located on the SW, ca. 12m x 5m and up to 1.5m *h.*, with a depression in the top. To the E of this is an elongated feature running SW-NE, with a distinct circular depression in the E side: this feature reaches the high point of the ridge and meets the stone feature on the E end of the N part of the site. Taken together, it is possible to see these stone features as towers and strong points joined into a rudimentary defensive circuit, ca. 40m^2. This cannot have been a true castle, as the high point of the ridge is left outside anything that can be considered part of the fortifications. Furthermore, all the construction is in dry-stone technique, which is not appropriate for any significant Ven fortification. It may rather be a local attempt to provide a place of concealment and safety from Ot raids after the sack of Palaiochora in 1537 (noting the local petition to Venice for assistance in 1543).

Antikythera

Anc. Aigilia. *Ethnos* (20/11/08) cites a report by A. Tsaravopoulos (26th EPCA) of excavation and cleaning of the Hel fortifications.

CORINTHIA

(37th EPCA: 25th EBA)

Isthmia. E. Gebhard (ASCSA/Chicago) reports.

Further study of the Ar temple (F. Hemans) confirmed the elevation of the floors of the pteron and the top of the stylobate. What had been considered to be a step at the SE corner of the façade in fact belongs to a foundation for the stylobate. The circular base interpreted as supporting the marble perirrhanterion at the NE pteron bears evidence of being set into the floor before being finished, and the floor was evidently laid at the same time against it. The monument is contemporary with the construction of the temple. The same may be true of an iron tripod of the 7th Ct BC, the feet of which were found *in situ* adjacent to the perirrhanterion base.

Study of the distribution of LAr and Cl cooking wares (M. Risser, B. Cheney and E. Michael) shows that roasting and boiling of sacrificial meat generally took place in different parts of the sanctuary, with some meat roasted at the altar and the remainder boiled in proximity to the communal feast. Some stewpots and covered serving platters from the reservoir (Large Circular Pit) are unusually large, while vessels used for individual servings are slightly smaller than similar examples from domestic contexts in Corinth. Kotylai, skyphoi and one-handled cups may have fulfilled a dual function at the feast, used both as bowls for food and cups for wine.

Study of worked stone tools (I. Gatsov, P. Nadelzheva) nears completion: objects relate to food production (querns and other grinding stones) and construction (masons' floats and hammers), and also include gaming boards and a sun dial.

T. Gregory (ASCSA/Ohio) reports on a further study season on finds from the Rom bath, the area E of the temenos (East Field), and the Byz fortress. Conservation of the mosaics in the Rom bath continued, especially those in rooms VI and XII, as did the cleaning and stabilization of old trenches in the areas S of the Rom bath and E of the temenos. In the area of the Rom bath, a new series of doorways to the Cl bath was discovered, and a dry-stone wall constructed along the whole S side of the Rom bath.

Study of the anc. architectural blocks in the area of the so-called Hexamilion outworks, NE of the Rom bath, continued, with a pilot study for the use of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology for the location and detailed recording of these blocks in the field. Many previously unknown architectural pieces were identified, perhaps all from the same building. Thus 2 additional Doric epistyle-frieze blocks were identified, bringing the total of blocks of this type to 10.

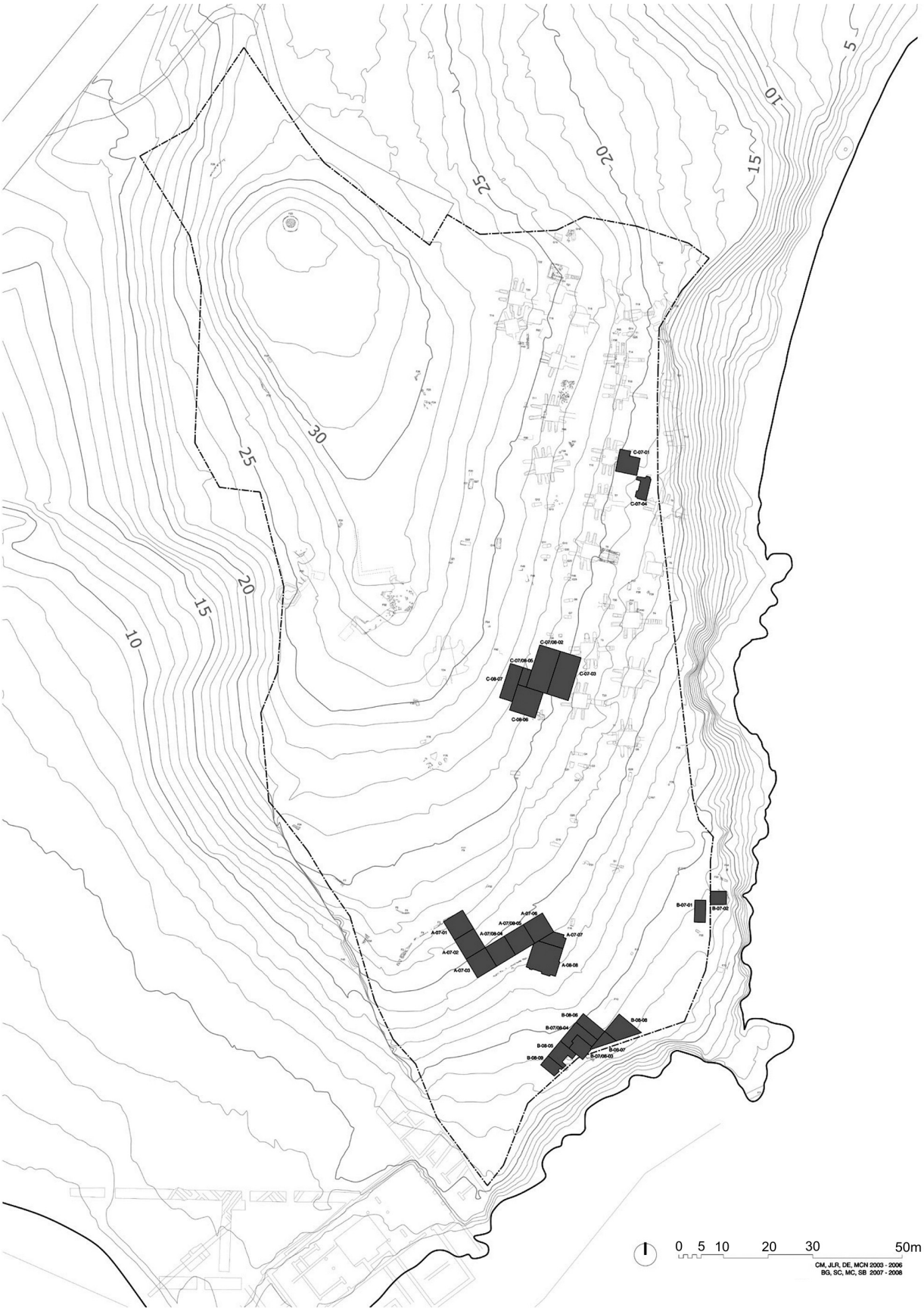
The removal of soil and landscaping of the area of the Hexamilion outworks, between the Rom bath and the Byz fortress, along the S side of the large ravine that runs from the centre of the Isthmus to the Saronic Gulf, resulted in the levelling of much of the soil E of the bath and S of the Hexamilion. In this operation, designed to open the area to visitors, the foundations of a large building (ca. 10m x 16m) of the 1st–2nd Ct AD were discovered. This building was entered through a doorway leading from the area NE of the Rom bath, and was connected in some way with the large E-W building(s) that lie essentially unexplored between the bath and the fortress.

Kenchreai. E. Korka (Ministry of Culture), J. Rife (ASCSA/Macalester College) and P. Kasimi (37th EPCA) report on a further season of excavation on the Koutsongila ridge N of the anc. harbour in the 3 major areas begun in 2007. Nine new trenches were opened and 5 distinct buildings explored (**Fig. 11**).

Area A is the open slope at the S end of Koutsongila, with a commanding view of the harbour (**Fig. 12**). Exploration focused on a substantial long wall and a rectangular building, first uncovered in 2007 (**Fig. 13**). A 6m *l.* stretch of a massive wall was uncovered, with a foundation of blocks and overlying rubble in irregular courses. Its purpose and date are uncertain, but against its W face is a dense deposit of large E–MRom sherds: thus the wall was constructed no later than the ERom period (1st–2nd Ct AD). Its plan, the associated stratigraphy and the absence of nearby walls all suggest that the structure was neither part of an enclosed building nor served to retain soil. It may have defined a significant space, for example to delimit settlement or trace a precinct. Excavation of the rectangular building (ca. 7.9m x 5.8m) was completed. Three walls on a prominent bedrock outcrop survive. These consist of a few recycled ashlar blocks and dense rubble set in a coarse mortar and finished on the interior with a fine white plaster. The S wall is poorly preserved, but the entrance seems to have been located in the SE corner, where 2 adjacent steps (one paved) were cut into the bedrock. This building had 3 main phases of use from the ERom to EByz periods. In its original form, starting in the 1st Ct AD, it had a circular pit at its centre (ca. 0.91m *di.* x 0.33m *d.*) and a low bench or platform along the back (N) wall. The pit might have held a large vessel or basin supported by struts in the manner of a tripod, or it might have been a firepit for a brazier that was later cleaned out. Together with the facing bench, it seems to indicate some ritual activity, such as ablutions or sacrifices. After this, perhaps in the 4th–5th Ct, a series of 5 low, parallel compartments oriented N-S (ca. 0.75–0.85m *w.*) were made across the middle of the building from strips of mortar and rubble. The presence of numerous human bones, lamps and coins, intermingled by later disturbance, suggests that these compartments contained multiple burials. In the 6th–7th Ct, cist graves (G46-48, G55, G56, G59) were dug around the edges of the dilapidated and plundered building. It is noteworthy that a conspicuous ERom building with a ritual function was converted to funerary use in LAntiquity, as the major cemetery to the N was apparently expanding S toward the harbour.

Area B is the low-lying area near the SE edge of Koutsongila where abundant structural remains were found in 2007 (**Fig. 14**). Two ERom buildings can be identified, or perhaps one large complex with 2 distinct wings, separated by a narrow

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11. Kenchreai, Koutsongila ridge.

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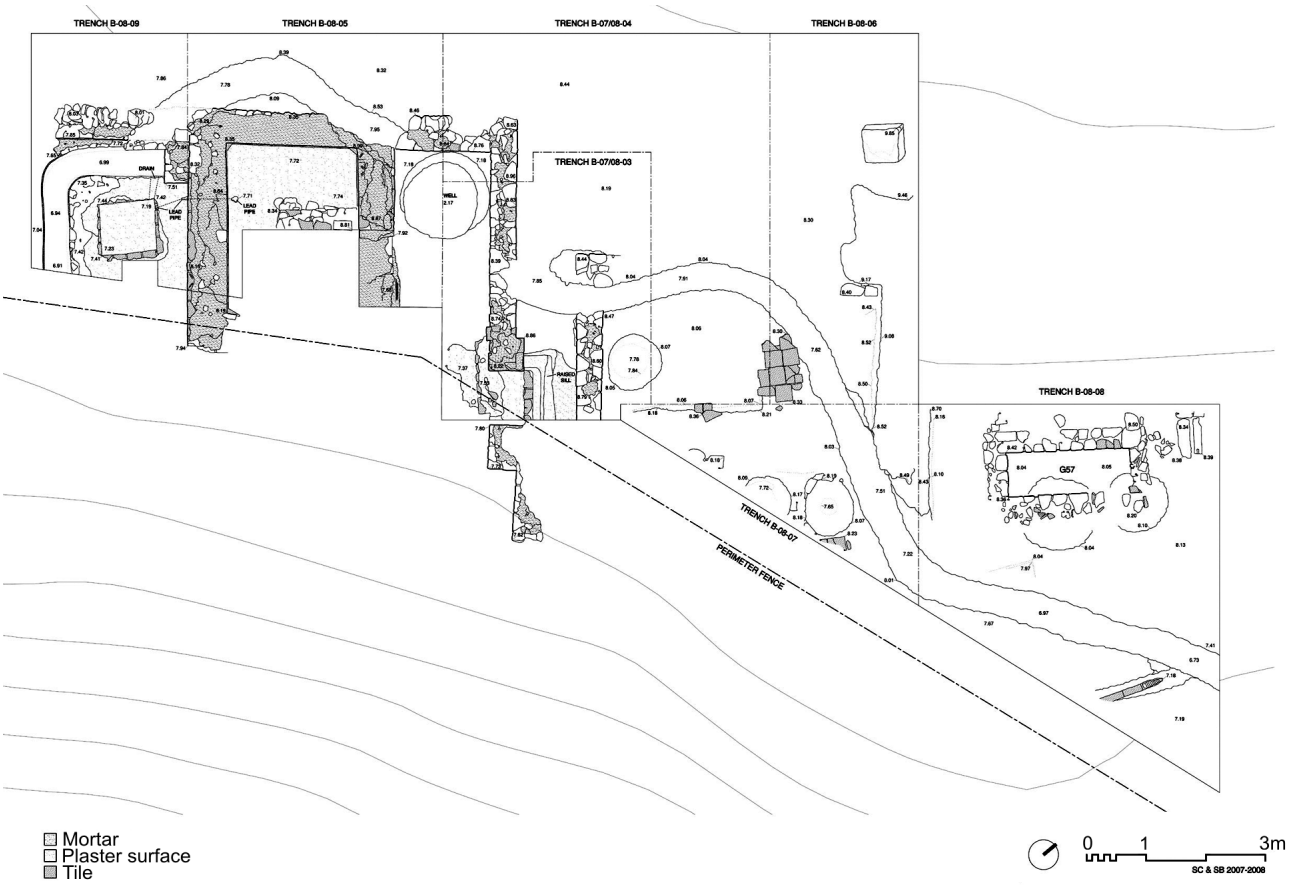


12. Kenchreai, Koutsongila ridge: area A.



13. Kenchreai, Koutsongila ridge: building in area A from NE.

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14. Kenchreai, Koutsongila ridge: area B.

passageway. They are situated on roughly the same axis as the complex (probably a seaside villa) which was excavated at the base of the N mole in the 1960s and share many structural features with it. Only the backs of the buildings have so far been excavated, so their size remains unknown, but they might have measured as much as 25–30m front to back, assuming that they extended all the way to the anc. cliff edge.

To the N was a large rectangular structure with irregular rubble walls, founded directly onto the bedrock outcrop and paved with uneven terracotta tiles (**Fig. 15**). Its most distinctive feature is a series of 5 almost conical pits thinly lined with plaster (ca. 0.86m *di.* and ca. 0.3m *d.*). These were probably either cuttings for large vessels (pithoi) or bothroi for storage. The pits, together with the overall appearance of the structure, point to a utilitarian or small-scale industrial function, such as a workshop or storage space. The relationship between this building and the one to the S is uncertain, but their proximity suggests that they were linked. The N building seems to have operated during the ERom period, but it remains unclear whether it was first used in the 1st or 2nd Ct. In contrast, the building to the S was opulent (**Figs 14, 16**). The walls were built from a mixture of fine brick masonry and irregular rubble. Fragments of painted plaster and moulded marble revetment in variegated colours and textures (**Fig. 17**) found throughout the building show that the walls had a decorative finish, while small tesserae in diverse colours come from the paved floor. Three rooms have been excavated. The northernmost is a narrow corridor with a well at the back. This well was filled to a *d.* of ca. 5m with structural and domestic debris, such as kitchen vessels and animal bones, which was apparently dumped when the building was cleaned after either a period of total disuse or an event of destruction, such as the major earthquake(s) that struck the region in the L4th Ct. To the S is a finely constructed water tank with a lead pipe in the SW corner draining into the 3rd space to the S, which has a central basin surrounded by a channel. The small scale of these hydraulic features, and the frequent presence of kitchen vessels and faunal remains, indicate that this is a private, rather than a large public, bathing facility, within a larger house. It appears to have been built and first used during the E–MRom periods (ca. 1st–3rd Ct), but may also have had a LRom phase.

Area C is located in the heart of the cemetery, W of tombs 3 and 23, where 2 wheelruts and 16 LRom–EByz cist graves had been uncovered. Excavation of the Southwest Building, an ERom above-ground chamber tomb, was completed. This rectangular building (ca. 6.2m x 5.8m) had ashlar foundations set into bedrock and walls of brick in even courses finished with white plaster. Inside, the N wall had a bench cut from bedrock and the S wall a bench built from large slabs. In the middle W area of the floor, which was finished with mortar, cuttings may indicate the presence of altars. The rock-cut cist in the N bench (G50) reveals that the building was used for burial. However, the Southwest Building had collapsed in a single event during the M2nd Ct (or later) before it was filled with burials. The tomb was never rebuilt and the ashlar foundations were robbed, but during LAntiquity (as late as the 6th Ct) simple cist graves were created in the destruction debris and the robbed foundation trenches (G53, G58, G60).

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Investigation of the loculi inside tomb 7 was completed. These contained the remains of at least 37 individuals of all ages who had been buried during the L1st–3rd Ct. The numerous funerary artefacts represented types well-known from other tombs on Koutsongila: glass vessels, coins, earrings and finger rings, bone pins and lamps. Since tomb 7 seems to have received less attention from looters than many other chambers on Koutsongila, it will provide especially good evidence for reconstructing funerary rituals.

Important observations derive from these discoveries concerning social structure, topography and settlement history at Rom Kenchreai. First, the wealth implied by decorative art in the buildings of area B, as well as in the richest of the chamber tombs, reflects the great prosperity of local élites. The high quality of the wall-painting, marble sculpture and mosaic paving on Koutsongila compares with the finest instances from Rom Corinth. Moreover, we continue to find artefacts, particularly vessels and coins, that reveal the port's E connections. Secondly, the small ERom building with a ritual function in area A might indicate the presence of a sanctuary or demarcate the S limit of the cemetery. Thirdly, the above-ground tomb in area C is the first of its type found on Koutsongila. Its situation just W of the wheelruts shows that this main road into the harbour was flanked by impressive tombs. Finally, evidence for burial activity across the ridge until the L6th or 7th Ct proves that the port settlement survived into EByz times, but apparently contracted S toward the harbour.

Eastern Korinthia Archaeological Survey (EKAS). T. Gregory (ASCSA/Ohio) and D. Pullen (ASCSA/Florida) report the documentation of 2 LCl–Hel towers and a rubble fortification in the immediate vicinity of Lychnari bay, E of Almyri.

Anc. Corinth. G. Sanders (ASCSA) reports on continued excavation in the area S of the South Stoa where H. Robinson had revealed a complex of Med and post-Med houses in the early 1960s (**Fig. 18**).

Work concentrated on 7 rooms and the courtyard of a Byz house, in which successive beaten earth floors were removed to expose the foundation trenches of the original walls (**Fig. 19**). The house consists of 9 rooms and a central courtyard. Two rooms flank a corridor leading from the entrance on Lechaion Road South to the court. The remainder flank the courtyard. The complex was supplied with water from a well in the court.



15. Kenchreai, Koutsongila ridge: N building in area B, from NW.



16. Kenchreai, Koutsongila ridge: S building in area B, from NW.

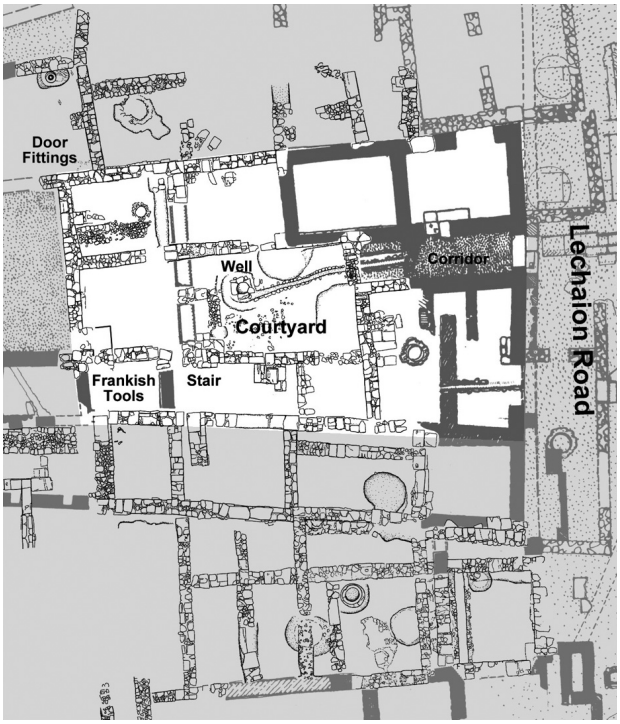


17. Kenchreai, Koutsongila ridge: marble revetment with pilaster capitals from the S building.

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18. Corinth: Med and post-Med houses S of the South Stoa.



19. Corinth: 2008 excavations, Byz house.

On the S side of the courtyard, a stair ascended to a veranda and upper storey over the SE 3 rooms. The house was built in the 2nd half of the 11th Ct and remained occupied for 2 centuries. In the 13th Ct, the W range of rooms was assimilated into a property standing to the W, while the E part of the house continued in independent use. Three spaces produced significant metal finds (**Fig. 20**). The SW room, a semi-basement, had an assemblage of Fr tools including a scythe, a knife, an axe-hammer and a spear point. Beneath the stair ascending to the 2nd storey were a Byz ladle or lamp, an adze-hammer and a keyhole plaque. Outside and to the NW was a dump of iron door fittings, including parts of lock mechanisms and keyhole plaques.

The house provides a valuable complement to the Fr complex excavated by C.K. Williams S of the museum in the 1990s and has parallels in the upper strata of the Stoa Poikile in the Athenian Agora. The Med house will be conserved and will remain exposed as an example of a Byz domicile at Corinth.

Stymphalos. H. Williams (Canadian Institute/British Columbia) reports on continuing study of the pottery, lamps and figurines from the 1994–2005 excavations, and on the preparation of an exhibition for the new 19th Ct folk-life museum being built by the Piraeus Bank Foundation near the lake. In June 2009, deep cores were drilled in and around the lake as part of a project to study the geomorphological history of the area. Taken with smaller cores recovered in 2007, these offer much promising material on the environmental history of the site through the past millennia.

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20. Corinth, Byz house: Fr tools from the SW room and lock mechanisms and keyhole plaques from the dump outside.

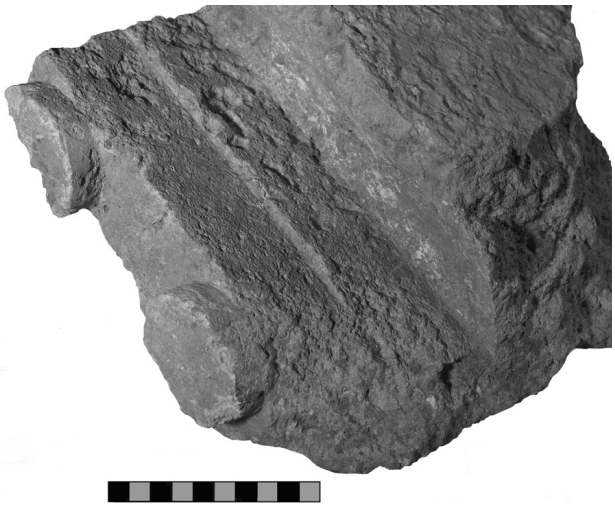
Nemea. K. Shelton (ASCSA/Berkeley) reports on the 2008 season of study and conservation at the Sanctuary of Zeus.

Work continued in the preparation of *Nemea IV: The Shrine of Opheltes*: a separate publication on the early stadium and the hippodrome is expected. Study continued for *Nemea X: Chronology* with the ongoing analysis and cataloguing of the major ceramic deposits. Sherds from deposits in grid squares, M12, N17, K14/15, L17, F18 and G18 were examined. An additional study was conducted on pottery from a votive deposit excavated by Blegen in 1925 to the E of the site.

At the Temple of Zeus, work continued on the foundations and krepidoma at the E end, especially the NE corner, and on restoration of the columns. Classification and registration of fragments of architectural sculpture continued, mostly from the Ar and LCl Temples of Zeus. Several larger fragments with preserved mutules and guttae retain some of the original painted decoration on the worn marble surface (**Fig. 21**).

Nemea, Agia Sotira cemetery. R.A.K. Smith (Canadian Institute/Brock), M.K. Dabney and J.C. Wright (Bryn Mawr College) report on the 2008 season of excavation in the LBA chamber-tomb cemetery on the hillside of Ag. Sotira, outside the village of Koutsomadi near anc. Nemea.

Newly-acquired land N of the field investigated in 2006 and 2007 (**Fig. 22**) was explored using ground-penetrating radar and magnetometry, with test trenches to investigate anomalies. No tombs were found. This was followed by an extensive programme of test trenching. Trenches were excavated E-W at ca. 4m intervals. A fissure at the NW limit of this area proved to be the collapsed chamber of tomb 6, making it possible to excavate both the chamber and the dromos simultaneously.



21. Nemea, Sanctuary of Zeus: block with guttae and preserved paint from the 4th Ct BC Temple of Zeus.



22. Nemea, Ag. Sotira: trench plan.

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The tomb had undergone multiple openings. Since in most cases the dromos was excavated down to the floor level of its previous use, only 2 major fill episodes are clearly visible. Pottery from the dromos included carinated kylix sherds. Excavation of the stomion correlated well with the various levels observed in the dromos. The lowest level, beneath the blocking wall, contained multiple thinly compressed floor levels, from which samples were taken for micromorphological analysis. Above these levels, it is apparent that the stomion was rebuilt during a secondary use of the tomb. The S side, facing the dromos, was set back, and the top of the E face of the doorway reconstructed with rubble masonry. This masonry continued into the chamber E of the stomion. It seems that during an opening of the tomb, the E side of the stomion and part of the SE portion of the chamber collapsed and were rebuilt. Evidence for this was preserved in stratified layers of humus and silt sloping down into the collapsed chamber from S to N. In associated levels, 2 vessels, preliminarily dated to the Geo period, were discovered above the stomion.

Excavation of the chamber revealed the interment of a minimum of 9 individuals with 14 ceramic vessels. On the floor was a layer of poorly preserved burials, including 2 primary and 3 secondary burials. In addition, a pit was discovered in the SW area of the chamber just W of the stomion; this contained 4 or 5 secondary burials. The bones in this pit were better preserved, and included 2 adults and 2 or 3 sub-adults or children. The ceramic vessels in the chamber were associated with the burials outside of the pit, and can be preliminarily dated from LHIIIA2 to LHIIIB2. They include stirrup jars, jugs, an alabastron and a flask dated to LHIIIB1. Organic residue analysis is in process, as is phytolith analysis from soil samples taken from the dromos, stomion and chamber.

Tomb 6 is similar to the other tombs discovered in this cemetery, which are very modest in terms of the wealth contained. The cemetery was most heavily used in LHIIIA2 and LHIIIB1, with some evidence for early activity in LHIIIA1, and it continued in use on a lesser scale into LHIIIB2. The cemetery was probably associated with the nearby settlement at Tsoungiza, and contained family tombs reused over generations. In tomb 6, the importance of continuity is emphasized by the fact that those who conducted burials here felt it important to reconstruct a tomb that had collapsed during its period of use.

Kleonai. T. Mattern (DAI/Marburg) and K. Kissas (Director, 37th EPCA) report on a collaborative pilot project to produce an inventory of remains in the immediate surroundings of the anc. city, through a combination of field survey of the area immediately to the S, recording of previously known sites and analysis of EPCA records. An initial overview of this evidence will be of value in its own right, as well as a tool to assist in coordinating the protection of archaeological monuments. Results include the identification of anc. roadways in the immediate vicinity of the city, some flanked by funerary monuments. Several extramural sanctuaries were located; they probably include Khan Kourtesa, S of the city, the location of a spring, a mod. church and several members of a monumental Doric structure, including part of a geison. Together with earlier discoveries of grave material in the immediate vicinity of the Khan, this suggests a locus of settlement here. To the NE of the Temple of Herakles, several architectural members may suggest a further extramural sanctuary, and S of the city wall there is evidence of dispersed settlement.

ARGOLID
(4th EPCA: 5th EBA)

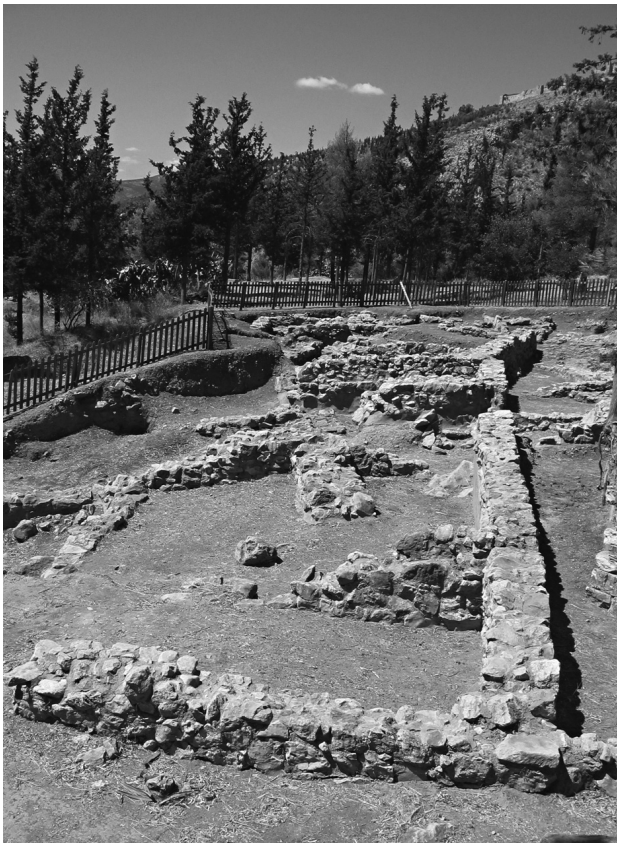
Lerna. M.H. Weincke (ASCSA) reports on a further study season.

Further to the ongoing studies and publications reported in 2007 (*AR* 54 [2007–2008], 25), C^{14} analysis of 10 bone samples from the fills of the shaft graves is underway and conservation of the metal objects in the Lerna storeroom has begun. A conservation plan for the walls of the House of the Tiles is being developed and study for a revised site display in Argos Museum has been undertaken: the first phase comprises the creation of a digital plan of Lerna.

Argos, Aspis. G. Touchais (EfA/Paris 1) and A. Philippa-Touchais (EfA) report on the 2008 campaign.

The MH walls of the central area of house O were consolidated and cleaning was undertaken in various parts of the site (**Fig. 23**).

Preliminary study of the pottery and human bone remains recovered from the 2007 cleaning in the area of Vollgraff's excavation shows that the 3 skeletons uncovered belong to a (probably male) adolescent 16/17 years old, a newborn baby suffering from congenital anaemia and an 8/9-year-old child. At the request of the 4th EPCA and the municipality of Argos, a project was developed to assess the Cl–Hel remains on the hill of Profitis Ilias, the Myc cemetery on the Deiras and the Sanctuary of Apollo Deiradiotis, with a view to creating an archaeological park for the better protection and display of the antiquities and to enhance the environment of the city of Argos.



23. Argos, Aspis: SE sector after landscaping.

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