

7. Athens, agora: top of a column shaft of the Stoa Poikile

The identification of the stoa remains controversial, with several scholars preferring to see the remains as those of another missing stoa, the Stoa of the Herms. The identification as the Poikile rests first on Pausanias (1.14–15), who described it during his visit to Athens in ca. 150 AD. After referring to the Hephaisteion as being on the hill above the Royal Stoa, he describes in order a sanctuary of Aphrodite Ourania, a gate carrying a trophy of the Athenian cavalry over the Macedonians and the Stoa Poikile. He then moves on to describe a series of monuments which lies to the E, under mod. Plaka. We have the sequence of monuments noted by Pausanias: sanctuary, gate and stoa, in the order in which he saw them, moving towards the E. The archaeological evidence corresponds to what we know from other anc. sources (*Agora* III, nos 47–98) concerning the history of the stoa. It was built at the time of Kimon's ascendancy, that is in the 470s or 460s BC, and it survived until L antiquity, at least until the time of the Bishop Synesius, who saw the building (though not the paintings) in the years around AD 400. Pottery found against the foundations and under the floor at the W indicates a construction date around 470 BC and the building certainly stood until the 6th Ct AD. Finally, the numerous anc. references (50) indicate that the Poikile was a well-known and prominent building, used for a variety of public functions. The present remains of a large stoa (over 44m) facing S, overlooking the Agora square and the Acropolis, correspond to such prominence.

The Stoa of the Herms seems also to have been standing in the 5th Ct BC, at the time of Kimon (Aeschines III, 183–85), and it is referred to in several Hel inscriptions. Pausanias does not describe it, however, nor does it appear in any source of the Rom period, leaving open the possibility that it did not survive the siege of Sulla in 86 BC, in which case the archaeological evidence for our stoa would not match the history of the Stoa of the Herms.

Publication: J.K. Papadopoulos, *The Art of Antiquity: Piet de Jong and the Athenian Agora* (Princeton, ASCSA, 2007).

### Central Athens
(3rd EPCA: 1st EBA)

**Kerameikos**. A further volume is published: F. Ruppenstein, *Kerameikos* 18. *Die submykenische Nekropole: Neufunde und Neubewertung* (Munich, Hirmer, 2007).

## ATTICA
(2nd EPCA: 1st EBA)
by Robert K. Pitt

### Central and Southwestern Attica

**Voula**. *Eleftherotypia* (18/05/07) reports the excavation on Vari avenue of an anc. market place in the anc. deme of **Halai Aixonides** (*AR* 53 [2006–2007], 8). The complex (1,500m$^2$) dates to the 5th and 4th Cts BC and comprises a series of rooms and a small temple around an open square.

*To Vima* (30/03/08) reports on the excavation of a plot of 1 stremma which has uncovered 28 graves of the anc. cemetery of **Halai Aixonides** dating from the 5th and 4th Cts.

**Vari**. A number of recent excavations around the anc. cemetery of Vari at Kaminia, between Varkiza and Vari, have brought to light a series of Myc graves. Two related walls converge towards an artificial hill which may conceal a tholos tomb.

### Southern Attica (Lavreotiki)

**Thorikos**. R. Laffineur (Belgian School/Liège) reports that a topographic plan of the **Myc necropolis** on the **Velatouri** hill has been completed, giving a complete record of all tombs.

Between the peribolos wall of tomb V and the group of 2 upright stones of prassinite on the SE, a stone (now moved to the Lavrion Museum) was found which the excavator interprets as having inscribed Linear B numerals upon it. To the SW of the Myc necropolis, on the NW slope of the Great Velatouri, 4 squares were opened. In square G56b8, intentionally placed stones suggest a tomb which remained either unused or was emptied in a later phase (thus explaining the absence of almost all material). Alongside the N section of square G56a8, a rich inhumation of the LGeo period was identified (**Fig. 8**). A cylindrical pit was dug deep into the natural bedrock and is related to a small platform upslope, bordered by a flat stone on the SE. Reddened earth and charcoal from atop the platform suggest a ritual funerary installation. A large amphora decorated with lines and horizontal bands in a washy paint contained bone and teeth fragments, whitened by incineration. Between the platform and the shoulder of the amphora, a black-painted cup and a pyxis were found, decorated with zones of lines and meanders (**Fig. 9**). A bronze fibula was found in the filling of the cylindrical pit and a gold ring shaped as a simple ribbon was deposited at the bottom.

Cleaning took place at the Thorikos **settlement** and **industrial quarter** under the direction of R. Docter (Ghent) and P. Iossif (Belgian School). The area to be cleaned was restricted to the E sector of the settlement. Work on the 'industrial' road revealed traces of chariot wheels. A lekythos was found in SW corner of room E of the oikos, probably coming from the lower part of the wall. Fieldwork continued in the W sector of the shrine of Hygeia and to the S of the Street of the Herms. Particular attention was given to the cleaning of washery 1, cistern AO, the settling tanks and to the *ergasteria* of the surrounding area.

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8. Thorikos: LGeo inhumation



9. Thorikos: LGeo pyxis

CENTRAL ATTICA (MESOGEIA)

Publication: a volume is now available on the deme of **Myrrinous** (mod. Merendi): E.P. Vivliodetis, *Ο δήμος του Μυρρινούντος: Η οργάνωση και η ιστορία* (Athens, ASA, 2007). It comprises a collection of all archaeological, literary, and epigraphic evidence for the history of this deme and its citizens, followed by a study of the 1951–1972 excavations of the deme cemetery.

**Leontari cave**. L. Karali-Giannakopoulou (Athens) reports on the joint Athens University/EPSNE excavations begun in 2003. The cave, situated W of Paiania, lies at an altitude of 691masl and consists of 2 main areas with a total *l*. of ca. 50m, *w*. 20m, *h*. 11m and *d*. 6m. First occupied in the E phase of the LNeo, it probably served as a shrine to Pan during Cl times and continued to be used for seasonal habitation at least until the end of the Cl period. Finds included numerous pottery sherds from the Neo to the mod. period, fine worked lithics, animal bones and sea shells. The excavation was completed in 2007, and study continues on the archaeozoological, palaeobotanical and geomorphological evidence.

**Cholargos**. *To Vima* (16/11/07 and 09/12/07) reports on the discovery of 4 Cl graves on Mesogeion avenue during the construction of the metro station of Cholargos. Two were child burials in larnakes and 2 were cist graves.

NORTHERN AND NORTHWESTERN ATTICA

**Marathon, Tsepi**. M. Pantelidou-Gofas (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2007], 13–20) on continued excavation of the EH cemetery (**Fig. 10**).

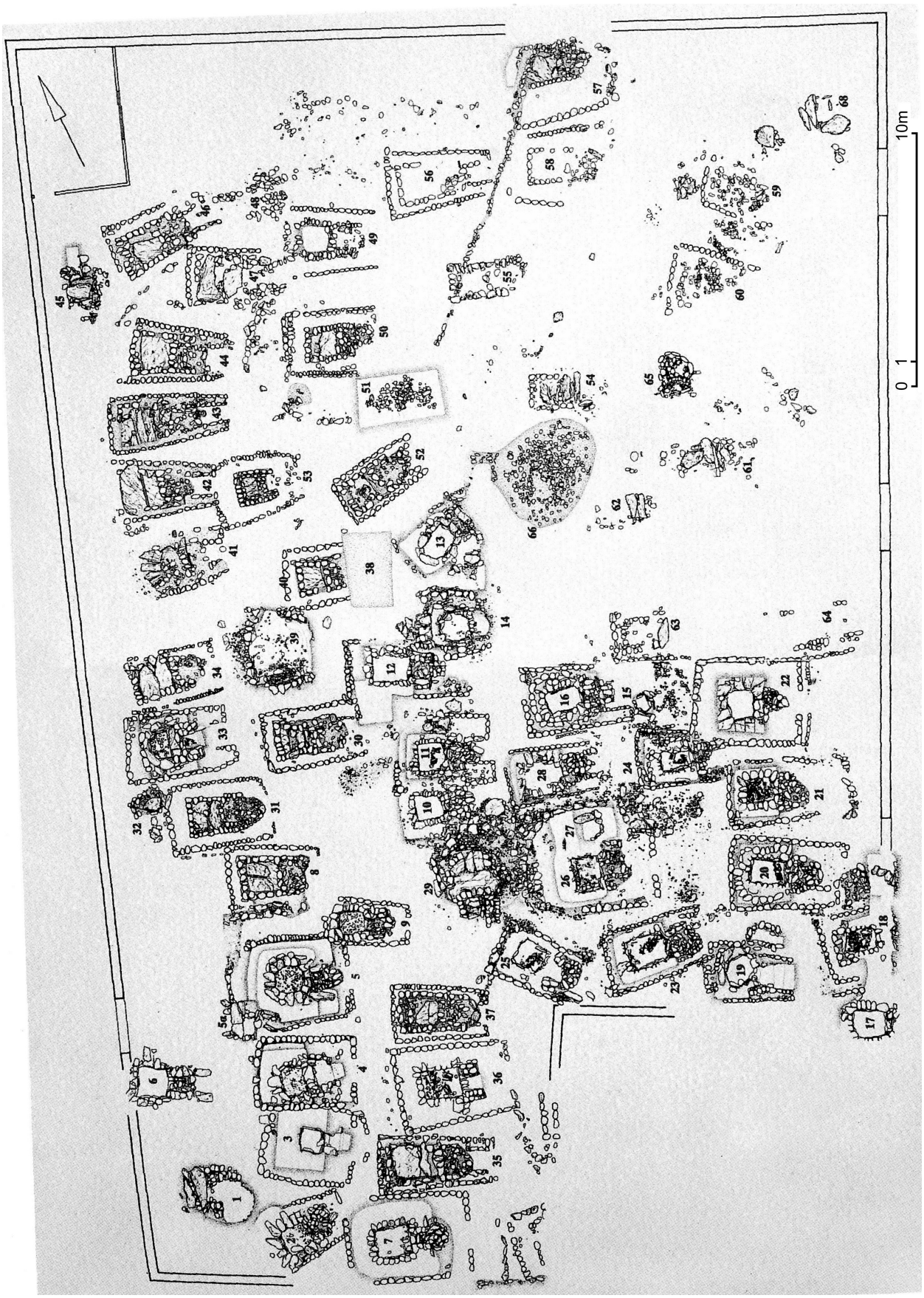
In tomb 41 it was confirmed that the grave was covered by a large slab which had broken prior to any burials: the tomb had, therefore, remained unused, allowing study of the initial construction, something not possible in other tombs which had suffered interference from subsequent burials. Tomb 42 (**Fig. 11**) was found to be similar in form to other cist graves of Tsepi, with threshold, cairn in front of the entrance, lined cist grave and covered by 2 large slabs. The grave contained a large number of bones, pushed to the W end opposite the entrance. There were also many skulls, nearly all broken, the majority in pieces gathered together to the sides of the grave. This differs from the orderly deposition of remains from the other tombs in the S sector of the cemetery. In the E section of the grave, at a low level of the fill in front of the entrance, the skeleton of the last person buried was found and, above it, a scattering of pebbles and a few sherds. A stone 0.1m *l*. had been placed in the mouth and, over the chest, 3 skulls were found, together with bones, from a secondary deposit. One skull had been beaten, perhaps with a stone found next to it, the 2nd had a circular hole and only the 3rd was intact. The only grave goods was a tiny amphora with incised decoration. Consistent with findings from tombs 45 and 68, the excavator suggests that in some cases stones were thrown at the bones of the dead, sometimes damaging the cranium.

In tomb 39 a trench was opened in order to establish its relationship with an area of black soil and ashes, likely a funeral pyre. Investigation was hampered by the overlying visitors' walkway, which here is only 1.2–1.4m from the cemetery surface. Ceramic analysis continued to refine important key typologies dating the finds to the oldest phase of the site, i.e., the Chal period, a little before 3200 BC.

**Kotroni**. A 3rd season of survey was carried out by Athens University (A. Papadimitriou-Grammenou, P. Georgiou-Geka and P. Petridi) on the hill of Kotroni (anc. Aphidnai) between Kapandriti and Lake Marathon. The most important architectural find has been part of a tower E of the crest of the hill. A trial trench uncovered a section of the perimeter of the tower and sherds dating from PH to Cl times.

**Skala Oropou**. A. Mazarakis Ainian (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2007], 21–30) on continued excavation. Of particular interest was the discovery of part of an apsidal building (**Fig. 12**) from the LGeo period measuring 3.4m *w*. and a *l*. so far exposed of 3.8m. In the middle of the room was a circular stone construction next to a hollow cavity containing some animal bone and fragments of drinking vessels.

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10. Marathon, Tsepi: plan of EH cemetery

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11. Marathon, Tsepi: tomb 42

**ISLANDS OF THE SARONIC GULF with KYTHERA**
(26th EPCA: 1st EBA)

E. Konsolaki-Giannopoulou (ed.), *ΕΠΑΘΛΟΝ. Αρχαιολογικό Συνέδριο προς τιμήν του Αδώνιδος Κ. Κύρου,* vol. 1 (Athens, Demos Porou, 2007) contains a wide range of papers on the Saronic Gulf and neighbouring areas. Individual articles are cited only when they present new finds or significantly expand previous reports.

**Salamis**
**Ambelakia**. *Ta Nea* and *To Vima* (12/02/08) both report a lecture at the Museum of Cycladic Art by M. Pologiorgi (2nd EPCA) on her excavation of 11 tombs of different types dating from the L5th or E4th Ct to the 3rd Ct BC along E. Venizelou street (on the line of the anc. road leading to the city gate). An infant interment in an amphora is illustrated. Two sarcophagi each contained a female burial with a bronze mirror, together with clay pyxides. One mirror survived intact but heavily oxidized, preserving only traces of its decoration. The other, decorated in sphyrelaton with a scene of Aphrodite(?) and an Eros, and perhaps the product of a Cor workshop, had been deliberately separated into its 2 parts and both the cover and the mirror disc used as receptacles for fruit offerings (pomegranate seeds, almonds, chestnuts, etc.). This rare example of a mirror recovered from a properly documented context provides important evidence for funerary customs, which counters commonly held views on the magical role of mirrors in graves. Finds from this excavation are held in the Salamis Archaeological Museum.

**Salamis Archaeological Museum**. *Kathimerini* (25/03/08) reports progress in the preparation of the new archaeological museum in the former First Capodistrian Public School, supported by the Third Community Support Framework. The museum, due to open by the end of 2008, will have 3 rooms. Room 1: Neo sherds and lithics from Glinani, EH and MH material from Mertzani and Sklavou, finds from the Myc acropolis at Kanakia, the Cave of Euripides at Peristeria and the Hel sanctuary of Dionysos. Room 2: Geo to EByz material including a group of 4th Ct marble grave stelae. Room 3: coins, a Herm boundary marker and explanatory material on local historical matters such as the naval battle, and Euripides and Salamis. Cl, Hel and Rom grave monuments will be displayed in the courtyard. The museum will also house educational programmes.

The article comments critically on the poor condition of the area around the Tomb of the Salaminomachoi; E. Lygouri (26th EPCA) notes that this forms part of the harbour zone in which the Ministry of Culture cannot intervene, but comments on the effective protection now given to the Kynosouras and Ambelakia areas.

**Moni Faneromenis**. G. Poulimenos reports (*DeltChAE* 28 [2007], 131–46) on a new study of the Latin phase of the katholikon. The katholikon of the monastery is redated to the E18th Ct AD (between 1718 and 1732), noting that it was founded on a previous ruined church to which a new roof and dome were added. Remains from the period of Latin (13th–14th Ct AD) as well as Byz occupation were identified. Study of the katholikon revealed a Latin church of the Romanesque Lombardish school, likely built between 1296 and 1317, the bema of which probably belonged to an earlier Byz church.

**Aigina**
**Portes (Lazarides)**. N. Polychronakou-Sgouritsa (Athens) reports on continuing work in the Myc settlement and cemetery. This important PH site was located in 1979. In 1979–1980 the 2nd EPCA excavated part of a building in the Myc settlement, plus 3 chamber tombs, Α, Β, Γ (*AR* 26 [1979–1980], 19). Renewed work by Athens University began with surface survey from 2002 and excavation from 2005.

Ceramic evidence indicates settlement at least from the end of the 17th or the beginning of the 16th Ct BC; this expanded chiefly in the 14th and 13th Cts, and the site was abandoned at the start of the 12th Ct. The remains are either preserved by burial (in the case of the tombs) or are barely visible (in the case of building remains), hidden in many cases by vegetation and large stone piles.

The latest research (2002–2006) has uncovered between stone piles on the E downward-sloping side of the site, several rooms (mostly small) laid out towards the sea, at some distance from the building previously excavated on the level part of the site. The stone walls of these structures are in places preserved to over 1m *h*. NE of the settlement, where the ground slopes gently, parts of a wall of large stones could be traced for some distance. This probably belongs to a defensive construction on the seaward side of the settlement, which also served as a retaining wall.

In addition to the 3 tombs already excavated, 2 more were located at a small distance to the S (see *AR* 53 [2006–2007], 9). One, within the mod. village cemetery, was used as an ossuary, while part of the dromos of the other, with stone-clad walls, was uncovered. Investigation of the latter tomb will be undertaken in 2008.

Continuing study of finds from the area has revealed new MH–LH material, as well as material of the end of LH IIIB/LH

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