Agios Andreas (Styra). *Ethnos* (05/11/07) reports a shipwreck with a cargo of 5th–6th Ct AD amphorae.

Megalo Stironisi. *Ethnos* (05/11/07) reports a shipwreck with a cargo of tiles stowed in sets of 6 and tied in large piles.

Portolafia. *Ethnos* (05/11/07) reports 2 shipwrecks, one carrying 2nd-3rd Ct AD Rom amphorae, probably from Pontos, and the other carrying 12th Ct AD Byz amphorae.

Kampos (Karystos). M. Chidiroglou (Athens), Z. Tankosic (Indiana), D. Keller (Boston) and M. Wallace (Toronto) report on a survey undertaken under the auspices of the Canadian Institute. In 2007, the Southern Euboea Exploration Project (SEEP) continued the survey of the alluvial Karystian Kampos (plain) W of Karystos.

The survey area was divided into arbitrary 100m x 100m squares, which were further divided into 10 10m x 100m transects. Each transect was further subdivided into 5 20m *l.* sections, which served as the basic recording units in the field. Total collection was carried out on the surface of all areas designated as findspots, while the thin material scatter between findspots was recorded (for non-feature material) or recorded and collected (feature sherds, obsidian, etc.). Ca. 35% of the entire survey area was surveyed using a stratified sampling approach; squares were selected so as to include all the geomorphological features present in the survey area and to take account of the results of the 2006 season.

Sixteen findspots were discovered, giving a total of 26 from the 2 seasons of the Kampos survey. The most numerous (11) of the 2007 findspots have a PH component or are purely PH, 8 have a Rom component or are purely Rom and one is tentatively identified as a Cl site. Since the material from the sites identified as Rom dates very late in the period, it may be possible to reassign some Rom findspots to the EByz after detailed study. Most findspots (14) are surface scatters, while 3 also have accompanying features defined loosely as architectural remains, altered natural features, pits, cairns or similar. Two PH findspots, 07N35 and 07S28, have produced more than 2,500 (**Fig. 64**) and 300 pieces of worked obsidian respectively, but little other material. Both are preliminarily dated to the EBA.

The PH findspots constitute the most significant finds of the 2007 season. They consist almost entirely of obsidian scatters with little or no other material. In some locations (e.g., 07S28) an almost complete reduction sequence is present, testifying to the importance of the area in the BA obsidian trade in this part of the Aegean. Findspot 07N35 represents an obsidian workshop connected to the known EBA site of Ag. Georgios Kampou, ca. 100m E. Why other types of material culture (especially pottery) are absent from the PH findspots is a matter for further research. Based on the 2006 survey and preceding investigations in the area, we had expected PH sites in the Kampos to have been covered by alluvium, but, plainly, the extent of alluviation caused fewer problems of visibility than had been thought.



64. Kampos (Karystos): obsidian from find spot 07N35

PHTHIOTIS AND EAST LOKRIS
(14th EPCA: 24th EBA)

Cornell Halai and East Lokris Project (CHELP). J. Coleman (ASCSA/Cornell) reports on continuing study of the Neo architecture and finds (especially pottery) from the acropolis, and of the Hel fortification walls. Cleaning and conservation work on the acropolis continued, with the backfilling of trenches in areas A, C and H: cleaning in H1 resulted in the reascription of a Neo wall to the L7th or E6th Ct BC, as the boundary wall of an enclosure. Ar remains in trenches A3/A5 in area A continue to be covered with temporary roofs.

Mitrou. E. Zahou (14th EPCA) and A. Van de Moortel (ASCSA/Tennessee) report on the 2007 excavation season.

In 2007, the excavated area expanded to 608.95m^2 (1.7% of the site above sea level). Surface survey continued (covering a total of 6,175m^2, or 17% of the site). Documentation of the E sea scarp of the islet has now identified 27 occupational strata spanning almost the entire BA occupation of the site. Geological drilling (J. Foss) established that archaeological strata in the terrestrial part of the site continue at least 1.1m below sea level.

Excavation in 2007 substantially increased our understanding of the E LBA as well as of the LBA/EIA transition: it also revealed the first evidence of EBA and MBA occupation. In the E sea scarp (trench LX784), an EH II building with baked roof tiles similar to those from the House of Tiles at Lerna must have been an important building of its period. There was continuity of occupation from EH III to MH II, despite occasional fire destructions.

The discovery of the remains of an EH III or MH I wooden boat is very important for our understanding of BA Aegean boat building. No wood survives, but the disintegration of the hull left a black stain in the clay ground (**Fig. 65**). The upper part of the boat had disappeared, but its presence could be identified in the scarp's stratigraphy. The excavated part of the hull (around half) is ca. 3m *l.* The total *l.* is estimated at 5.5–6m and the *w.* at ca. 1m. The hull is only 0.02m thick. It curves gently in plan view, profile and cross section, but had a blunt extremity. The boat was found in a long, narrow space between 2 walls. Its use and mode of propulsion are as yet unknown, but its modest size suggests that it was a fishing boat or small transport vessel. This is only the 4th small boat discovered at a PH site in Greece and the first of BA date. Outlines of 3 much smaller LNeo and FNeo boats have been discovered at Dispilio in Macedonia and the very scant wooden remains of a much larger sea-going cargo ship, possibly of Cypriot origin, were found in the sea off Point Iria in the Argolid. No wooden boat remains have ever been found in M Crete or the BA Cyclades,

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despite their seafaring tradition in PH. Such scarcity of finds makes the discovery at Mitrou highly significant for our understanding of boat building in the BA Aegean.

Habitation in the NW area was temporarily interrupted before the end of MH II until the beginning of LH I, and the area was used as a burial ground. Further excavation is required to determine whether there was a similar shift in the NE area.

In LH I new buildings were constructed in both areas, including in the NE area the monumental building D (**Fig. 66**). Throughout its lifetime building D was bordered by 3m *w*. orthogonal pebble streets to the W and N: the area to its E may have belonged to the same compound, separated by a terrace wall from the higher pebble street to the N. No pebble street has been found to the S, but this area needs more exploration. It is now clear that building D was destroyed by fire in LH IIIA2E, contemporary with the fire destruction of building F and of structures to the N and S of building D.

In the NW area, occupation levels from LH I through LH IIB, contemporary with building D, have been traced over a substantial area. At least 2 rooms belong to a new LH II structure, building H, of which the full extent is yet unknown. At no point in LH I or LH II is it clear whether this was a single structure, as suggested by the 2005 geophysical survey, or whether it was always a cluster of structures. LH I–LH IIB architecture in the NW area consists of small rooms with thin rubble walls usually ca. 0.4–0.5m *w*. Exposed areas have a utilitarian character and show diverse craft activities in both LH I and LH II. The most important was purple dye manufacture (LH I–LH IIB). Other activities were stone tool production (LH I) and lead working (LH IIB). In LH I, animals of different kinds, including deer, were slaughtered and prepared on or around a platform in an open area in trench LE792. The presence of high-quality fine tableware in the same levels suggests the presence of a well-appointed residential area somewhere nearby. A special find is the horse bridle piece from the Balkans in a LH I destruction level (**Fig. 67**).



65. Mitrou: excavated part of the impression of an EH III/MH I disintegrated wooden boat



66. Mitrou: balloon photo of NE excavation area

Following the LH IIIA2E fire destruction in the NE area, a reoccupation level of unknown extent is identified in building F and at least a partial resurfacing of the pebble street immediately adjacent to it and further N.

A new discovery in 2007 was an LH IIIC L occupation stratum in the NE area, including reoccupation of building F and new structures, buildings C and G. Poorer quality construction and a preference for sunken floors continue into EPGeo and MPGeo (building A).

After the LH IIIC L occupation (but possibly still within LH IIIC), the NE area, except for building B, became a burial ground for cist and pit graves. Most burials were disturbed and found empty, but some had pottery vessels, including a small EPGeo tripod cauldron in cist grave 42. Other finds are pins, faience and shell beads for one or more necklaces, and a tiny gold spacer bead.



67. Mitrou: horse bridle piece from the Balkans

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The EPGeo construction date of the first architectural phase of apsidal building A is confirmed, along with the MPGeo date of the 2nd, and a clear picture was obtained of the reuse of the apsidal area of building A as a courtyard of building E. Activities carried out in this courtyard included purple dye manufacture. A pithos had been sunk into the level of the courtyard for reasons unknown.

Proerna acropolis. Completion of work to conserve and present the acropolis area to the public, funded by the Third Community Support Framework, is marked by the publication of the booklet *The Acropolis of Proerna. Neo Monastiri in Phthiotis* (Lamia, Ministry of Culture/14th EPCA, 2007), describing the monuments of all periods and with updated plans.

Byz Museum of Phthiotis (Hypati). A new museum guide is published in Gr and English editions: D. Zapheiropoulou, Βυζαντινό Μουσείο Φθιώτιδας (Athens, TAPA, 2007).

THESSALY

Nomos of Magnesia
(13th EPCA: 7th EBA)

Spartia-Latomeio (Sesklo). *To Vima*, *Kathimerini* (08/09/07), and *Archaiologia* 104 (2007), 104 cite (with illustration) a report by A. Doulgeri-Intzesiloglou (Director, 13th EPCA) and E. Stamelou (13th EPCA) on the study of finds from a small sanctuary on the hill of Spartia, including part of a rectangular (3m x 4 m) stone altar with much burnt animal bone. The discovery was made in 1999, but systematic study of the material has only now begun. Many Ar dedications were found in deposits marked by stone cairns around the altar, including iron weapons and tools, figurines, lead objects, many bronzes, including vessels and spearheads, the arm of a marble statue and much pottery. An Ar dedicatory inscription (retrograde, in local script) from one Telefilos to Herakles on a bronze bowl confirms the identity of the cult. Hel pottery and a lamp, plus a coin of Histiaia (3rd Ct BC–146 BC) combined with stratigraphical evidence indicate that the altar, as preserved, is a Hel construction within an earlier cult area. Epigraphical evidence of this period from Pherai refers to this sanctuary. Excavation here in 1911 by A. Arvanitopoulos produced, in addition to Neo remains, similar votives plus roof tiles. Arvanitopoulos inferred the existence of a 5th–4th Ct temple with a predecessor contemporary with the Ar votives (now confirmed by terracotta metopes and geison). Renewed excavation on the hill top also produced Neo pottery and stone tools, plus Ot pottery and tile. The strategic importance of this region, through which passed the road between Pherai and Pagasai, is emphasized. Presentation of the results of the new excavations at the 5th International Conference, *Pherai – Velestino – Rigas*, 4–7th October 2007, is reported (editor's note: this conference is usually published promptly and in full).

Volos. *Ethnos* and *Eleutherotypia* (26/04/07) cite V. Sismani-Adrymi in describing plans to roof the 15th–14th Ct BC tholos tomb at Kazanaki close to Dimini, after rainfall led a block bearing 7 Linear B characters to become dislodged. These inscriptions describe the number of those buried within (4 adults and 3 children). A sample of gold from a bead necklace has been sent to the Louvre for analysis of its provenance, with much speculation that it may have come from Colchis. *Ethnos* and *Eleutherotypia* (22/02/08) further report on the question of the gold: first results of the analyses indicate that it came from a riverine deposit. Further tests, to compare with gold from Georgia, are awaited.

Volos, Episkopi. P. Androudis (*DeltChAE* 28 [2007], 85–98) publishes the architecture and sculptural decoration of the Byz Church of the Dormition. The original (ca. 13th Ct AD) church was probably a variant on the cruciform type: only the E wall survived rebuilding in 1639. The lower of 2 layers of wall-painting may date to the E16th Ct AD. The E and N fronts are richly decorated with anc. Gr and Byz spolia, among them reliefs from the sculptural decoration of the Byz katholikon of the Monastery of St John the Baptist at Portaria.

Mount Pelion. N.H. Andreasen (DAI) and A. Darlas (EPSVE) report on the 2nd season of the **Pelion Cave Project**.

Work in 2007 was focused S and E of Volos (municipalities of Milies, Artemida, Agria, Portaria, Makrinitsa and Volos), and on the Pelion foothills around Lake Karla (municipality of Karla). The main objective was to conclude the survey on the W part of the mountain. Seventy-five localities were surveyed (54 rock shelters, 20 caves and one artificial cave) and some localities surveyed in 2006 revisited.

The dense vegetation covering most of Mt Pelion (except the foothills around Lake Karla) leaves many caves and shelters unknown except to some local residents. Thus mod. rubbish and casual visitors do not impact noticeably on the material record left by the original users. There was a general low-level scatter of archaeological material on the surface of one third of the localities examined. Two hundred and eighty artefacts were collected from 24 caves and rockshelters, 5 of which had been visited and searched in 2006. This underlines how visibility can change from one season to another due to alterations in vegetation cover or disturbance of surface sediments. Pottery formed the numerically largest artefact group and was also the most frequently encountered artefact type**.** Half of the localities have an associated built structure, often a stone wall which confines an area in front of the cave. Some of these walls were very well constructed and reflect significant expenditure of effort. Direct evidence of repair or modification is rare.

Two archaeologists were employed to gather ethnographic and ethno-historical data related to husbandry practices and other cave uses with regard to their cultural and socio-economic contexts. Semi-structured interviews with local informants as well as informal conversations in the field generated a wealth of information. Varying degrees of ethnographic information were obtained for about one third of the caves and rock shelters located; indeed, some of these features were located exclusively by using the accounts and guidance of informants.

The rock outcrops in most of the research area are mainly schists with marble intercalations. Although areas of karstic limestone/marble are likely to hold more caves, we have numerous examples of shelters and caves in areas dominated by schists. Caves from different altitudes up to about 1,000masl (and particularly below 600masl) are well represented. There were not equally detailed site-specific ethnographic data for caves or shelters on the upper part of the mountain from 1,000masl to its highest point at 1,624masl. This arises to some extent from the fact that the environmental carrying capacity drops at altitudes above 1,000masl. Consequently, human activity is more limited than on the lower slopes and there are fewer roads or paths.

Our results show that in the vicinity of regularly used areas, localities and travel routes in the landscape nearly all rock shelters and caves have been used. One such example is a

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