men, armed with swords and carrying full sacks on poles over their shoulders, climb a ladder and enter a building, probably a fortification, with its masonry rendered in a chequerboard pattern. One man has fallen off the ladder and lies beneath it. A notable votive from the Myc layers is a lentoid seal of the Island Sanctuaries Group in veined limestone, depicting 2 bulls standing back-to-back.

The Central Archaeological Council has now authorized the removal of the open structure, constructed after the Persian destruction from spolia in the ruined cella. It will therefore be possible to examine the older, Geo to Myc, phases here, in the assumed original centre of the sanctuary.

BOEOTIA

(9th EPCA: 23rd EBA)
by Robert K. Pitt

Publication: V. Schild-Xenidou, *Corpus der Boiotischen Grab- und Weihreliefs des 6. bis 4. Jahrhunderts v. Chr.* (Mainz am Rhein, von Zabern 2008).

Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project (EBAP). B. Burke (Canadian Institute/Victoria), B. Burns (Wellesley), S. Lupack (London), V. Aravantinos (Director, 9th EPCA) and I. Fappas (Thebes Museum) report on the 2nd field season, which focused on the area surrounding the mod. village of Tanagra, in an effort to provide a context for several known centres: the Myc tombs at the locations of Dendron and Gephyra to the E of the village, the kastro located on the peak to the SW and the Med tower to the NW.

Three teams of walkers surveyed 703 units within an area of 5km², in which individual transects totalled 175 km.

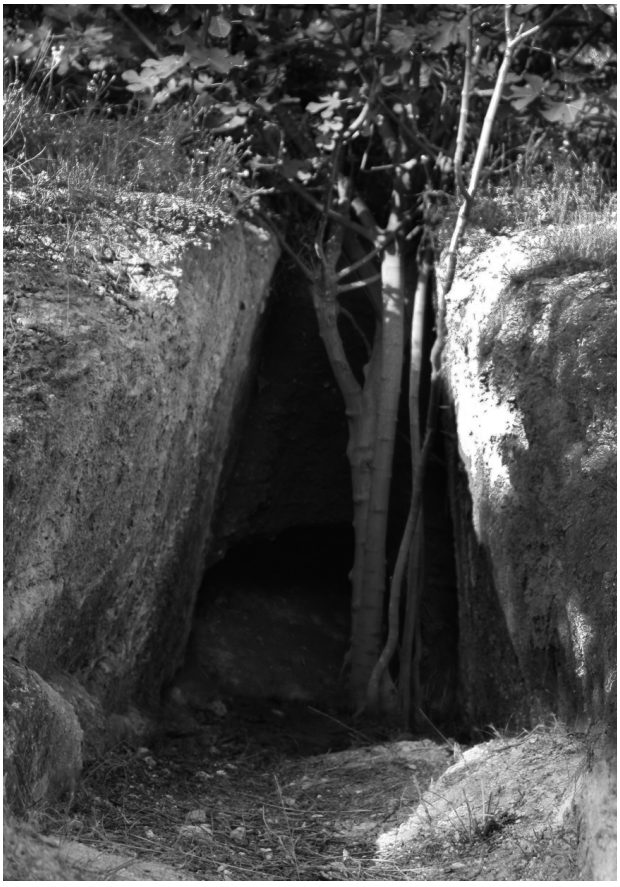
Several of the chamber tombs, which contained the famous painted larnakes excavated in the 1960s and 1970s, were located, as were indications of settlement remains. The cemeteries were composed primarily of roughly hewn chambers cut into the natural bedrock. The largest concentration of tombs around Eleon is below the Church of Profitis Ilias, where over 20 chambers have been identified. These were revisited and more extensively mapped in 2008. A similar number of chamber tombs (**Fig. 73**) was mapped and surveyed in olive groves near mod. Tanagra, in a location known as Dendron, during the excavations by T. Spyropoulos. Some impressive surface ceramics collected in 2008 in the vicinity of the tombs clearly date to the Myc period, including an LHIIB goblet with pendant rock pattern that predates the main phase of tomb deposition in LHIII.

R. Siddal began a geological and petrographic survey of the survey area, focusing on the E side of the region, in order to complete a map of subsurface deposits, the sourcing of building material, and a reconstruction of tectonic history and shifts in water sources.

Thebes. V. Aravantinos (Director, 9th EPCA) and I. Fappas (Thebes Museum) report on a rescue excavation in the S part of the anc. acropolis.

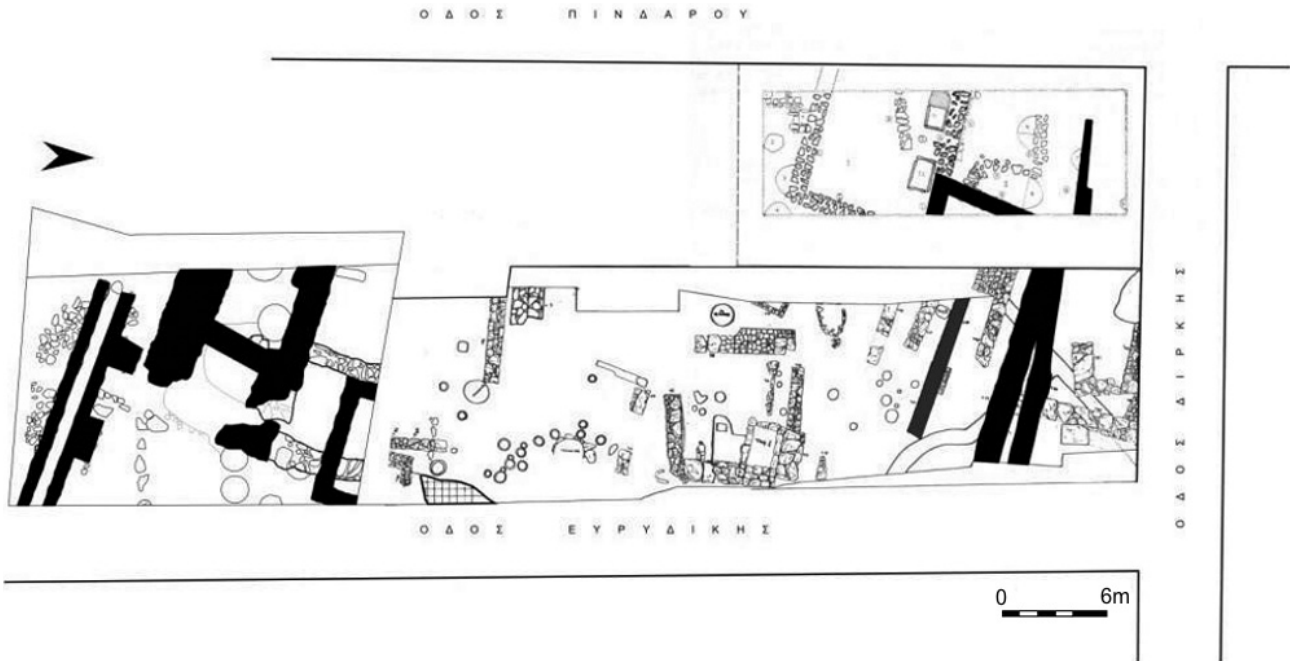
Earlier excavations in this sector had brought to light a large Myc building complex (**Fig. 74**) with floors of square bricks and fragments of wall-painting depicting a female procession. From July 2008 to January 2009, excavation at 3 Eurydike Street revealed a structure with a thick destruction layer of the M13th Ct, containing roof beams and cover tiles, many of which were found intact (and weighing between 8.5kg and 9.5kg each). This roof is estimated to have weighed at least 4 tons, and covered impressive, if poorly preserved, architectural remains, probably part of the Myc palatial complex (**Fig. 75**). Two especially large and well-built walls with door jambs, built in the Myc style of large roughly worked boulders with smaller stones wedged between them, form a central area, which contained fragments of frescoes. In the centre of the floor was a large bath tub with an impression on its base of a burnt basket which had been positioned next to it at the time of the destruction of the building. N of this central area was a rectangular open corridor, and a large covered area. From inside this room came much broken pottery, small glass beads with depictions in relief, burned fragments of painted wall-plaster, a steatite seal with a depiction of a horse and a gold attachment shaped like a flower petal. A spacious rectangular room excavated further N completes the plan of the building. Numerous drinking vessels (kylikes and cups) were found, along with a bronze dagger with gold rivet heads. However, the most important find was a 6-sided clay plaque (**Fig. 76**) with two holes for hanging, decorated with fish, possibly dolphin or tuna, on all 6 sides. A similar object (**Fig. 77**) was found in the previous excavation, along with an impressive dagger handle and a fragment of a bronze dagger with gold rivet heads on the clay floor of the neighbouring room. This also carried decoration on all four long sides, which are decorated alternately with a palm and chequered pattern.

The building was destroyed by fire in the M13th Ct BC. The data from both this and earlier excavations on the top of the citadel show that the region was at this time a fairly luxurious and densely populated neighbourhood of Myc Thebes.



73. EBAP: chamber tomb near Tanagra village.

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74. Thebes: plan of the rescue excavations of the Myc. building complex.



75. Thebes: walls of the Myc complex.



76. Thebes: clay hexedral plaque with fish decoration.



77. Thebes: clay hexedral plaque with palm and chequered pattern.

Thisve (Kastorion). A. Dunn (BSA/Birmingham) and E. Gerousi (Director, 23rd EBA) report on the 2008 study season.

A Digital Elevation Model of the site was completed, and topographical and architectural surveys of all visible structures in and around Thisve corrected and supplemented.

Eleven EByz, MByz and Fr churches and chapels have been recorded: at least 2 are probably MByz of the inscribed cruciform plan with 4 central piers (spolia) and 3 semicircular apses. Less typical is the ruined, multi-phase church now known as Ag. Loukas (almost certainly the Episcopal church of the bishopric of Kastorion). Phase I of this building shows design traits related either to the high-status 'transitional' type of the L6th–9th Ct or to the Panagia of Skripou (873/874 AD).

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The uppermost part of the central apse is entirely faced with well-arranged ashlars divided by a reused cornice. Attached to the NW corner is a monumental cistern. Re-examination of the disposition of Cl–Rom architectural blocks in secondary use as orthostats in locations around the lower acropolis confirmed the outlines of several rectangular buildings which might be either Byz or associated with the diagnostically Fr chambered tower and spolia-built chapel.

A record has been made of the traditional productive installations of the overlying village (Ot Kakosi; renamed Thisve in the 20th Ct). These comprise 8 wine fermentation vats (ληνοί), 15 cobbled threshing floors (including 12 clustered around the lower acropolis) and monumental cisterns.

A survey of Thisve's dam or barrage was completed. There are no traces of the Rom or Byz phases reported by some EMod travellers, who almost certainly misinterpreted overlying spolia-built agricultural terraces, of which traces remain. The interpretation of this dam will be aided by a parallel environmental survey of the enclosed Thisve basin.

Anc. Thisve and Byz Kastorion had several loci of maritime traffic. Between 2 of these, and visually controlling them both, lies an unpublished Cl–Hel tower described by E19th Ct travellers. This was located and surveyed on behalf of the 9th EPCA.

Thespiai. B. Slapšak (Netherlands Institute/Ljubljana) reports on the continuing survey of Thespiae as part of the Ancient Cities of Boeotia Project.

In 2008, geophysical prospection and the plotting of scattered blocks and architectural members continued. Some blocks of the Hel city wall were found *in situ* in the NW sector. An important section of the mud-brick acropolis wall was recorded on the SW slope, 5.5m *h.* and 3.3m *w.* at its top. Of the 29 inscriptions recorded by the team, 2 are of particular interest: one provides the first attestation at Thespiae of the office of the *pentekistologoi*; a second is a bilingual building inscription of Domitian, possibly dated to 86 AD.

EUBOIA
(11th EPCA: 23rd EBA)

Lefkandi Xeropolis. I.S. Lemos (BSA/Oxford) reports on the 6th season of excavation.

The aims for 2008 were to investigate further the LHIIIC and EIA 'megara' in region I and, in region II, to understand the function, extent and date of the 'walls' and to excavate further the structures W of them.

In region I, a LHIIIC (Lefkandi phase 2a) structure was discovered under the LHIIIC 'megaron' (**Fig. 78**). This was equipped with clay bins and pebble floors typical of the period, and is on the same orientation as contemporary houses previously discovered. The building was abandoned and the area reused after a short interval, but with an alteration to the orientation of the building (now N-S), which took place most probably during Lefkandi phase 2b when a number of other houses in this part of the tell maintain the earlier grid lines. The 2nd change was to the plan of the building, which is now a long, rectangular structure. The N end is lost to the erosion of the hill



78. Lefkandi, Xeropolis: LHIIIC 'megaron' and surrounding area.

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