the Late Antique period) and beneath a packing layer filled with Classical and Hellenistic sherds, and a further ash deposit, the excavators came across a red-coloured floor, first encountered in 2011 (the floor of a potter's kiln?). A variety of metal artefacts was discovered – mainly iron objects, together with some sheet bronze, including an Archaic Gorgoneion shield device (**Fig. 28**), furniture (**Fig. 29**) and utensils. The northeast corner of the gymnasium (excavated in 1880 and 1936, and subsequently buried) and the passage between the east and north stoas were cleaned, in cooperation with the 7th EPCA, in preparation for the planned excavation of the gymnasium.

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28. Olympia, Sanctuary of Zeus: Archaic gorgoneion shield device. © DAI.



29. Olympia, Sanctuary of Zeus: decorative furniture cover. © DAI.

MAINLAND GREECE (PREHISTORIC)

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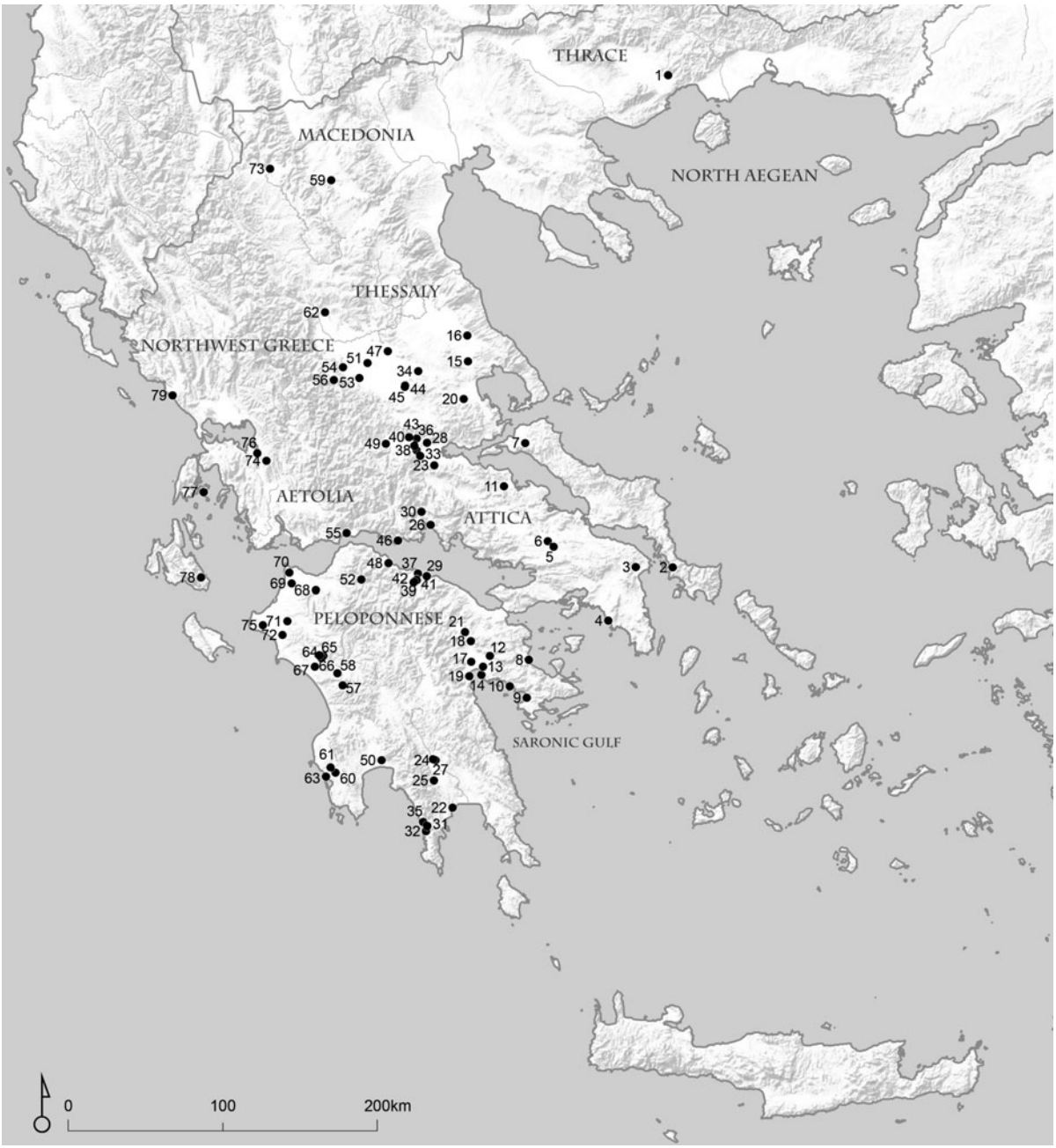
Introduction

The absence of the prehistoric Peloponnese and central Greece from last year's new format *Archaeology in Greece* has provided a slightly larger volume of data for this year's report than might otherwise have been expected, although the ongoing financial difficulties faced by Greece and the recent uncertainty over the status of the Archaeological Service itself continue to have a substantial impact on archaeological research and its dissemination through traditional channels; a problem which e-publication and webcasting is going some way toward addressing. In light of this, the decennial volume of the former Ministry of Culture and Tourism (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes), the appearance of which was noted in last year's *AG*, represents a welcome summary of excavation undertaken by the service between 2000 and 2010 to add to the newly-published volume of *ADelt* covering the Peloponnese. Some of this work has previously been reported in *AG*, although this is certainly not true of all.

Several other publications have appeared since 2011 which offer new data or new perspectives on the prehistory of the Greek mainland, several of which are discussed below. Of particular note are two volumes which will go some considerable way toward furthering our understanding of the Early Bronze Age in southern Greece: Daniel Pullen's *The Early Bronze Age Village on Tsoungiza Hill* (2011) and Elizabeth Banks' *The Architecture, Settlement and Stratigraphy of Lerna IV* (2013), the companion piece to Jeremy Rutter's 1995 volume detailing the pottery from the Early Helladic III settlement. Banks' volume, unfortunately, has appeared too late to be properly incorporated into this year's *AG*. Elsewhere, excavations by the late Spyridon Iakovides (ASA) in the Southwestern Quarter at Mycenae have been published (Iakovides [2013]), while the results of the 1986 excavations at Chaeronea have also been presented (Tzavella-Evjen 2012), accompanied by a synthesis of data from the early investigations of Georgios Soteriades.

The Early Bronze Age also forms the focus of two recent conference publications. *Helike* IV. *Ancient Helike and Aigialeia. Protohelladika. The Southern and Central Greek Mainland* (Katsonopoulou [2011a]) includes 18 papers delivered at Nikolaiika in Achaea in September 2007. Many of the contributions collected here are, as one might expect, concerned with the site of Helike itself, although the adoption of a wider geographical scope permits discussion of recent work undertaken at sites across the mainland, as well as at Kolonna, on Aegina, and at several sites on Poros. A much more restricted geographical focus is evident in the published proceedings of the round table *Early Helladic Laconia* held at the Netherlands Institute at Athens in January 2010, which has appeared as a special edition of *Pharos*, the Journal of the Netherlands Institute at Athens (volume 18.1 [2011–2012]), under the editorship of Christopher Mee and Mieke Prent. Contributions here include new Early Helladic material from Kouphovouno, Geraki and Pavlopetri, as well as discussion of broader regional developments in the Eurotas valley and the Helos plain.

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Map 2. Prehistoric mainland Greece. 1. Dikili Tash; 2. Styra; 3. Tsepi; 4. Glyphada; 5. Karatzandagli; 6. Thebes; 7. Kastaniotissa; 8. Nera; 9. Bay of Koilada/Franchthi; 10. Iria; 11. Atalanti; 12. Midea; 13. Tiryns; 14. Nauplion; 15. Velestino (ancient Pherae); 16. Palioskala; 17. Argos; 18. Mycenae; 19. Lerna; 20. Magoula Zerelia; 21. Tsoungiza; 22. Lakonis I Cave; 23. Damasta; 24. Menelaion; 25. Agios Vasileios; 26. Kirrha; 27. Sparta; 28. Kastro Lamia; 29. Derveni; 30. Agios Georgios, Pleistos valley; 31. Xagounaki; 32. Alepotrypa Cave; 33. Phrantzis; 34. Pharsala, Vasilis; 35. Kalamakia Cave; 36. Lygaria; 37. Aigeira; 38. Kompotades; 39. Kassaneva; 40. Amouri; 41. Vlachos; 42. Ambelokipi; 43. Lianokladhi; 44. Neo Monastiri; 45. Koutroulou Magoula; 46. Paralia Tolophonos; 47. Astritsa; 48. Helike; 49. Diasergiani-Stroggylorachi; 50. Antikalamos; 51. Prodromos; 52. Vragiannika; 53. Ayiopigi; 54. Mitopoli; 55. Nafpaktos; 56. Lake Plastiras; 57. Trypes; 58. Diasella; 59. Mavropigi-Phyllotsairi; 60. Iklaina; 61. Pylos; 62. Theopetra Cave; 63. Romanou; 64. Stravokephalo; 65. Mageira; 66. Kafkania; 67. Makrisia; 68. Kalamaki Elaiochori; 69. Lappa; 70. Teichos Dymaion; 71. Elis; 72. Triantaphyllia; 73. Haliakmon river; 74. Kechrinia Valtou; 75. Vartholomio-Katsiveri; 76. Kouvaras Phyteion; 77. Inner Ionian Sea Archipelago; 78. Tzannata; 79. Loutsa.

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The emergent regional histories of those areas, like Achaea and Lakonia, which have traditionally been considered peripheral to developments in the Argolid-Corinthia, are a major element of current research on the prehistoric mainland, as borne out in the reports discussed below. Equally apparent in this year's report is the increasing volume of evidence for communication and interconnectivity between sites throughout the mainland and beyond during the prehistoric period. The geographical extent of these networks has been made clear by the detailed study of ceramic data, notably from Kolonna and Kythera, as well as from Thessaly and central Greece, while their role in the formation and maintenance of social and economic practices has been discussed in several recent publications, among them Carl Knappett's *An Archaeology of Interaction* (2009), Ann Brysbaert's *Tracing Prehistoric Social Networks through Technology: A Diachronic Perspective on the Aegean* (2011) and Thomas Tartaron's *Maritime Networks in the Mycenaean World* (2013).

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

The Mani peninsula continues to provide compelling evidence of Palaeolithic activity in the southern mainland. A decade of excavation in the **Lakonis I Cave** (**ID2558**), at the eastern end of the Selinitsa valley, has revealed a sequence which spans the Middle to Early Upper Palaeolithic. The recovery of a Neanderthal left lower third molar from a transitional layer, characterized by a technologically mixed lithic assemblage and dated to the Initial Upper Palaeolithic (Panagopoulou *et al.* [2002–2004]; Elefanti *et al.* [2009]), is an important addition to the ongoing debate concerning the degree of interaction between Neanderthal and anatomically modern human groups in Europe. Mobility over a range of at least 20km is suggested by strontium isotope analysis, which indicates that this individual may have lived in an inland environment as a child (*ca*. seven to nine years old), before moving to the coast (Richards *et al*. [2008], although see comments by Nowell and Horstwood [2009]). A possible flint source for the tools from the cave has been identified some 15km from the site (**ID1488**).

To this discussion can now be added the Middle Palaeolithic site at **Kalamakia Cave** (Harvati *et al.* [2013]) excavated by the EPSNE and the Musée national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris. Located on the coast, *ca*. 2km north of the well-known **Apidima Cave**, Kalamakia has yielded teeth, a cranial fragment and other post-cranial elements from at least six adults and two sub-adults, all of whom have been identified as Neanderthal, as well as a Mousterian lithic assemblage. It is possible that the caves at Kalamakia and Lakonis were utilized by the same groups.

A disturbed burial in a pit has been identified within Upper Palaeolithic fill at **Theopetra Cave** (**ID3084**). Oriented east–west, the pit contained ash and charcoal, although the bones themselves were unburned. These remains, which probably belong to an adult, are located in trench K11, immediately adjacent to trench I10 where a severely damaged Upper Palaeolithic skeleton was recovered within a pit during earlier excavations (Stravopodi *et al*. [1999] 271–74). The spatial relationship and evident similarity between these two burials may well indicate the observance of specific Upper Palaeolithic burial practices at the cave, of which the only other example is a possible Aurignacian female burial from **Apidima Cave Gamma**.

Some 60km to the south, across the plain of Trikala, surface survey on the shores of the artificial **Lake Plastiras** (**ID3091**) has identified Levallois tools and flakes of the Middle Palaeolithic period, exposed by fluctuations in the water level. Analysis of this assemblage has identified similarities with contemporary material from Theopetra (Apostolikas and Kyparissi-Apostolika [2008] 36). Middle and Upper Palaeolithic tools and a significant Pleistocene faunal assemblage are also reported from surface survey along the terraces of the **Haliakmon river** (**ID3090**), while an assemblage of blades, flakes and cores was recovered at **Loutsa** in the **lower Acheron river valley** (**ID3153**), an area known to have been heavily exploited throughout the Palaeolithic period.

To the south, the ***Inner Ionian Sea Archipelago Survey*** (**ID2620**) has identified activity in the island group from the Middle Palaeolithic onward, complimenting published Middle Palaeolithic data from Lefkada, Kephallonia and Zakynthos. The relationship between activity on the larger islands, the inner archipelago (**Meganisi**, **Thileia**, **Kythros**, **Tsokari**, **Petalou**, **Nisopoula**, **Phormikoula**, **Atokos** and **Arkoudi**) (**Fig. 30**) and Aitoloakarnania remains unclear, as does the insularity of each of these smaller islands at various points during the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic. Bathymetry suggests that Kephallonia and Zakynthos were isolated from the mainland as early as the Middle Palaeolithic and recent work has again raised questions over the potential role of the larger islands in the development of seafaring in the Aegean (Ferentinos *et al.* [2012]). Some of the Mesolithic material from the survey has recently appeared in print (Galanidou [2011]).

Neolithic

A programme of coring through the tell at **Dikili Tash** has yielded a series of C^{14} dates which places the foundation of the settlement between 6400 and 6200 BC (Lespez *et al.* [2013]), while at **Mavropigi-Phyllotsairi** (*cf. AR* 58 [2011–2012] 105) AMS and radiometric dating of charcoal, carbonized seeds and human bone suggests uninterrupted occupation from 6590/6450–6200/6010 BC (Karamitrou-Mentessidi *et al.* [2013]). Early Neolithic remains are also reported from rescue excavations in northern Greece at **Ayiopigi**, a low magoula some 5km south of Kokkinos (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 162) and in the area of Lake Karla at **Velestino** (ancient Pherae) (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 154), while excavations carried out on the school site at **Prodromos**, a known Early Neolithic settlement, have revealed remains of the Final Neolithic period (**ID1358**; www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 165).

Last year saw the conclusion of an eight-year research project (2005–2012) undertaken at **Magoula Zerelia** and **Karatzandagli** and environs by the University of Thessaly and the 13th EPCA, intended to clarify the relationship between the two sites. Karatzandagli was occupied from the Early Neolithic, although the two sites are contemporary during the Middle Neolithic, when they were separated by a distance of only *ca*. 800m, close even for the very dense settlement patterns of Neolithic Thessaly (**ID226**; www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 154). A previously unknown Middle Neolithic settlement has come to light during work on the Volos ring road close to **Kazanaki**. Excavated remains include domestic structures with hearths and food preparation areas, as well as pottery,

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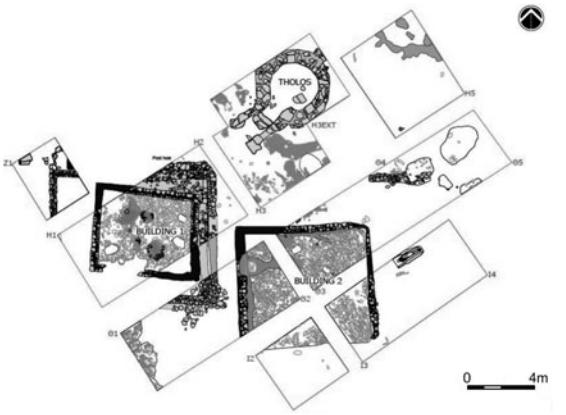
30. Inner Ionian Archipelago: panoramic view from southwest Lefkas. © University of Crete (photograph Costas Zissis).

stone and bone tools, spindle-whorls and figurines of both terracotta and stone (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 152). Late Neolithic remains are reported from **Pharsala, Vasilis** (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 160), **Astritsa** (**ID1106**; www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 162) and **Zevgarolivado** (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 164), while at **Koutroulou Magoula** excavation of the 'corridor-like feature' identified in 2011 (**ID2762**) revealed it to be the dromos of a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age tholos tomb, looted in antiquity (**ID2902**) (**Fig. 31**).

In southern Greece, **Franchthi** (**ID2967**) remains the most important site for our understanding of the Early Neolithic period, and continued analysis of the complex Final Mesolithic and Initial Neolithic faunal record of the cave is helping to shed light on the changes that characterize the Mesolithic to Neolithic transition. A very rapid replacement of red deer by domestic sheep and goats during the earliest Initial Neolithic suggests that domestic caprines were introduced to the site from elsewhere during this period and immediately became the principal source of meat for Franchthi's inhabitants. Below the cave, underwater survey in the **Bay of Koilada** (**ID2903**), mounted in advance of excavation by the EMA and the Swiss School at Athens, is intended to trace the largely submerged Neolithic settlement partly exposed during earlier excavations on the Franchthi paralia.

Similarly, at **Diros** excavation, geophysical prospection and surface survey are helping to reconcile activity in the **Alepotrypa Cave** with contemporary occupation on the promontory beyond its entrance and with an extensive open-air settlement on the nearby acropolis of **Xagounaki** (**ID2912**; www.fieldmuseum.org/explore/gis-diros-project-greece). A substantial pottery assemblage and a large number of tools have been identified, while a double child *enchytrismos* and a triple adult burial of probable Final Neolithic date are also reported. The absence of any post-Neolithic material at Xagounaki is no doubt indicative of the very close connection between the use of this open-air site and that of the cave.

Although the function of walls such as those identified at Final Neolithic **Palioskala** remains uncertain (**ID1037**, **ID1038**; Souvatzi [2008]), it is hard to imagine that the substantial Final Neolithic Wall 31 identified beneath the Early Helladic fortification at **Geraki** is anything but



31. Koutroulou Magoula: Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age tholos tomb. © BSA.

defensive (MacVeagh Thorne [2011–2012]; see also Crouwel [2011–2012]). The wall itself measures at least 1.7m in width and the identification of architectural parallels from Attica finds support in the presence at Geraki of pottery characteristic of the Aegina-Attica-Kephala koine. The discovery of this wall, the first of its kind in the Peloponnese, demonstrates clearly the unsettled nature of the socio-political landscape of Final Neolithic Lakonia.

Early Bronze Age

While the chamber tomb cemeteries at **Elis** (**ID337**, **ID2507**; see also Rambach [2007]) and **Kalamaki Elaiochori** (Vasilogamvrou [1996–1997]) provide valuable insight into Early Helladic I funerary practices in the northwest Peloponnese, settlement architecture of the period, as elsewhere in southern Greece, remains extremely rare. As a result, the identification of a large (10.7 by 5.5m) rectangular Early Helladic I building at **Teichos Dymaion** (**ID3912**), in the northwest of the area enclosed by the Late Helladic IIIB enceinte, is most welcome. Much about the earlier occupation of the site remains unclear, although it seems certain that a substantial Early to Middle Helladic settlement preceded the Mycenaean presence on the acropolis (*cf.* Gazis

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[2010]). To the east, the distribution of EHI material at **Aigeira** suggests occupation across the entire plateau, although later Mycenaean occupation has removed any trace of buildings. Strategically placed on a route leading to the Pheneos valley, pottery from the site indicates contact with contemporary settlements in the eastern Corinthian Gulf (Alram-Stern [2011]). The site was abandoned during EHII, at which point a new settlement was established at **Kassaneva**, along with three more in the area of **Vlachos** and four at **Ambelokopi** in the Krios valley (**ID147**). Several EHII rooms have come to light at the coastal site of **Derveni**, some 5km east of Aigeira (**ID2497**; see also Sarri [2011]). Built of unworked stones, surviving walls vary in width between *ca.* 0.5 and 0.7m and preserve traces of plaster. Additional walls running beneath these remains on a different alignment are evidence of an earlier building phase at the site. Plaster-lined bothroi and the remains of numerous pithoi are attested, as well as sauceboats, cooking vessels and obsidian tools. A number of rectangular and apsidal EHII buildings discovered at **Aigion** are discussed by Lena Papazoglou-Manioudaki [2010]. An incised stone vessel from the site indicates an ability to access Cycladic trade networks, while an antler seal may indicate involvement in a more complex system of exchange. Two EHII buildings are also reported at **Lappa** (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 101). The first is trapezoidal in plan and measures *ca*. 8.2 by 7m, while the plan of the second could not be recovered. Both had been destroyed by fire.

This emerging picture of Early Helladic Achaea has been brought into sharp relief by excavations at **Helike** (Katsonopoulou [2011b]) which have revealed a major settlement of rectangular buildings organized around a series of open spaces and cobbled streets (1.2–2.5m wide), with evidence of occupation during Early Helladic II and EHIII. The identification of a probable corridor building here is thus far unique for Achaea (**Fig. 32**). A reliance on flint for tool production may argue against close involvement with Cycladic networks, although analysis of the ceramic assemblage indicates contact with other parts of the mainland. Intriguingly, there is no evidence at present to suggest a break in occupation at the end of EHII.

In Attica, a substantial chamber tomb cemetery is reported at **Glyphada** on the Pounda peninsula (**ID1729**, **ID1763**, **ID2468**). Slabs of locally-sourced stone were used to cover the chambers and block the entrance. At the surface, these graves are defined by well-built rectangular peribolos walls (**Fig. 33**). All contained multiple burials, with earlier remains selectively redeposited in side chambers. Offerings include pottery, beads, shells and, in one case, a Cycladic marble figurine. A short distance to the northeast, excavation of a large circular pit (*ca*. 8m in diameter) revealed an assemblage of 250 vessels, including phialae, krateriskoi, one-handled cups and pyxides, which are probably to be connected with one or more episodes of funerary ritual. To the southeast, beyond the peribolos wall which delineated the cemetery at the seaward side, a large stone mound (*ca*. 9 by 6m) built of pebbles and medium-sized stones yielded Early Helladic I sherds and an assemblage of grinding and percussion tools of ophite, andesite and sandstone alongside other worked pebbles, perhaps indicating the presence of a workshop nearby (**ID3306**) (**Fig. 34**).



32. Helike: the Early Helladic probable corridor building. © D. Katsonopoulou.



33. Glyphada: Early Helladic cemetery. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 26th EPCA.



34. Glyphada: Early Helladic sherds and stone tools from the large stone mound. © ASA.

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There are evident similarities between the tombs at Glyphada and those at **Tsepi**, where recent study of the ceramic assemblage has pushed the earliest use of the site back into the Final Neolithic (**ID237**). Excavations at Tsepi during 2012 focused on Tombs 56 and 58 and on a ceramic deposit associated with Tomb 39 (**ID3311**). The construction of Tomb 56 is typical of others from the cemetery, comprising a rectangular built chamber roofed with three schist slabs and closed by a single further upright. The final interment was positioned in front of the entrance and at least 10 further burials are represented by disarticulated remains. The tomb is dated to Early Helladic I by a small ceramic assemblage. More unusual is Tomb 58, which seems to represent an earlier tomb cleared and reused for secondary burial. At least 13 crania were identified within the upper layers of the chamber, while lower layers contained largely long bones. Bones from the feet were deposited to the right of the entrance and those of the hands to the left, with smaller bones concentrated toward the centre. Grave goods include a stone palette and cosmetic pigment, four bone pigment grinders and an assemblage of stone beads, of which one is phalliform and another is carved in the shape of a bird. A stone seal and a probable shark tooth, both pierced for suspension, likely derive from the same piece of jewellery (**Fig. 35**). The deposit associated with Tomb 39 included skyphoi, amphoriskoi and pithoid vessels, broken *in situ* and covered with stones at some point during the early use of the cemetery. The identification of three EHII trapezoidal built graves of the type known from Tsepi at **Styra** on Euboea (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 55) suggests that the site was in contact with the east Attic coast across the South Euboean Gulf.

It is clear that maritime communication played a major role at **Romanou** in Messenia (**ID2571**) where rescue excavations by the 38th EPCA have revealed a substantial Early Helladic II settlement (**Fig. 36**). A recent summary of this work presented by Jörg Rambach is available online through the ASCSA (http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/news/newsDetails/videocast-recent-prehistoric-finds-at-the-costa-navarino-resort-in-messenia/). The site has yielded the remains of a copper workshop, while obsidian tool manufacture on a massive scale is attested by an assemblage of over 10,000 flakes, tools and cores. Excavation of a well in the east of the site yielded an assemblage of over 200 EHII vessels, many of them intact or nearly so, while a large pit (*ca*. 15 by 10m) in the west was found to contain a huge volume of pebbles, pottery and animal bones, including a large number of cattle horns, which perhaps represent the remains of a communal feasting event. Analysis of pottery from Romanou indicates contact with the Cyclades and Crete, perhaps via Kythera, while storage pithoi have yielded what appear to be carbonized figs and a large number of grape pits, the earliest yet identified in Messenia. A looted Late Helladic I tholos was also identified in the southwest of the site.

Although many of the principal features of the site are already known from preliminary reports, the comprehensive final volume on the Final Neolithic and Early Helladic I–III settlements at **Tsoungiza** (Pullen [2011]) makes clear that despite its position as a relatively small inland settlement, Tsoungiza was capable of connecting with the wider Aegean, albeit perhaps indirectly. Melian obsidian comprises some 90% of EHII Developed lithic material at the site (Karabatsoli [2011] 662), while very low numbers of ceramic imports attest to limited contact with sites beyond the Argolid-Corinthia during the period. Laurion ores account for the majority of EHII metal finds from the site, however one copper needle of EHII Developed and another belonging to EHIII match the lead isotope composition of ores from the Limassol Forest on Cyprus, and a third, as yet unknown, source has also been identified (Kayafa *et al*. [2011] 658). The clarification of the Early Helladic ceramic sequence at Tsoungiza, and particularly the identification of a transitional EHI–II phase, EHII Initial, represents an important contribution to our understanding of the Nemea valley during the period. Pattern-painted pottery of the EHIII period from Tsoungiza demonstrates close links with the EHIII settlement at **Lerna** to the south, the final report of which, as noted above, has now appeared in print (Banks [2013]).



35. Marathon, Tsepi: beads from Tomb 58. © ASA.



36. Romanou: the western area of the EHII settlement. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 38th EPCA.

While the publication of the Early Helladic III settlements at Lerna and Tsoungiza represents a major boon for those with an interest in the period, unstratified EHIII material such as that reported from the Drouza plot at **Iria** (**ID3878**) is unfortunately far more typical of those sites with evidence for activity during the late Early Helladic.

At **Atalanti**, Early Helladic remains are reported on the property of D. Ioannou (**ID3494**), while an EHIII burial tumulus is reported from the Kokoretsi plot (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 59). The edge of the tumulus is defined by a peribolos wall of large unworked stones, while the interior is filled with small and medium-sized stones. The diameter of the tumulus is estimated at *ca*. 15m, although much of the structure had been destroyed

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by later building and only *ca*. 25% of the total was investigated. A pithos burial laid horizontally at the centre of the tumulus contained a small number of bones and a pottery assemblage which included a handmade one-handled cup and an Agia Marina-style kantharos corresponding to known types from Kirrha, Eutresis and Agia Marina. The impression of a second pithos was identified to the southwest of the central burial, although no part of the vessel was recovered (**Fig. 37**).

Middle Bronze Age

In the Argolid, further remains have come to light at **Argos** during rescue excavation along Herakleous Street, an area known to have been heavily utilized for extramural burial during the Middle Helladic. Two Middle Helladic I–II pithos burials at the S. Thanou plot (**ID3884**) containing multiple burials and a small assemblage of principally 'Adriatic-style' vessels are typical of other contemporary pithos burials found east of the Aspis, while clusters of pit and cist graves like those excavated at 162 Herakleous Street (**ID3836**) immediately south of the Argos Hospital site (Papadimitriou [2010]) are more characteristic of later Middle Helladic practices. To the east, on Nauplion Street, excavation at the Koutroubi plot has identified walls of the late Middle Helladic to early Late Helladic beneath a later Mycenaean building containing a terracotta hearth with a stone surround, as well as two cist graves of which one yielded a Late Helladic IA alabastron (**ID2411**).

A slab-covered pit containing the double burial of a young sub-adult female and a 12-year-old child is reported among a larger group of nine Middle Helladic III to Late Helladic I cist graves at **Nauplion** at 51–53 25th Martiou Street (**ID3864**). Of these, an 18-year-old female in Tomb 1, accompanied by nine miniature vessels, a bronze spiral and a bone pin, and an adult male in Tomb 4, interred with three vessels and a pair of bronze tweezers, are particularly well furnished.

An extremely important discovery for Lakonia is that of a late Middle Helladic to Late Helladic I corbelled tomb, containing secondary burials next to the so-called Altar of Psyche at **Sparta** (**ID1938**, **ID2552**; see also Zavvou and Themos [2009] 110–11). Particularly significant among an assemblage which includes a miniature terracotta ship model and beads of semi-precious stone, are the remains of a boar's tusk helmet with a double hook, recalling the example from the later Chamber Tomb 515 at Mycenae (**Fig. 38**). This find brings Sparta in line with developments seen elsewhere in the Peloponnese during the earlier shaft-grave period. A number of other graves are reported in the vicinity, of which Tomb 8, a stone-built cist containing a child burial, has parallels in the MHIII to LHI cist tomb cemetery at **Agios Vasileios** (**ID2322**). The burials at Sparta appear to overlie the remains of a settlement belonging to the earliest phases of the Middle Helladic, a period which has previously been extremely poorly represented in the region. 'Adriatic ware' and a possible import with relief 'wavy line' decoration are reported among pottery from the site.

In northern Greece, recent excavations at **Neo Monastiri** have brought to light further evidence of prehistoric occupation. Neolithic remains are reported from the summit of the Tapsi Hill (**ID3482**) and remains of the late Middle Helladic to early Late Helladic settlement have been excavated below it. At the Ganidi plot



37. Atalanti: EHIII tumulus. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 14th EPCA.

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38. Sparta: boar's tusk helmet. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 5th EPCA.

(**ID3483**), zoomorphic figurines and a bronze spear are reported among fragmentary walls and an assemblage of matt-painted and Minyan pottery, while the recovery of a matt-painted bowl beneath late Middle Helladic and early Late Helladic remains at the Vouvaloudi plot (**ID3484**) indicates an earlier phase of occupation during Early Helladic III. Middle and Late Helladic pottery recovered from earlier excavation at the Voultsidi plot has recently been discussed by Eleni Phroussou (2010), while a Late Helladic cist containing a skull and the remains of a small child has come to light close to the church of **Agios Georgios** (**ID3485**).

A substantial Middle Helladic settlement has been excavated on the northern coast of the Corinthian Gulf at the Ramakou plot, **Paralia Tolophonos** (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 52). A layer of ash, burnt human and animal bone and pottery indicates a violent destruction before the end of the Middle Helladic. To the east at **Kirrha** on the Gulf of Itea (**ID797**, **ID1361**, **ID1949**, **ID2646**) a programme of excavation, topographical survey and geophysical investigation recently completed by the 10th EPCA and the EfA has identified an abandonment of the western part of the settlement (Areas 2 and 3) at the end of Middle Helladic II as a result of earthquake activity. At the same time, a new settlement was founded deeper into the Pleistos valley at **Agios Georgios**, and others appear further west along the coastline at **Nafpaktos** (see *AR* 57 [2010–2011] 23).

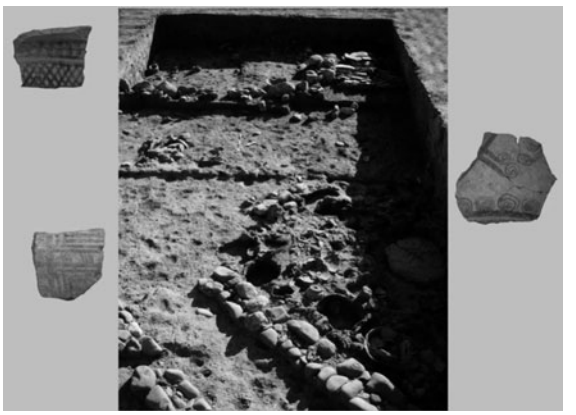
The existence of an overland network linking Thessaly and central Greece during the Middle Helladic has recently been discussed by Fanouria Dakoronia [2010]. Pottery from Kirrha indicates contact with Aegina, Thessaly and the Sperchios valley, where recent excavation at the known prehistoric site of **Lianokladhi** has identified several rectangular Middle Helladic buildings with *in situ* storage vessels and an intramural pit burial, as well as an assemblage of Minyan and Δ1β class pottery (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 57–58) (**Fig. 39**). Like Lianokladhi, the Middle Helladic settlement at **Diasergiani-Stroggylorachi** (**ID3556**) appears to have been abandoned prior to the beginning of the Late Helladic period. Elsewhere in the valley, Middle Helladic remains have recently been reported from **Kastro Lamia** (**ID1992**; see also Stamoudi [2010]) and **Amouri** (Papakonstantinou and Sakkas [2010]).

Late Bronze Age

One of the defining characteristics of the Late Bronze Age on the mainland is the appearance and development of fresco art, and a very considerable amount of energy has been expended over the last decade in the identification, analysis, conservation and consolidation of the known mainland corpus. With additional examples continuing to appear from storerooms, and from excavations at both known sites and new, it seems appropriate now to attempt a summary of some recent developments.

At **Mycenae** excavations continued in 2012 at the Petsas House and the East House (**ID3312**). The Petsas House appears to have been used for storage, and perhaps for the production of pottery and figurines, prior to its destruction in Late Helladic IIIA2. However, fresco fragments have been noted from Room T and Room H, the latter apparently deriving from one or more finely-decorated rooms on the upper floor (**Fig. 40**). Additional fragments are also reported from other rooms identified in the Lower Town (**ID1430**, **ID2082**).

At **Midea** (**ID2402**), the recording and restoration of wall-paintings recovered during the recent Greek-Swedish excavations directed by Katie Demakopoulou (National Museum) is ongoing. Remains have previously been



39. Lianokladhi: Middle Helladic remains. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 14th EPCA.



40. Mycenae: fragments of painted plaster. © ASA.

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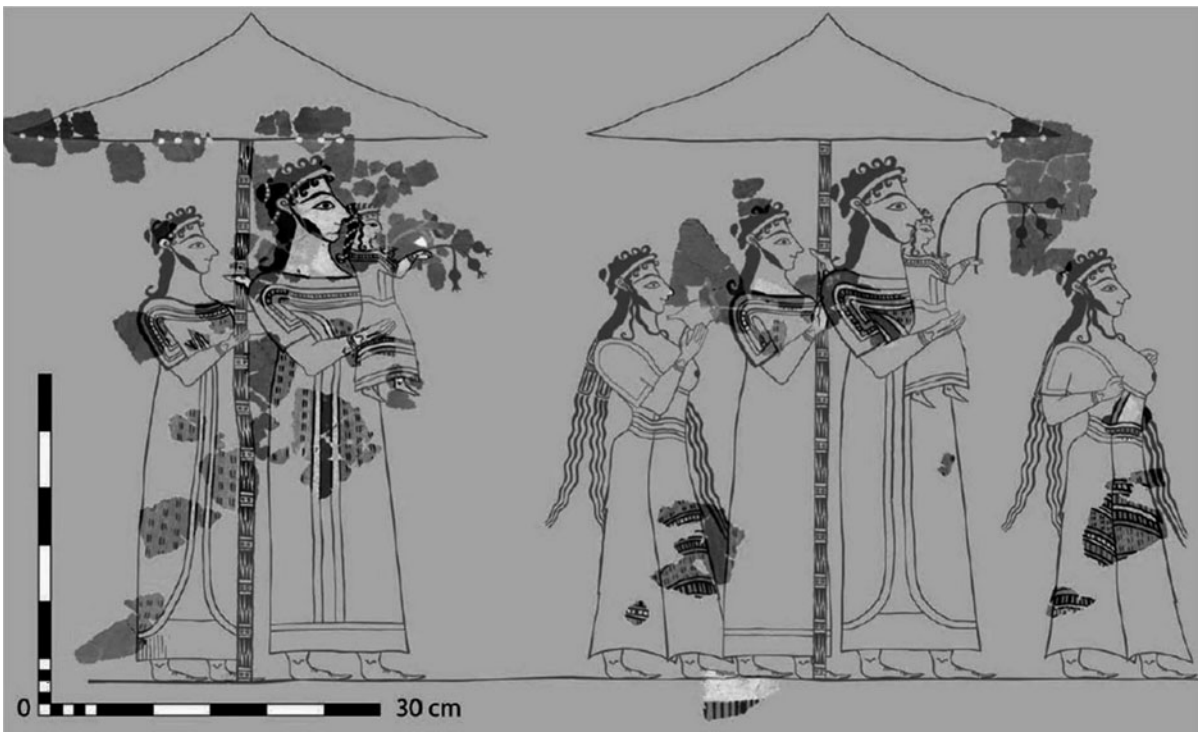
recorded from Late Helladic IIIB2 destruction deposits in Room XI and in and around the adjacent Room XIV of the building complex in the area of the West Gate (Demakopoulou *et al.* [2005] 11; [2006–2007] 11; [2009] 15).

At **Tiryns**, the study of over 1,000 fragments of wall-painting recovered during the 1999–2001 excavations of the Archaeological Service in the area of the West Staircase has produced joins with material previously published by Gerhart Rodenwaldt as well as the recognition of entirely new compositions. Among the most significant development is the reconstruction of a proposed initiation rite. Previously illustrated in *AR* 57 ([2011] 25, fig. 29), additional joins have helped to clarify the scene which can now be seen to include at least seven female figures in procession under parasol, of whom two small females, holding pomegranates, are being carried (**Fig. 41**). Excavators have identified a possible link with the *te-o-po-ri-ja*, 'θεοφορία' or 'the carrying of the gods', attested in the Linear B record from Knossos. Other fragments depict hunting scenes, nautili carrying vessels and a small-scale female procession accompanied by a bird sitting in a palm tree (**ID1449**). Fragments of painted plaster excavated in 2007 and 2008 have been attributed to a large building of Late Helladic IIIA2 date in the west Lower Town (**ID752**), while analysis of wall-paintings stored in the National Archaeological Museum has suggested that the well-known large-scale female procession from the West Slope fill may have originally derived from the palace megaron (**ID2972**).

Fresco fragments are reported from an apparently secure Late Helladic IIB–IIIA1 context in rooms T1, T2 and T3 of the so-called CT Building at **Iklaina** (**ID3313**, **ID2566**). Of numerous fragments, identifiable themes include at least two females, perhaps in procession, and an oared ship flanked by a pair of dolphins in which two rowers are visible along with a third individual apparently depicted in an ikrion. Painted plaster is also reported from a contemporary deposit in Room 2, immediately east of Room T3, and from a refuse deposit southeast of the complex (Cosmopoulos [2010]; [2011]).

The results of over a decade of comprehensive study undertaken on fresco fragments from Carl Blegen's excavations at **Pylos** were presented at the conference *Mycenaean Wall Paintings in Context* held in Athens in February 2011, and a number of publications have also appeared, notably the very detailed study of the archer fragment from Room 27 (Brecoulaki *et al.* [2008]; [2012]). Three ships have been partially restored in a naval scene which adorned the northwest wall of Hall 64. The hull of one is decorated with a horizontal zigzag motif (**ID146**) and at least one individual is represented (**ID2964**). The nautili from Hall 64, originally identified by Mabel Lang as part of a frieze, are now recognized as decorating the hull of a fourth ship to which new joins, including a fish and an additional oar, have also been added. New fragments have been joined to the well-known battle scene from Hall 64 (22H64), the 'Two Men at a Table' scene from the throne room (**ID331**, **ID1886**; *cf. AR* 51 [2004–2005] 32) and to figures from the 'Large-Scale Procession'. A naturalistically-rendered running lion has been identified from Room 6 (**ID889**), where cleaning in 2012 revealed the painted floor decoration and the grid lines which guided the artist. A digital photographic record has also been created of some 111 walls from the palace on which plaster survives *in situ*.

Elsewhere in Messenia, the discovery of wall-paintings during rescue excavations by the 38th EPCA at **Antikalamos**, north of modern Kalamata, is reported in the press (**ID3915**).



41. Tiryns. Reconstruction of the cult scene. © DAI.

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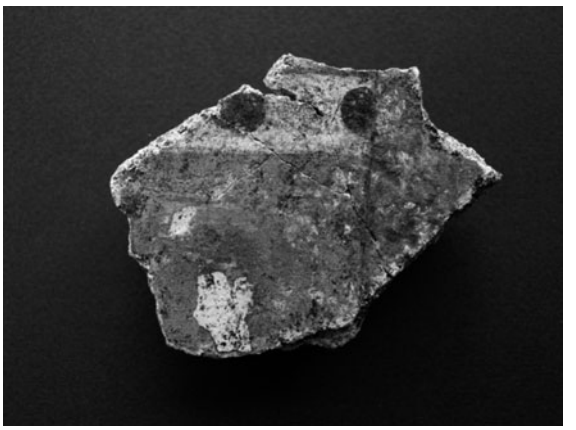
At **Agios Vasileios** (**ID3407**), where excavation during 2012 brought to light additional Linear B tablets and a small Egyptian ivory figurine among a wealth of other material, Building B has yielded numerous fragments of painted plaster. At least one chariot wheel has been identified (*AR* 57 [2010–2011] 23), while other small-scale fragments of probable Late Helladic IIIA date depict a female figure within a building, reminiscent of the battle scene from the megaron at Mycenae (**Fig. 42**), and the greaved leg of a warrior. Test trenches to the west of Building B have identified an apparent dump containing further fragments variously depicting griffins and other animals, a rocky landscape, floral motifs, spiral motifs and dentil patterns (**ID2322**). In the associated cemetery, Chamber Tomb A appears to have been used as a dump following the collapse of its roof and has yielded additional examples of painted plaster (**ID2322**). The paintings from Agios Vasileios are particularly significant given the poor survival, and relative indecipherability, of painted plaster from the **Menelaion** (see Catling [2009] 302–12).

At **Thebes**, excavations at 27–29 Antigonis Street have revealed a southern extension to the Mycenaean palatial complex (**ID3096**). Two successive floor levels were identified, each resting on a layer of mortar, of which the lowest was found to contain fresco fragments. Another substantial complex is noted at 3 Eurydike Street (**Kadmeia**). Apparently destroyed by fire during the mid 13th century BC, the central area of this structure yielded fresco fragments, as well as the remains of a terracotta bathtub. Further fragments of painted wall-plaster were recovered from a second room to the north (**ID800**). These fragments can be added to the already substantial number identified during previous excavation on the Kadmeia, depicting warriors, female procession, seascapes and hunting scenes among a variety of other motifs, some recently analysed by Ann Brysbaert ([2008]; for references, see Dakouri-Hild [2010] 700).

The recent discovery of Aegean-style paintings from **Tell Kabri** in Israel (Cline *et al.* [2011]) is a clear reminder of the potential importance of fresco art, as with other forms of craft and material culture, to the identification of contact between groups over distance.

A considerable number of Late Helladic burials have been reported from the mainland and particularly from the northwest Peloponnese. In Elis, a large Late Helladic IIIA2–C chamber tomb is reported from **Kafkania** containing successive layers of rich offerings and, unusually, a female skull preserving a diadem of blue glass beads *in situ* (**ID2508**) (**Fig. 43**). A roughly similar diadem is noted from **Stravokephalo** by Kostas Nikolenztos [2011], who also discusses previously unpublished material from the cemeteries at **Diasella**, **Makrisia** and the **New Museum**.

A Late Helladic IIA–IIIA2 tholos tomb and its associated settlement are reported from **Triantaphyllia** (**ID2509**) (**Fig. 44**), while another very large tholos has been excavated at **Vartholomio-Katsiveri** (**ID1896**). A group of 92 LHIIIB–C vessels has been recovered from Tomb 13 of the LHIII chamber tomb cemetery at **Trypes** (**ID1518**). A pictorial amphora decorated with an *ekphora* scene was excavated from the dromos of Tomb 8 at the same site (**ID323**), while the deposition of an imitation Late Cypriot horn-shaped vessel in Tomb 10 is symptomatic of the increased contact visible between Cyprus and the Greek mainland toward the end of the Late Bronze Age (**Fig. 45**). Some 15km northwest, warrior burials are reported from two tombs in the chamber tomb cemetery at **Mageira** (**ID1899**). Multiple swords and a pair of bronze greaves are reported among the grave goods, while two anthropomorphic beads are noted among the offerings from other tombs at the site.



42. Agios Vasileios: painted plaster depicting a female head from Building B. © ASA.

Weapons are reported from the recently-published cemetery at **Mitopoli** some 20km southwest of Patras (Christakopoulou-Somakou [2010]). Noteworthy among an assemblage of swords, daggers and arrowheads are a spearhead preserving part of its wooden shaft and an intact bronze spear-butt dated to early to mid Late Helladic IIIC from Tomb 4 and the remains of a boar's tusk helmet of probable LHIIIA1–2 date from Tomb 5. At Leontio, new tombs have been identified in the LHIIIB–C chamber tomb cemetery at **Vragiannika** (*ADelt* 56–59 [2001–2004] B4, 546; see also Giannopoulos [2008]), all but one looted in antiquity.



43. Kafkania: female skull preserving diadem *in situ*. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 7th EPCA.

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44. Triantaphyllia: Late Helladic IIA–IIIA2 building complex. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 7th EPCA.



45. Trypes: imitation Late Cypriot vessel from Tomb 10. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 7th EPCA.



46. Tzannata: general view of the site. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 35th EPCA.

In the Argolid, boar's tusks, a bronze spearhead and a knife are reported from the Late Helladic IIIB Chamber Tomb 2 on the Karagianni plot at **Nera**, ancient Epidaurus (**ID3857**), while a group of blue glass plaquettes, including one decorated with a figure-of-eight shield, was recovered from Chamber Tomb 6. There can be little doubt that the LHIIIC Dii type sword recovered from the surface at **Kastaniotissa** (**ID3431**) in northern Euboea must have originally derived from a tomb.

Pottery recovered from an Late Helladic IIIA1–2 tholos tomb at **Kechrinia Valtou** (**ID2391**) indicates contact with contemporary sites in Epirus and the Ionian islands, perhaps like that of **Tzannata** on the east coast of Kephallonia (**ID2710**, **ID2793**) (**Fig. 46**). Contact between central Greece and Italy, perhaps via Kephallonia or one of the other Ionian Islands, during the post-Palatial period is exemplified by an LHIIIC warrior burial reported from **Kouvaras Phyteion** on the Ambracian Gulf (**ID434**,

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ID795). In addition to a bone-handled bronze sword of Sanders Type F, an arrowhead and a leaf-shaped spearhead of Mycenaean type, chemical analysis on a long Naue II type sword has suggested a possible Italian origin, while a bimetal knife and a pair of greaves also have Italian parallels.

The discovery of Late Helladic graves at **Damasta** (**ID3547**) and the excavation of an Late Helladic IIB–IIIC chamber tomb cemetery at **Kompotades** (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes: 61–62), as well as the preliminary publication of contemporary settlements at the nearby sites of **Phrantzis** and **Lygaria** (Karantzali [2013]) represent an important contribution to the study of the later Mycenaean landscape of the Sperchios valley. The settlement at Phrantzis was occupied at least as early as Middle Helladic II and Lygaria from the Middle Helladic to LHI transition. Both were apparently small settlements in which Mycenaean pottery styles were amalgamated with local tastes and at which true imports are rare. Both were destroyed roughly contemporaneously in LHIIIB2–IIIC Early at a time when other sites in the valley were also abandoned.

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