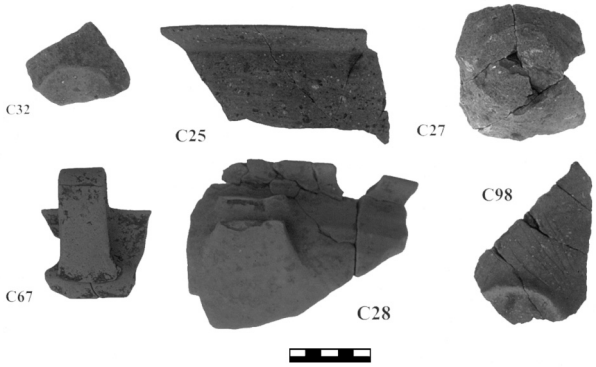
Isle of **Sapienza**, **Porto Longo** and islet of **Boba**. A. Dellaporta (EMA) announces (*ADelt*, 1029–30) that these underwater sites, some of the first to be investigated in Greece by Throckmorton in the 1960s, are to become protected sites.

Methoni. I. Spondylis (EMA) reports (*ADelt*, 1025–28) on a survey of an underwater, certainly PH, archaeological site opposite the campsite here. Survey was undertaken in an extended area, close to where a small funerary structure containing two infants' graves associated with MH, principally Minyan, pottery had been investigated in 1993 and 1994. Survey revealed a total of four 'horseshoe'-shaped structures, surviving often to four courses, some with 'herringbone' construction thought to be characteristic of the MBA. The site is interpreted as a MH settlement, extending over an area of 12ha, later submerged after an earthquake.

Iklaina. Michael Cosmopoulos (ASA) reports (*Ergon*, 43–49) on further survey and excavation in this area during 2006. A further 4.5km^2 was surveyed in the SW, completing the survey which has been undertaken since 1999 in the area between Ano Englianos to the NW and Koukounara to the SE. This season's work turned up more LH III A–B sherds, but nothing that can be identified as a settlement. Excavation began at **Traganes**, where Marinatos had earlier uncovered remains of houses and wall-paintings. Seven 5m by 5m trenches were opened to the NE of the *tymvos*, uncovering a long wall, a destruction horizon to the SE and a stone layer to the NW. Finds from the destruction horizon include animal bones (sheep, goat, pig, sea molluscs), flint and obsidian blades, and abundant MH III to LH I–II pottery (**Fig. 33**). Though no floor levels were found in association with the 23m *l*. wall, there were indications of its use in LH times.



32. Messene: Sanctuary of Artemis Limnatis after cleaning



33. Iklaina: MH III–LH II pottery

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Pylos, Palace of Nestor (Ano Englianos) and Pylos Regional Archaeological Project (PRAP). Jack L. Davis (ASCSA/Cincinnatti) reports on the 2006 study season of finds from the survey and from Blegen's excavations at the Palace.

Sharon Stocker and Jack Davis completed study of MH finds from two soundings conducted on the property of Giorgios Petropoulos in 1939. Headway was also made in examining post BA remains found in Blegen's excavations. The Englianos ridge, including the site of the palace, was the locus of activity in several periods after the BA.

Additional study of fragments of wall-paintings from the palace, first identified in 2004 as part of a 'naval scene', has allowed significant parts of three ships to be restored. It has now been determined that this composition was originally located on the wall to the right of the doorway between hall 64 and lobby 66.

Preparation by Joanne Murphy and Lynne Schepartz of a comprehensive published report on human skeletal remains and their contexts continues to progress. The results of recently completed stable isotope analyses of samples of human bone from graves show that males from higher status burials at Pylos consumed greater amounts of meat. Paul Halstead and Valasia Isaakidou's examination of faunal remains is nearing completion. Deborah Ruscillo studied all shell this year; the majority consists of murex that seems to have been crushed for the production of pigment.

ELEIA (7th EPCA; 6th EBA)

Olympia. *Ethnos* (18/12/2006) reports the chance discovery of 4th Ct graves to the E of the stadium. *Ethnos* (26/10/2006) had earlier reported the discovery of a painted ECl terracotta lion's head, probably a spout, which probably formed part of the 5th Ct roofing of the **Bouleuterion**.

Oleni. *Eleftherotypia* (12/03/2007) reports the discovery of a Myc chamber tomb at **Spilia** in the area of **Arvaniti**. The tomb contained three trench graves with skeletons and Myc pottery.

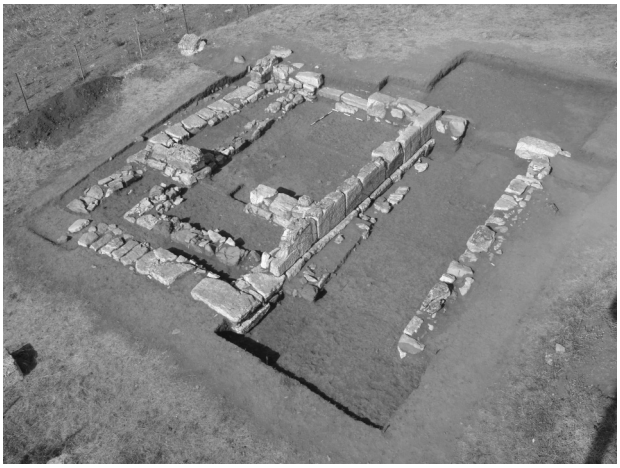
ACHAIA (6th EPCA; 6th EBA)

General. A conference volume on finds in W Greece (including Achaia, Aitolia/Akarnania and the Ionian islands) from the earliest times to the present is published: Καζάκου, Μ. (ed.), Grece, ΣΤ' Εφορεία Προϊστορικών και Κλασικών Αρχαιστήτων: Α' Αρχαιολογική Συνοδός Νότιας και Δυτικής Ελλάδος, Πάτρα 9–12 Ιουνιου 1996, 6η Εφορεία Βυζαντινών Αρχαιοτήτων (Athens, T.A.P.A. 2006).

G. Alexopoulou (6th EPCA in 1999) corrects some interpretations in *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 48–49. At **Tripoptama** a kiln was found and pithoi at **Paliophyties**, but the kiln was not for pithoi, and gives no clear indication of the location of the W cemetery of anc. **Psophis**. **Leochorio** is not to be identified as anc. **Leontion**. The sanctuary of **Koria Athena** is securely located at **Agios Athanasios**, a hill that forms part of the defensive circuit of anc. **Kleitor**.

Lousoi. Veronika Mitsopoulos-Leon (former Director, Austrian Institute) and Georg Ladstätter (Director, Austrian Institute) report on the 2006 season of excavation of this polis of anc. Arkadia. As in previous years, work concentrated on the public centre of the polis, where explorations of terrace I and of the peripteral temple were continued (*AR* 52 [2005–2006], 48–49).

On **terrace I**, W of the peripteral temple, the preserved remains of a LCl oikos building and those of a Hel orthostat structure above it were fully excavated (**Fig. 34**). Of the rectangular **oikos building** (5m by 7m), lacking any internal subdivisions, the lowermost foundation course of local limestone and flysch rubble is preserved. Remarkably, the impact of the later orthostat structure on it is represented by punctual disturbances rather than complete demolition, which suggests an intentional respect for the older building. The deeper deposits in the interior of the oikos contained a handmade (cooking) pot with a vertical handle which can be contextually dated to Cl or earlier. The same context yielded a miniature krater, to be added to the LCl assemblage found in 2005, as well as a 4th Ct Arcadian coin.



34. Lousoi: Hel orthostat structure

The **orthostat structure** (5.7m by 8.1m), now fully exposed, has an E entrance and is subdivided into a square E and a narrow transversal W room. A layer of green clay had been spread to support the floor level; it contained a LHel *balsamarium* and a Hel lamp. Together with two further Hel lamps from disturbed contexts, these should be seen as part of the 2004 assemblage which indicated that the structure served a cultic function.

The close architectural connection between the oikos and the orthostath structure, as well as the fact that the LCl votive assemblage (2005) and the LHel ensemble with *balsamaria* and lamps (2004) both suggest cult activities, strongly indicate continuity. Vessels found here throughout recent years have indicated banqueting, thus perhaps suggesting a hero cult.

Work on the Hel **peripteral temple** with a peristasis of 6 by 15 pillars (15.8m by 42.35m), including a sekos (9.7m by 34.5m) with a pronaos to the E, concentrated in the E (**Fig. 35**). Architectural and stratigraphic evidence of the S peristasis proves that the sekos and the individual foundations of the portico were erected in one unified building phase. The lack of walling between the limestone slabs of the peristasis' supports, the unsettled floor level in the pteron area and the absence of any architectural elements of a superstructure all indicate that the portico, which was probably meant to be of wooden pillars, was never completed.

In the fully exposed E hall of the sekos, a clay slab flooring is preserved in its entirety, except for some secondary modifications. As the E wall of this room displays a different walling technique from the rest of the sekos and contained a broken

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