NATIONAL MUSEUMS and GENERAL

National Archaeological Museum

Kathimerini, Eleftherotypia and *Ta Nea* (11/05/2006) report on the new exhibits at the museum, where 2,290 objects once kept in the storerooms are now on public display in new cases. Particularly noteworthy are the additions to the Egyptian galleries (400 objects), the glass collections (250 objects), the new terracotta galleries (600 objects, dating from Geo to Rom times), the C collections (160 objects) and the Vlastou collection (640 objects of Geo to Rom date, including fine examples of Cl wg pyxides and gold jewellery).

Epigraphic Museum

Eleftherotypia (01/11/2006) reports on an exhibition of Spartan inscriptions relating to the Peloponnesian war of the 5th Ct BC. One inscription consists of two fragments joined in 2006; the first fragment of which was found in 1730, the second in 1987. The reconstructed inscription has been brought to the Epigraphic Museum from Sparta; it refers to communities and individuals who 'sponsored' (i.e. gave contributions towards) the Spartan war effort. This inscription is to travel to New York, where it will form part of the 'Sparta-Athens' exhibition.

Private Collections

Maria Kazanaki-Lappa (Ephoreia of Private Collections) provides a report (*ADelt B Chron* 54 [1999], 1033–43) of several collections which have been exhibited, published or simply reported. Highlights include: of the 23 anc. objects in the collection of George and Anna McCabe, a 6th Ct BC bf amphora showing the birth of Athena (unattributed), the body of a bronze Rom statue of a horseman and a Cl (5th Ct BC) bronze hydria; of the 123 anc. objects in the collection of Socrates Kalkanis, several marble torsos and one head of Hel or Rom date; a 4th Ct BC funerary stele in the possession of Michael Erginos; a Rom inscribed stele in the possession of Alexandra Mylonas; and another in the possession of Demetrios Sakelion. Paul and Maria-Smaragda Apostolides reported 177 objects bought in Cyprus, dating from BA to Cl times, and Konstantinos Politis exhibited an EBA (EC) vase, among other objects. The principal piece of the eight objects owned by Theodoros Aravanis is a L4th Ct rf krater. Demetrios-Alain Nikolaidis-Nicolas reported 81 objects of Ar to Rom date. Theodoros Samourkas exhibited an Ar helmet of Cor type and six Myc vases of LH IIIA2–IIIC date. Finally, Vasiliki Sophianou owns a MGeo II pyxis. Many Byz objects, principally icons, in these collections are also noted.

Conservation works

A general report has been published: Λαμπρινουδάκης, Β. (ed.) *Το έργο των Επιστημονικών Επιτροπών αναστήλωσης, συντήρησης και ανάδειζης μνημείων* (Athens, Ministry of Culture, Finance Management Fund for Archaeological Projects 2006).

ATHENS (1st EBA)

Central Athens (1st EPCA)

Acropolis. *Ta Nea* (11/04/2006) reports on recent restoration of two Ionic capitals which crown two of the columns of the internal colonnade on the **Propylaia**.

Ta Nea, Eleftherotypia and *To Vima* (02/08/2006) report on the restoration of the 5th Ct **Temple of Athena Nike** by Kallikrates. Once completed in 2008, the structure will include fragments brought from the National Museum, will be higher than previously, the pediment being largely restored on the E face but not the W.

Eleftherotypia and *To Vima* (27/07/2006) report on the decision by KAS (the Central Archaeological Council) to conserve the 'house' *(oikos*) of the *Arrephoroi* (the so-called **Arrephorion**) which lies along the N wall of the Acropolis by burying it under soil. This Ar–Cl structure, excavated by Kavvadias and Kawerau at the end of the 19th Ct, is thought to be where two Athenian maidens (*Arrephoroi)* wove the peplos of Athena.

Theatre of Dionysos and Asklepion. A report on the conservation work is now available: Greece, Committee for the Theatre and Shrine of Dionysos, Asklepieion on the Acropolis South Slope, *Restoration works 2002–2005. Εργασίες αποκατάστασης 2002–2005 / Επιτπόπή Θεάτρου και Ιερού του Διονύσου – Ασκληπιείου, Νοτίου κλιτύος Ακροπόλεως* (Athens, Ministry of Culture, Finance Management Fund for Archaeological Projects 2006, Greek and English editions).

Roman Agora. *To Vima, Eleftherotypia, Kathimerini* and *Ta Nea* (24/10/2006) report on the discovery of a head (0.31m *h*.) in Pentelic marble from a statue of the Emperor Hadrian, on exhibition at the **Vailer** building (see Makrigianni below).

Anc. **Agora**. *To Vima* (25/07/2006) reports on events celebrating 75 years of American excavations in the Agora, and the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the Stoa of Attalos. *Ethnos* (23/05/2006) reports on the techniques used by the ASCSA director, Professor Steve Tracy, to date inscriptions using precise mathematical principles.

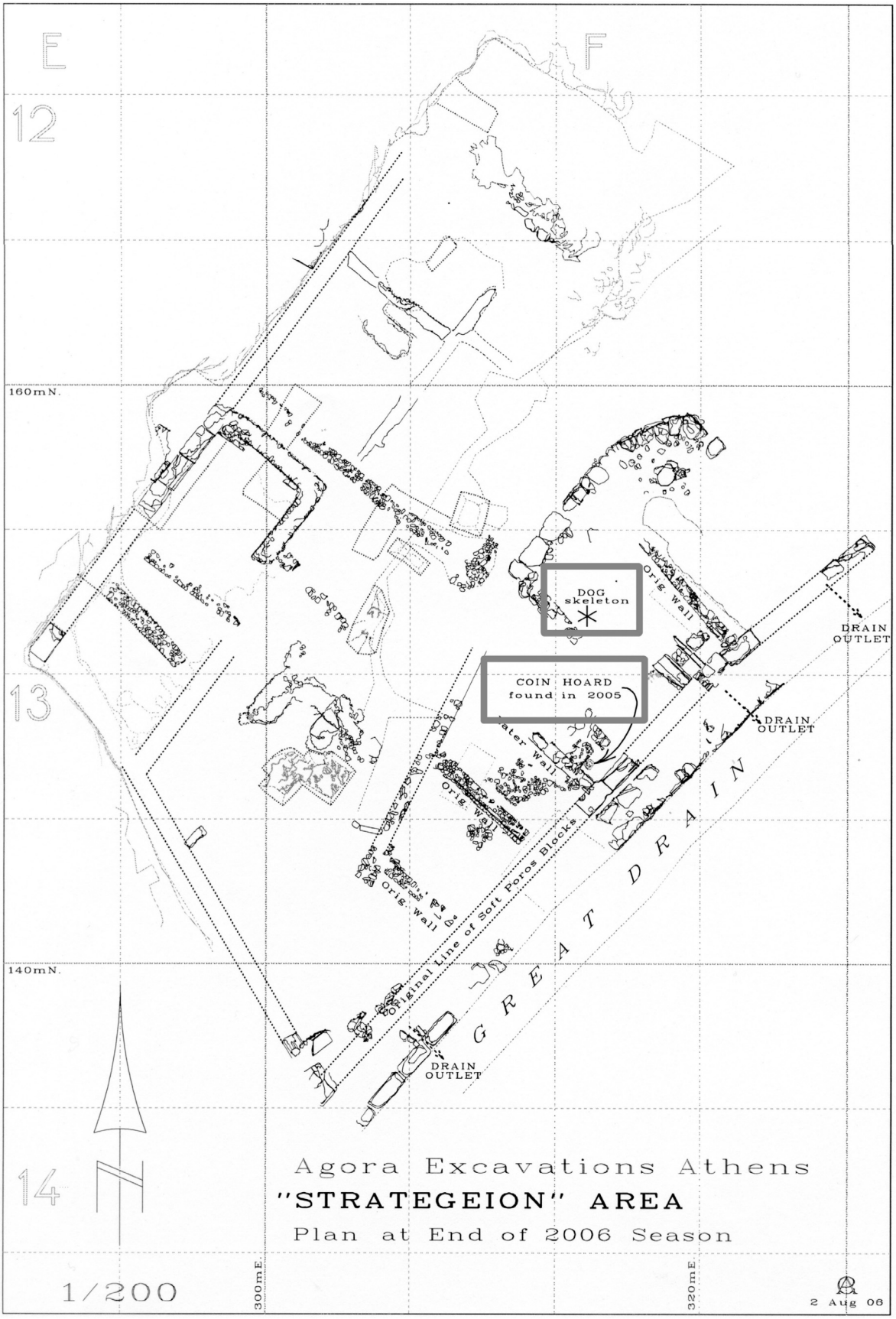
Professor John Camp (ASCSA, Agora director) reports on the 2006 season of excavation.

In the course of the past winter, three of the four mod. buildings acquired in recent years were demolished, and the fourth is about ready to come down. Excavation in one of the new plots was begun this season as part of Section BH. Otherwise our efforts were concentrated on two areas excavated last year: NW of the agora and in the old excavations at the SW corner of the square (**Fig. 1**).

In this area S of the Tholos we continued to explore the remains of the building often identified as the Strategeion, or office of the generals. The discovery last year of a hoard of about 400 silver tetradrachms threw more doubt on that identification, already called into question by the discovery years ago of a pyre in the building. Fifty of the 51 known pyres are found in houses or commercial buildings, never in sanctuaries or public buildings, with this one possible exception. In addition, hiding 1,600 drachmas in a public office, while conceivable, seems somewhat unlikely, and the hoard, like the pyre, perhaps points to a commercial function for the building.

Excavations this season concentrated on the E half of the building and were very productive, especially in terms of architecture. The W half, explored last year, was cut into the base of the Kolonos Agoraios hill, leaving virtually no floor fills and only the slightest traces of interior walls. The E half, by contrast, had deep fills to be investigated, and considerable new information about the plan of the building emerged. Three new crosswalls were encountered, along with a stretch of the wall which separates the E rooms from the rest of the building. While the exterior walls are made of large ashlar blocks of poros, the interior walls are of small fieldstones, set in clay, some 0.40–0.45m *w*., resting on shallow foundations

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400000041 Published online by Cambridge University Press



1. Athens: plan of section Γ of the agora excavation

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400000041 Published online by Cambridge University Press

some 0.60m *w*. In addition, several terracotta drains were recovered; these carried water eastward through the E wall of the building to empty into the great drain. The mixed construction of the walls and the drains leading out of individual rooms are both paralleled in the commercial buildings being excavated behind the Painted Stoa in Sections BZ and BE and add their weight to the accumulating evidence that we should interpret the building as commercial, either public or private, rather than as an official public office building. In one of the N rooms we encountered a patch of plaster floor and beneath that a thick layer composed of almost nothing but marble working chips, of the sort found overlying most of the 'State Prison', which also may be better understood as a commercial building.

Pottery found in the fill beneath the floor levels confirms a date in the 1st half of the 5th Ct BC for the original construction of the building. Deep in this fill we found the articulated, tightly-flexed skeleton of a mid-sized arthritic dog.

In section BZ, W of the road, we excavated in various fills. Removing the bottom of a large round tile-floored cistern, we came down on a smaller one, immediately below. From the pottery, both seem to date to the 10th Ct AD and later. Further W, we excavated fills alongside a large water line associated with the bath in use in the area in the 2nd and 3rd Cts AD, and closer to the road we cleared more of a pebble Hel mosaic. Deep down to the N we uncovered what seems to be yet another EHel pyre.

Within the road itself, we cleared more of the L water channels, particularly in the N. A second full section of the lead pipe was exposed, measuring, like the first, 2.10m *l*. In addition, a second lead pipe, of smaller diameter, was found at a slightly lower level. The big L drain running along the E side of the road was also more fully exposed. It shows signs of repeated repairs, with a variety of materials used to cover the actual channel, including amphorae and wall-tiles. Some of the amphorae date to the 5th Ct AD, as do a pair of intact lamps, including one with a Ch cross (**Fig. 2**).

E of the road, we reached depths sufficient to bring to light earlier walls. Some of these seem to indicate the Cl commercial building, investigated to the S several years ago, continued this far N. Within what should be one of the rooms of the building we recovered two more pyres buried beneath the floors of the building (**Fig. 3**). One, with a coin associated, seemed to date to the E3rd Ct BC, while the other, found lower down, seems only slightly earlier. They increase the number of pyres found in this building to ten, by far the largest single concentration from anywhere in the Agora. Their purpose and meaning is still being studied by Susan Rotroff. Further N, where we cleared along a substantial wall of poros blocks, we recovered two silver drachmas (**Fig. 4**). Just to the S we exposed what looks very much like the upper part of a collapsed, probably Hel cistern; its full excavation will have to be undertaken next year. Behind the building we recovered a fair amount of Hel pottery (**Fig. 5**) and from ERom levels around the building we recovered many more fragments of terracotta figurines and masks. E of the building we also excavated Ar layers at elevations higher than floor levels within the Cl building, suggesting that it was set into a slightly rising slope.

Section BH (**Fig. 6**) was expanded to the E, following the demolition of the mod. building at the corner of St Philip's and Hastings Streets this past winter, and we began at a level



2. Athens: agora, pair of intact LRom–EByz lamps



3. Athens: agora, Hel pyre deposit

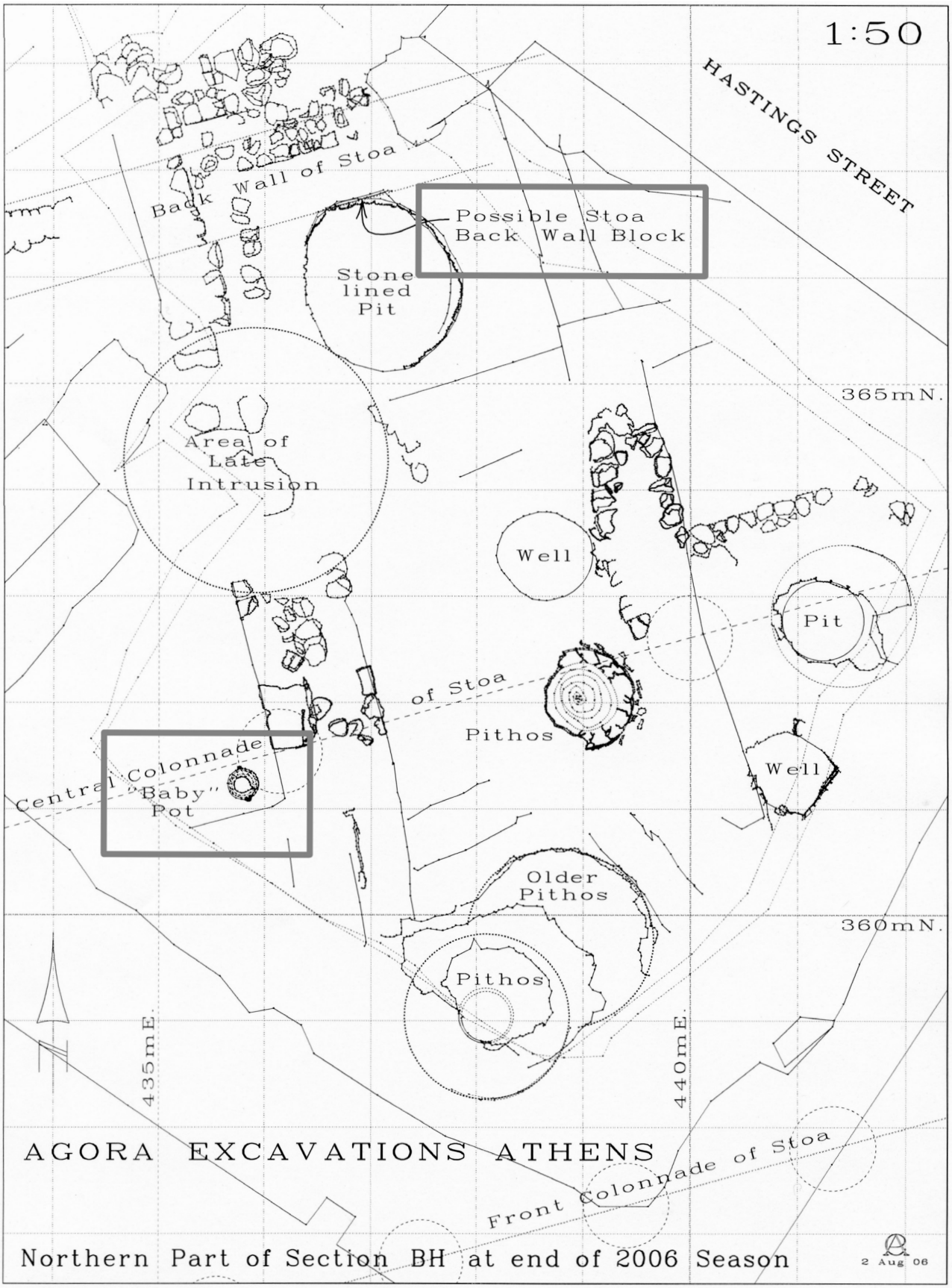


4. Athens: agora, Hel silver drachma



5. Athens: agora, Hel Megarian bowl

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400000041 Published online by Cambridge University Press



6. Athens: agora, plan of section BH in 2006

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400000041 Published online by Cambridge University Press

beneath the mod. basement floor. In a relatively small area we had an abundance of features: walls, pithoi, pits, a burial and two wells. Generally what we recovered seemed to date to the period familiar to us from the adjacent areas: the coarse-ware pottery and brown-glazed pieces are hard to date precisely, but most of the material should date to the years around 1,000 AD. For the most part we excavated beneath the floor levels of the buildings, presumably houses. Large pithoi were encountered, both stone-lined and mortared pits and large ceramic vessels, set with their mouths at floor level. In the corner of one room we found a coarse-ware cooking pot with the skeletal remains of a foetus of about 32 weeks, also buried beneath the floor. This is the second such internment found in the Byz settlement N of the river, and may be the accepted manner of disposing of such remains in this period.

Two wells were excavated to a *d.* of 2.00–3.00m. Both are lined in the upper part with stones, and with proper well-tiles lower down. Both seem to have been used in the Byz period, and it is not yet clear if either was in use at an earlier time. A large stone-lined pit was excavated down to a very hard-packed surface which seems to have served as its floor. In its NW quadrant, the pit incorporated a poros block which seems to rest on this same surface. From the orientation and elevation it seems entirely possible that the block and perhaps the surface can be associated with the E part of the Stoa Poikile, just within its N wall, though far more excavation will be necessary before this hypothesis can be confirmed.

Agora publication. A further volume is published: Rotroff, S.I., *Hellenistic Pottery: The Plain Wares. The Athenian Agora: Results of Excavations Conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens* Vol. 33 (Princeton, N.J., ASCSA 2006).

S of the Acropolis, Makrigianni plot (site of new Acropolis Museum). *To Vima, Eleftherotypia, Kathimerini* (04/07/2006) and *Eleftherotypia* (02/07/2006) report on the exhibition at the **Vailer building** of finds from excavations at this plot. These include an assemblage of LRom amphorae and jugs from a well; lamps, one of the 1st Ct BC with an erotic scene; a LRom (4th–5th Ct AD) spoon; an ERom gaming die; coins; marble heads; and an assemblage of black-glaze EHel tableware (plates, cups and jugs).

Kathimerini, *Ta Nea*, *To Vima* and *Eleftherotypia* (20/10/2006) add further details, particularly on the abundant evidence for religious syncretism and the worship of 'foreign gods' found here and in other areas S of the Acropolis. These include a fragment of a small statue of Isis; the belly of a (Rom?) statue of Ephesian Artemis in white marble, *h.* 9cm; the top half of a Rom (1st Ct AD) statue of Zeus Heliopolites (Zeus of Baalbek), 0.7m *h.*; and a complete Rom (2nd–3rd Ct AD) statue of Isis Panthea, 0.6m *h.*, showing the attributes of several other deities (the *aegis* of Isis-Athena, the snake of Hygeia, the roses of Aphrodite, the ivy leaves of Dionysos and the sun-disk of Helios).

To Vima, *Eleftherotypia*, *Kathimerini* and *Ta Nea* (24/10/2006) report on the discovery of several fine marble Rom portrait heads of the 2nd Ct AD. These include the head in Thasian marble of the philosopher Aristotle, 0.46m *h.*, from an over life-sized statue estimated to be 2.1m *h.*, clearly of the same (Lysippean?) type as two examples from Rome; and the head of a bearded young man found in the **Plateia Lysikratous**, 0.34m *h.*, interpreted as a priest of Dionysos.

CENTRAL ATHENS (3rd EPCA)

Mets, Sanctuary of Artemis Agrotera. *Eleftherotypia* (15/12/2006) provides the latest bulletin on this saga (see *AR* 51 [2004–2005], 6; *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 8). Questions have now been asked in the *Vouli* (Greek Parliament) about what can only be described as the neglect of this site.

Aristotle's Lyceum. *Ethnos* (23/10/2006) reports on recent suggestions to incorporate this site within the National Gardens.

Monastiraki, metro station. *Eleftherotypia* (05/03/2007) reports on the excavation of the Rom (Hadrianic) vaulted channel for the Eridanos river uncovered here. Other finds include the Byz church of **Panagia tis Pantanassas**.

Kerameikos/Votanikos. First *Kathimerini* and *Eleftherotypia* (24/05/2006) and later *Ethnos* and *To Vima* (13/09/2006) provide further reports on the pathological study of skeletons from the so-called 'plague pit' at the corner of the Iera Odos and O. Peiraios (see *AR* 52 [2004–2005], 10). These skeletons are among the 87 individuals known to have been buried in this pit, excavated in 1994–1995, which may have contained as many as 130 individuals, whose rapid and informal burial indicates that they may have been victims of the so-called 'plague' of 430–428 BC described by Thucydides (2.49–54). The pit itself forms part of a much larger cemetery, dating from the 7th Ct BC until Rom times, where 1,191 individuals are known to have been buried. Pathological study and DNA analysis of the teeth from these three skeletons (one of an eleven year old girl) suggests that they died of typhoid fever – suggesting in turn that Pericles and many other Athenians must have died of this disease.

ATTIKA

A general study of Attic **epigraphy** has been published: Μπαρδάνη, Β.Ν., *Συμπλήρωμα τών επιτυμβίων μνημείων της Αττικής*. The Archaeological Society at Athens Library 241 (Athens, Η έν Αθήναις Αρχαιολογική Εταιρεία, 2006).

WESTERN ATTIKA AND THE MEGARID (3rd EPCA; 1st EBA)

Aigaleos/Iera Odos. *Ethnos* (07/02/2007) notes the finds, including fifteen anc. wells, that have come to light during the construction of the third Metro line. At Plateia Estavromenou in Aigaleo a 30m stretch of the anc. Iera Odos, with retaining walls, was revealed. Nearby, at the entrance to the new Aigaleos metro station, a double pyramidal structure can in future be viewed under a perspex cover (see also *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 11). Nearby, at the Geoponiki well, another 9.3m stretch of the Iera Odos, with eight successive layers dating from Cl to LRom times, can be seen. At the well of Prophitis Daniel an anc. apothetis, beside another 10m stretch of the Iera Odos, contained numerous Eleusinian kernoi and other finds indicating the cult of Demeter, Kore, Athena Moria and Poseidon Phytalmios. Near the Elaionas metro station (see *AR* 51 [2004–2005], 8) the foundations of a bridge over the Kephisos abut remains of Hel workshops, part of a Hel cemetery (including a funerary peribolos).

Cape Pounta, Gulf of the Halkyonides (Corinthian Gulf). A. Dellaporta (EMA) reports (*ADelt B Chron* 54 [1999], 1025) the discovery of storage vessels, an open vessel and LRom amphorae at a *d.* of 19m. It is not yet clear whether this represents a LRom wreck site.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400000041 Published online by Cambridge University Press