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.

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CENTRAL AND SOUTHWEST ATTIKA
(once 2nd EPCA, now 26th EPCA; 1st EBA)

Piraeus, Harbour of Mounichia. *Eleftherotypia* (08/03/2007) reports on investigations which have revealed at least four anc. shipsheds for triremes, measuring 40m by 5–6m. These date from the 4th Ct BC, though some remained in use until the time of Pausanias. On this basis, it is estimated that 82 shipsheds may originally have been in use in Cl times here.

Alimos. *Ta Nea* (04/07/2006) reports on recent finds in this anc. deme associated with Thucydides. Discoveries include part of the small Myc settlement of the 13th Ct BC; a Myc chamber tomb; an EH settlement (circa 3000 BC) on the hill of Pani; and an ECl (5th Ct BC) marble sphinx which must have formed part of a cemetery on the junction of the mod. avenues of Vouliagmeni and Alimos.

Voula. *Apogevmatini* (04/03/2007), *Kathimerini* (06/03/2007) and *To Vima* (13/03/2007) report on the excavation of a large Cl (5th–4th Ct BC) complex in the centre of the anc. deme of **Halai Aixonidai**, in a plot bounded by the mod. streets of Athenais, Mystra and Leophoros Varis. The rectangular complex comprises a large central court, with a cistern, surrounded by twelve rooms. The size of the complex (0.15ha) and the finds (45 lead and one silver coin, fifteen of which are from a hoard, and numerous lead weights) suggest that the complex might have served as the 'agora' of the deme. Outside one of the twelve rooms was a small altar, suggesting that this room served a 'rural cult'. Other finds from the complex include plain pottery and loomweights.

SOUTHERN ATTIKA (LAVREOTIKI) (2nd EPCA; 1st EBA)

Thorikos. Roald Docter (Ghent) reports on the short campaign of cleaning and restoration carried out in the **theatre** of Thorikos and its immediate surroundings on behalf of the Belgian School at Athens.

Vegetation not only obstructed the monuments from view but also posed a real threat to their preservation. It is particularly striking to compare the present situation of the *koilon* with the detailed photogrammetric record from 1974. Apart from the obvious *anastylosis* of the E section of the *koilon*, completed in 2001 by the Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments and the 2nd EPCA, the central and W sections have suffered considerably since, especially regarding the central part of the upper rows of the older *koilon*.

Careful manual cleaning was undertaken. With a view to future cleaning operations, two different strategies were employed for the lower *koilon*. The central and E sections were not only freed from the overgrowing weeds and bushes, but great care was taken to remove any humus, seeds and roots that might prompt the renewed growth of the vegetation. In the W part only the surface weeds were removed, leaving humus and roots in place. In 2007 it will be estimated to what extent these different cleaning strategies may have influenced the vegetational overgrowth of the theatre.'

Robert Laffineur (Belgian School at Athens, Université de Liège) reports on a short season of cleaning, planning and excavation carried out in 2006 in the area of the **Velatouri** of anc. **Thorikos**.

In the area of the **Myc cemetery**, four trenches were opened up (A, B, C and D) in an area surveyed in 2005. The combined planning and excavation provided a more accurate understanding of the layout of the Myc cemetery, and will enable scholars better to contextualize the finds from earlier Belgian excavations here, especially for Tomb V. The only significant finds were from trench B, where a deposit of ProtoGeo pots was found – a period rare at Thorikos, and previously unknown at Velatouri.

CENTRAL ATTIKA (MESOGAIA) (2nd EPCA; 1st EBA)

See **Attiki Odos** below.

NORTH-CENTRAL ATTIKA (2nd EPCA; 1st EBA)

Attiki Odos. *Ta Nea* (10/04/2006), *Eleftherotypia* (13/04/2006), *To Vima* and *Kathimerini* (13/04/2006) summarize the finds from recent excavations along the course of the Attiki Odos. Many finds, ranging in date from Neo to Byz times, have been covered by the road. Particularly noteworthy are a LCl marble grave stele; a Cl building complex at **Pallini**; and a Cl clay figure of a Hermaphrodite from the site of the new **airport**.

Menidi (anc. **Acharnai**). *Kathimerini*, *Eleftherotypia*, *Ta Nea*, *To Vima* (16/02/2007), *To Vima*, *Kathimerini* (17/02/2007), *Eleftherotypia* (20/02/2007), *To Vima*, *Eleftherotypia* (22/02/2007) and *To Vima* (15/03/2007) all report on the recent excavation in the centre of the anc. deme, which has uncovered a Cl **theatre** at O. Salaminos 21. At least thirteen levels of limestone seats of the cavea have been revealed, the skene and orchestra being covered by 2m of deposit. Finds (sherds) and architecture indicate a date of construction certainly by the M4th Ct BC, and possibly as early as 450 BC, making it one of the earliest theatres known. Residual obsidian also indicated earlier, probably EH, activity in this area, and the absence of Rom finds suggests why Pausanias (while noting a cult of Dionysos [1.31.5]) fails to mention a theatre. The Minister of Culture, Mr Voulgarakis, has ordered the immediate expropriation of the site. An inscription uncovered at the site of the Rom bathhouse at Ai Gianni confirms earlier epigraphic evidence from the Saranda Martyres that Athena Hippia (see also Pausanias 1.31.5) was worshipped in this deme. Other recent finds in the general area include a cemetery at Leophoros Demokratias, with graves (pyres, sarcophagi) dating from Geo to ERom times.

Ethnos and *Ta Nea* (18/09/2006) report on the small archaeological collection here, now established at O. Philadelphias 76. Finds include an ECl rf column krater attributed to the Florence painter (470–460 BC; see J.D. Beazley, *Athenian Red-Figure Vase-Painters*, ed. 2 (Oxford 1963), 540–46) discovered at Monopati.

Acharnai/Dekeleia area. *Eleftherotypia*, *Kathimerini* and *To Vima* (16/11/2006) report that the so-called 'tomb of Sophocles', at Megali Vryssi or Panagitsa near the present-day Plateia Varymbombis and 150m E of the road between anc. Acharnai and Dekeleia, is to become an archaeological site. The Cl tumulus, which originally measured 40m *di*. and stood 13m *h.*, contained a funerary peribolos and four sarcophagi. The identification with the tragic poet, who died in 406 BC, is supported only by an anecdote in the L and anonymous *Life of Sophocles*.

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NORTHERN AND NORTHWEST ATTIKA (2nd EPCA; 1st EBA)

Nea Makri/Marathon, Brexiza, Sanctuary of the Egyptian Gods. *Eleftherotypia*, *Kathimerini*, *Ta Nea* and *To Vima* (04/08/2006) report on reconstruction and conservation work recently undertaken at this Rom sanctuary and bathhouse, dating to the 2nd Ct AD.

Marathon, Tsepi. M. Pantelidou-Gkofa (ASA) reports (*Ergon*, 11–18) on the completion of the excavation of tombs 45, 47 and 68 at this EH–MH cemetery (see *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 14). All these tombs were rectangular cist graves made out of river pebbles. Tomb 45, which had an entrance to the N, was marked by an upright stone rather than a stele, and contained three levels. The lowest contained a child's skeleton, as did the middle layer, which also contained an obsidian blade (the only 'grave good'). The highest contained the remains of a young individual. Human remains, but again no real grave goods, were recovered from tomb 47. Tomb 68 also contained multiple burials, the skulls of the earlier burials being moved to the W part of the tomb. This tomb also contained the only undisturbed child's skeleton so far encountered (**Fig. 7**). The only grave goods were two obsidian blades and some bone beads. The general paucity of grave goods, particularly pottery, is a distinctive feature of this cemetery.

Skala Oropou. A. Mazarakis-Ainian (ASA) reports (*Ergon*, 19–24) on three trial trenches made to the E of the EIA–EAr settlement, following earlier geophysical prospection. Trench A revealed only residual Hel and Rom sherds. Trench B uncovered a possibly Ar wall and an elliptical pit containing burnt material, broken Cor tiles, animal bones and broken LCl–EHel pottery. Shapes included perfume flasks, plaques, kantharoi, skyphoi, cups (kylikes), unpainted amphorae and lamps. Other finds (lead joints, nails) and some bronze coins confirm a date for the deposit in the L4th–3rd Ct BC.

ISLANDS OF THE SARONIC GULF with KYTHERA (once 2nd, now 26th EPCA; 1st EBA/2nd EBA)

Salamis

Kanakia. *To Vima* (07/04/2006) notes a claim by the excavator, Giannis Lolos, that the Myc settlement here (see *AR* 51 [2004–2005], 10–11) was the palace of the Homeric hero Aias (Ajax).

Kamatero. *Eleftherotypia, Kathimerini Apogevmatini* (05/07/2006) report on the discovery of cloth remains within an ECl (5th Ct BC) bronze cinerary urn (*kalpis*) found at Kamatero. Impressions on the inside of the vessel indicate that the cremated remains were wrapped in both a woollen and a separate linen cloth. Evidence for the use of cloth had already been found in the Myc cemetery of Ag. Kyriaki and on a Cl (5th Ct BC) bronze mirror from Ambelakia, both on Salamis.

Aigina

Portes. *Eleftherotypia* (02/02/2007) notes the discovery of a further Myc chamber tomb from the known cemetery and settlement at Lazarides, near Portes, on the E coast of the island. Finds from the tomb generally date to the 14th Ct BC, and include terracotta figurines (possibly from a local workshop), as well as terracotta imports from the Argolid. Other finds include lead and bronze tools and weapons, and a silver bead. Of particular note is an iron dagger, one of the earliest such known.



7. Marathon, Tsepi: EH child's grave

Paliochora, church of Agios Athanasios. Ch. Pennas (2nd EBA, *ADelt*, 840) reports on the conservation of the LByz murals.

Poros

Kalaureia. A. Louise Schallin (Director, Swedish Institute) reports on geophysical prospection conducted in 2006 in hitherto unexplored areas both inside and outside the **Sanctuary of Poseidon** at Kalaureia, Poros, by Apostolos Sarris from the Institute for Mediterranean Studies, at Rethymnon, Crete. The investigation's aim was to define the sanctuary and its relationship with the city. As in the case of the survey conducted by the same team in 2004, the results confirm the existence of several large structures outside the sanctuary. Traces of settlement-like remains were detected SE of the sanctuary in what has been considered the anc. polis of Kalaureia. The 2004 survey is now published by N. Papadopoulos *et al*. in *Archaeological Prospection* 13:2, 2006.

Galatas

Megali Magoula. *Ethnos*, *Ta Nea* and *Eleftherotypia* (03/07/2006) report on the excavation of three Myc tholos tombs, situated a little below the MH cemetery, on this hill overlooking the harbour of Pogona (today's Vidi). The largest of these tholos tombs measures 60m *d.*, and contains a circular chamber 11m *di.*, as large as the so-called 'Tomb of Aegisthus' at Mycenae. This tomb was built in the 15th Ct, and remained in use until the 13th Ct BC. Finds from this partially looted tomb include gold jewellery, terracotta figurines and a Canaanite jar, indicating trade with the Levant.

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