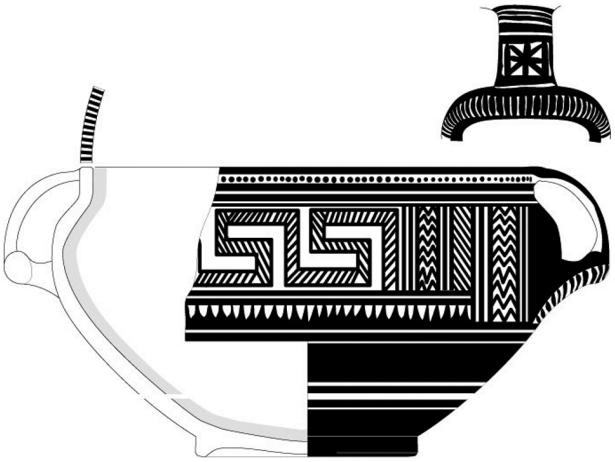


82. Eretria: MGeo II Attic krater.

PHTHIOTIS AND EAST LOKRIS
(14th EPCA: 24th EBA)

Cornell Halai and East Lokris Project (CHELP). J. Coleman (ASCSA/Cornell) reports on continuing study of the Neo architecture and finds (especially pottery) from the acropolis of Halai.

Cleaning and conservation work on the acropolis of Halai continued throughout the season. In area F, cleaning operations focused on the Byz intrusion at the E side of trench F9 first noticed by Virginia Grace in 1931 and on the S sides of trenches F9 and F11, where, during preparations for a path and viewing station for visitors, the probable S wall of Neo building VI was revealed.

Mitrou. E. Zahou (14th EPCA) and A. Van de Moortel (ASCSA/Tennessee) report on the 5th season of excavation in 2008, which focused primarily on 2 areas in the NE and NW of the islet. In addition, 3 outlying trenches were opened in previously unexcavated areas in the NE corner (LR797), at the E sea scarp (LX784) and in the central-E area (LR770) of the islet (**Fig. 83**).

The earliest levels reached dated to EHIIB. In trench LX784, at least 2 EHIIB occupational levels with substantial walls were found, situated close to sea level. EHIIB and EHIII levels were also exposed during cleaning of the W sea scarp of the islet, and EHIII walls were uncovered in trench LR797 in the NE corner of the islet. The EH settlement was therefore extensive. In all these locations, fired roof tiles were found as well as Lefkandi I pottery and EH vessels of the local tradition. Too little was exposed to understand building plans or the layout of the settlement. A clay seal found in the sea NW of the islet may be EHII in date.

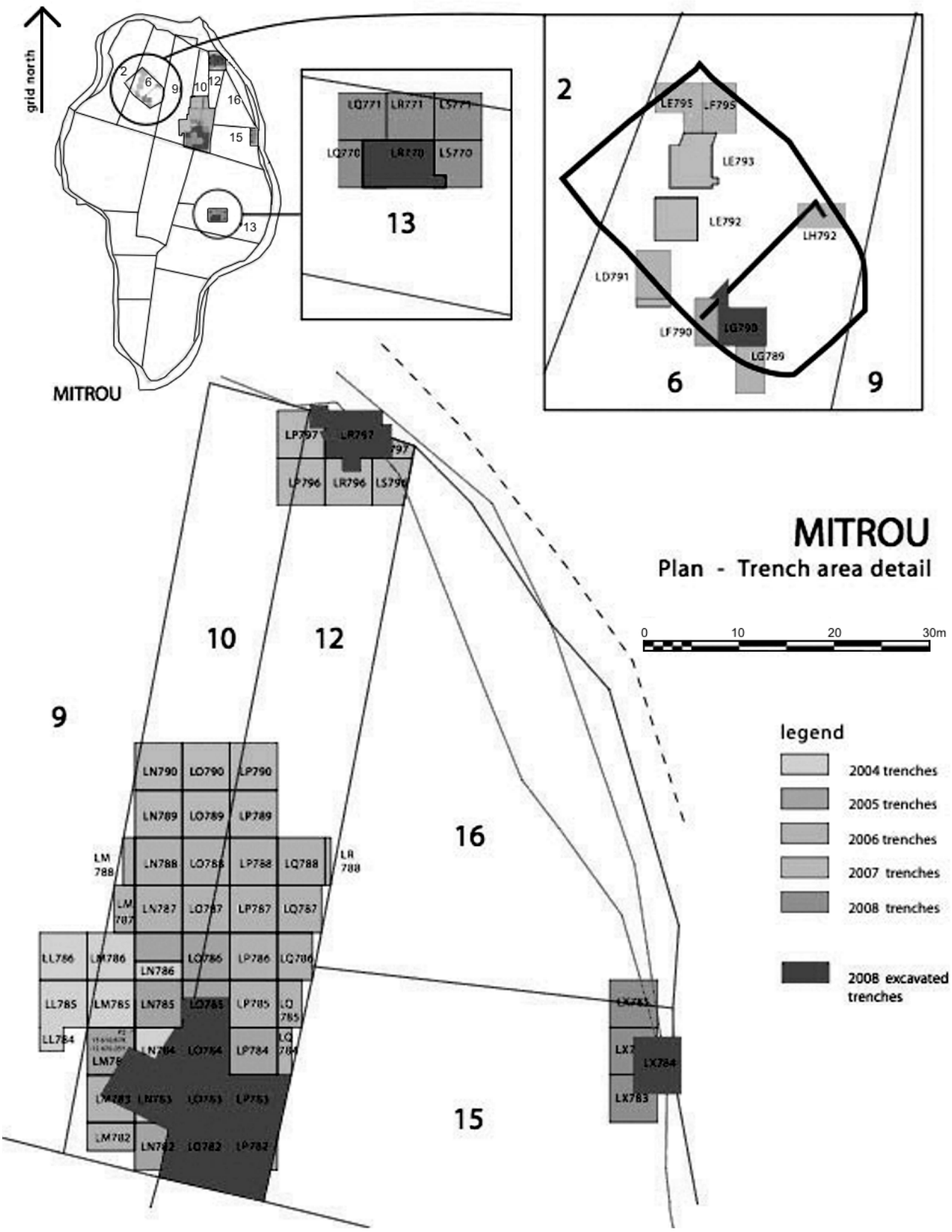
The MH settlement may have been equally extensive, with architectural remains identified at the E and W sea scarps as well as in the NE and NW excavation areas. A LMH wall (no. 149) and pebble surface were uncovered E of and below the LHI–LHIIIA2 E monumental building D in the NE excavation area (trench LP783) (**Fig. 84**). These are the first securely dated remains of the MH settlement in this area. In the NW excavation area, at least 5 successive MHI and MHII occupation strata and cist tombs were excavated in 2007. A wooden boat partially excavated in 2007 has now been dated to MHI. In trench LX784, on the E sea scarp, at least 5 successive MHI and MHII strata were likewise uncovered, including 2 rectilinear buildings: building K (MHI–MHII E) and building L (MHI). Too little was exposed to reveal the plan of those buildings. Building K had at least 2 rooms; its northernmost exposed room had a built oval hearth covered with plaster. Substantial amounts of pottery were associated with these MH strata.

Excavation of ELH levels continued in the NE excavation area (**Fig. 84**). The remainder of the W wall of building D was uncovered, revealing that its S part had been robbed out over a distance of ca. 5m. No floor deposits have yet been found inside building D, although the excavation is not finished. The central interior area of building D had been converted into a monumental tomb during its last period of use, and possibly as early as LHIIB. The tomb is rectangular (ca. 5m x 2m) with walls of mud-brick, and lined on the interior with large cut sandstone slabs, ca. 1m *w.* and 1.2m *h.* One slab is preserved intact and fragments of several more were found *in situ.* The tomb had been robbed in antiquity, but some human bones remained, as well as a gold ring, a fragmentary gold bracelet, a bronze ring, a piece of pierced gold foil and a small rock-crystal disk. Possibly at this same time, the exterior walls of building D were rebuilt and widened. The absence of interior faces is remarkable and may indicate that at this time the entire building was filled with debris and turned into a tumulus. Building D was bordered by pebbled streets to the W and N. No street was uncovered E of building D, but remnants were found of LHI, LHIIB and LHIIIA structures that apparently belonged to the same architectural complex as building D, but had much thinner walls. Most of this complex lies outside the excavation area.

In the NE corner of the islet, a grave plot was uncovered with a monumental cist grave (grave 51), ca. 1.8m x 1.5m x 0.9m, built of roughly hewn large limestone slabs. Parallel and perpendicular to this monumental grave were smaller cist graves. All graves of this plot had been robbed, but one cist tomb (grave 50) could be dated to LHI by a bichrome matt-painted amphoriskos contained within it (it also held a small bronze spiral). Study of the pottery continues, but it is likely that all these graves are of ELH date. Two more LHI cist tombs (graves 53 and 56) as well as an MHIII or LHI wall were found in trench LX784 at the E scarp of the islet. Grave 56 belonged to a juvenile buried with an LHI Grey Minyan teacup, a spindle-whorl and an obsidian blade. Fragments (perhaps not *in situ*) of a collapsed MHIII or LHI kiln were found, representing the latest BA occupation in that location.

In trench LR770 in the E-central area of the islet, 2 substantial parallel stone walls bordered a 2m *w.* earth and pebble street. This street runs parallel to that on the N side of building D, ca. 65m further N, and appears to be part of the same orthogonal street pattern. The 2 walls date at least to LHIIB, but may have been constructed earlier. On the latest surface of the street, in a mixed LH/PGeo context, was a small clay figurine of a parturient squatting female, which appears to be of non-local origin (**Fig. 85**). In the NW excavation area, only one trench was opened (LG790), connecting 2 previously excavated trenches. Here walls and surfaces belonged to the same 2 successive LHI occupation levels found in the adjacent trenches in previous years. An earlier cist tomb (grave 72) of a child buried with a Grey Minyan amphoriskos of LHI or MH date was also found. On top of the LHI strata were successive LHIIA and LHIIB levels, including a few walls and a substantial LHIIB burned destruction level with broken pottery and several animal horns. To the NW, these strata were much disturbed, and the stratigraphy of the adjacent trench LF790 will remain unclear until further study is undertaken.

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83. Mitrou: plan of the islet with the 2004–2008 trenches.

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Palatial period occupation (LHIIIA2 L and LHIIIB) remains scarce at Mitrou. No new architectural remains dating to this period have been found in the E of the islet. In trench LG790 in the NW excavation area, limited architecture was revealed. One wall (no. 64) was reused, and perhaps a small curved enclosure wall (no. 65) abutting it was built at this time. A largely intact LHIIIA phi-figurine was found in a disturbed context. In the same unit was a steatite lentoid seal stone modified into a bead, which is not closely datable. A large LHIIIB2 L pottery dump was found against the S scarp of trench LP782, SE of building D.

At the end of LHIIIB or the beginning of LHIIIC, 2 new walls (nos 119, 120) were constructed in trench LG790 and a new surface laid. On this surface a bronze knife was found. In addition, the 2 palatial period walls continued in use. Contrary to previous reports, these are the first securely dated post-palatial architectural remains found thus far in the NW excavation area. They establish for the first time that the post-palatial settlement reached this far W. In the NE excavation area, the latest surface of the pebbled street W of building D dates to LHIIIC. Thus the mass of large roughly cut blocks found on top of it and blocking this street must have fallen there in LHIIIC, and not during the LHIIIA2 E destruction, as previously conjectured. It is not yet clear from which building these large blocks came. More excavation and study is needed in order to reconstruct the architectural history of this area.

Inside building B (the LHIIIC successor to building D), one or two LHIIIC L surfaces were uncovered as well as fragmentary walls (nos 40, 41, 116) of a small structure (building J) that must postdate building B and probably also building C. The remains of a largely destroyed cist grave were found on top of the monumental tomb, and can be plausibly associated with an LHIIIC L clay feeding bottle. At least 2 cist graves (nos 70 and 71) found E of building D may date to LHIIIC L or EPGeo. Cist 70 included a handmade miniature dipper cup similar in style to the miniature vases of building C. A 3rd cist grave (no. 69) in this area is datable to the SubMyc or EPGeo period by an intact cup on top of its capstone. Burial 52 S of building B, excavated in 2007, can now be dated to LHIIIC.

One new PGeo structure was uncovered. Building I is a small rectilinear structure with thin walls just S of building E. Because of its close proximity to building E, it probably also dates to LPGeo. Below the apse of building A was a rough semicircular platform, possibly a hearth and probably LHIIIC or PGeo in date, on top of which was a steatite seal stone of the Mainland Popular Group (**Fig. 86**). Nearby were a miniature stone axe, a spindle-whorl and possibly a clay spool. In addition, the walls of trench LR770 in the E-central area of the islet may have been reused at this time. Several new PGeo cist graves were uncovered in many locations just below the plough zone, including at the E sea scarp, although not in trench LR797 in the NE corner of the islet. Most of these tombs had been robbed. Cist 57 W of building I contained a miniature patterned amphoriskos or amphoroid krater, and cist 49 in trench LX784 at the E scarp a fragmentary obsidian blade. Cists 59 and 63 in trench LR770 in the E-central area are of MPGeo or LPGeo date. Each contained a baby skeleton but no finds. By far the richest finds were found in the LPGeo cist grave 62 in trench LG790 in the NW excavation area. The tomb belonged to a ca. 6-year-old child buried with 3 small clay cups, a juglet, a feeding bottle and a pyxis, as well as 2 bronze pins, one or more bronze earrings, a bronze bracelet, a bronze ring, an indeterminate piece of bronze jewellery and a bead.



84. Mitrou: aerial view.



85. Mitrou: terracotta figurine of parturient female from trench LR770.



86. Mitrou: steatite lentoid seal of the Mainland Popular Group from below the apse of building A.

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Exarchos. S. Voyatzis and V. Sythiakaki (*DeltChAE* 39 [2008], 207–20) present an architectural study of the Church of Ag. Nikolaos, which is dated to the end of the 12th or E13th Ct AD, with the original wall-painting decoration dated to the last quarter of the 13th Ct.

THESSALY with the NORTHERN SPORADES

Nomos of Magnesia
(13th EPCA: 7th EBA)

The Pilion Cave Project. N. Andreasen (Danish Institute) and A. Darlas (EPSVE) report on the 2nd survey season, which focused on the E part of the mountain between the villages of Kalamaki in the S to Veneto in the N.

Fifty one localities were surveyed, counting 32 caves, 12 rock-shelters and 7 abandoned mines. A typology of 10 types of cave-use was developed. Three hundred and forty six surface finds were collected from 17 caves and rock-shelters, 2 of which had already been visited in 2006. The finds comprised mainly pottery sherds and animal bones. Diagnostic artefacts from 5 caves in the Mouresi municipality (Tsounaga, Tsouka, Gouronotrypa, Bourdovanou and Damouchari IV) consisted mostly of PH and Hel–Rom pottery, but also included polished stone tools and a human jaw. Four of the localities are deep caves and one is an anc. mine. A number of caves on the mountain were used from the LNeo/EBA. The character of their use cannot be established from surface finds, but is probably not exclusively related to herding.

Several previously undocumented caves played locally significant roles during World War II and the Gr Civil War. An important discovery was the find of a cave 2.5km SW of Veneto where the Gr Resistance stored ammunition and equipment during World War II. Although the Gr military emptied the cave of ammunition and explosives after the Civil War, more than 40 combat helmets were found at the site along with buckles, leather straps and military iron pack frames for mules. The helmets are World War I 'Adrian' style helmets and World War II M33 models, of which some have preserved leather padding. It is possible that this equipment was obtained from Italian units stationed at Pilion when they left the region in 1943.

Another cave above the village of Mouresi was used as a provisional field hospital for the Resistance during World War II and later as a refuge for several local families. The main chamber of the cave is accessed vertically and it is difficult to enter without a ladder. No artefacts or fireplaces were found, as visibility is severely limited.

A significant implication of the survey and the accompanying interviews is that the spectrum of activities performed at caves and in rock-shelters within our region is much broader than initially anticipated. Only in a few cases could artefact distributions or artefact types be related to any specific activity. Some cave uses connected to agro-pastoral, religious and military activities tend to be ephemeral and leave little cultural material behind. This is the case even where several persons, a family or groups of people are involved.

One such example is a cave which served as a secret field hospital during World War II. At this locality there was no visible cultural material left on the surface that could point to such use. Other confirmed 'refuge-caves', partisan hide-outs or quarantine caves are equally invisible in an archaeological sense, despite their local and historical significance.

Northern Sporades

Alonissos
Cave of the Cyclops
Publication: A. Sampson, *The Cave of the Cyclops. Mesolithic and Neolithic Networks in the Northern Aegean, Greece* 1. *Intra-site Analysis, Local Industries, and Regional Site Distribution* (Philadelphia, INSTAP 2008).

Nomos of Larisa
(15th EPCA: 7th EBA)

Vasilis (Ennipea). *Ethnos* (05/11/08 and 21/11/08) and *To Vima* (21/11/08) cite a report (via a Ministry of Culture press release, 20/11/08) by G. Toufexis (15th EPCA) of the discovery, in the course of laying a gas-pipe outside the village of Vasilis, of a LNeo settlement. This was occupied through the first half of the 5th millennium BC before being destroyed by fire: there are also traces of fire in earlier phases of the settlement, which have yet to be investigated. Houses are constructed both in the wattle-and-daub technique (noting that the burnt mud-plaster preserved impressions of the wood) and in mud-brick, and have clay roofs. The settlement contains clay ovens set in open spaces, much pottery including excellent examples of decorated wares, stone grinding and cutting tools, a few terracotta figurines and loomweights indicating the weaving of wool.

The site was reused in the Hel period (3rd Ct): 15 tombs were found (cists, pits and free burials), containing no grave goods.

Tyrnavos. *I Akropoli* (25/03/09) cites a report by A. Batziou (Director, 15th EPCA) of the discovery of the remains of a Cl (probably 5th Ct) public building, perhaps a temple.

Nomos of Karditsa
(34th EPCA: 19th EBA)

Publication: E. Tsangkaraki (ed.), Οδοιπορικό στα μνημεία του νομού Καρδίτσας: Αρχαιότητες - Ναοί - Νεότερα μνημεία (Karditsa, Nomos of Karditsa 2008).

Nomos of Trikala
(34th EPCA: 19th EBA)

Anc. Pelinna. *Ethnos* (04/10/08) cites a report by L. Hatziangelakis (Director, 34th EPCA) of the discovery of a main gate in the W part of the city's fortification wall, following on from the earlier discovery of a smaller postern in the same area.

Pharkadon. *Ethnos* (15/11/08) cites a report by L. Hatziangelakis (Director, 34th EPCA) of the discovery of 14 MH cist graves in the course of work on the national road from Trikala to Larisa in the area of Pharkadon. The graves contained the remains of both adults and children, variously oriented but usually in extended position with the hands crossed on the chest, across the pelvis or by the sides. In 2 cases, the bodies lay on their side with the knees bent. Pottery found in the graves included plainware vessels, a perfume vessel, sherds from funerary vases, as well as pottery in the style of Bratislavan ware and ware from Petromagoula near Volos. Stone and bone tools, flint points and cores, and obsidian blades were also included. Among the more

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