

47. Pavlopetri: site plan following the 2009 survey.

Helladic pottery was lifted in 2009, both local wares and a few imports possibly from Kythera, noting storage vessels with Middle Minoan decoration. Late Bronze Age sherds span the Middle Helladic/Late Helladic transition until the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces. Shapes represented include drinking vessels (mainly kylikes and cups), storage vessels (amphorae and alabastra) and vessels for serving liquids (squat jugs, skyphoi and kraters). Several sherds show strong Late Minoan influence; a clay strainer is provisionally dated to LMIB.

The site was probably abandoned in post-palatial times. Limited Classical to Hellenistic reoccupation is indicated by fourth- and third-century skyphos and other sherds. Late antique pottery recovered in 1968 and 2009 may also indicate limited reoccupation and local involvement in trade in limestone and iron from the nearby ores at Ag. Elissaios and the exploitation of murex beds for the production of purple dye.

Elaphonisos, M. Liarou-Psarommati property. E. Zavvou reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 229) the discovery of Early Helladic and Mycenaean sherds during trial excavation in the area of Lefki, at Kato Nisi.

Neapolis (ancient Boiai), 124 Akti Boion Street (G. I. and K. Kontraphouri property). A. Themos (then 5th EPCA, now Epigraphical Museum) reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 230) the discovery of walls and Late Roman pottery (amphorae, terra sigillata, and incised and combed ware) during excavation connected with the insertion of new supports into a house basement. The plot lies south of the central square of Neapolis, immediately bordering the site of a Late Roman bath previously partially excavated (see *ADelt* 25 [1970] *Chr*, 172; *ADelt* 26 [1971] *Chr*, 120–22; *ADelt* 28 [1973] *Chr*, 173–75, and noting the fragment of Diocletian's *Edict on Maximum Prices* previously found here: *AE* [1992], 165–77). The present remains must be part of this complex.

MESSENIA
(38th EPCA: 26th EBA)

Messene. P. Themelis (ASA) reports on a further season of excavation in the theatre, the north stoa in the agora and the monopteros (*Ergon* [2009], 42–48).

In the theatre, the east retaining wall of the koilon was completely exposed to its lowest course. This is also the north wall of the *skenotheke* of which the east wall and the stylobate of the south side are preserved (**Fig. 48**). Three parallel channels in the floor of the *skenotheke* allowed the movement of wheeled wooden scenery into the orchestra from the end of the third century BC to the first century AD (**Fig. 49**). Behind the north wall of the *skenotheke* lay the sloping floor which led to the middle *diazoma* of the koilon. In the 10th to 11th century AD, the east retaining wall was levelled, and workshops and lime kilns built within the foundations of the koilon. Among the building material used is the base of a marble statue of a boxer victorious in the Pythian games and in the *Basileia* at Levadeia.

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East of the theatre, beside the spring of Arsinoe, is the Π-shaped stoa which forms the northern boundary of the agora. The western part was excavated in 2009; parts of the internal Corinthian colonnade had inscribed bases for bronze statues. One base fragment preserves a depiction of a conical helmet in relief.

East of the apse of the basilica in the theatre area, and mostly beneath the basilica, lay the stylobate of a round Doric building (10m in diameter) with many of its columns collapsed around it (**Fig. 50**). Around and outside the stylobate was a second concentric circle of limestone slabs belonging to an older construction. A multi-coloured stone and glass mosaic floor between the two foundations depicts several over life-size figures named in black stone captions: one of the male figures carrying a staff is named Atticus, perhaps the father of Herodes Atticus (**Fig. 51**).

An inscribed statue base west of the round Doric building bears a dedicatory inscription from the captains to Capitoline Zeus.



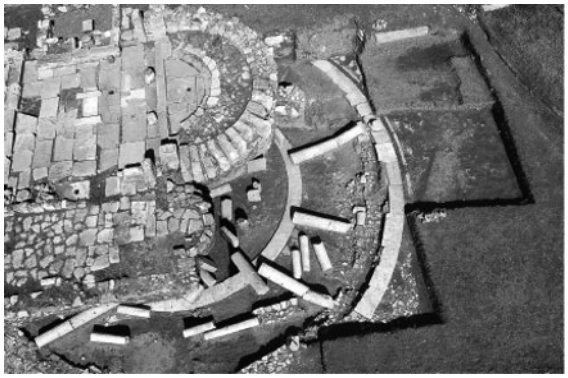
48. Messene: north wall of the *skenotheke.*



49. Messene: south wall of the *skenotheke.*

Ithome. P. Themelis (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2009], 49) on excavation within the sekos of the temple (thought to be dedicated to Eileithyia and the Kouretes), which revealed an ivy-leaf shaped statue base. A stone shelf around the sekos was for the placing of dedications (**Fig. 52**).

Ellinika, Antheia (G. Skartsili property). X. Arapogianni (then Director, 7th EPCA, now Director, 38th EPCA) reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 279) the discovery of a further Mycenaean chamber tomb (Ellinika 15). While this is not part of the previously known Mycenaean cemetery (being 400m away), it is a monumental tomb, second in size only to Ellinika 6.



50. Messene: round Doric building.



51. Messene: floor mosaic from the round Doric building.

The near-square chamber (6.9m x 7.1m, 5.1m high) has a gabled roof: a bench was cut along the north and south walls. A north door leads into a side room (2m x 2.5m, 2.09m high). The dromos is cut by a farm road and only 9m of its length has been uncovered; it slopes down gently towards the tomb entrance. The tomb has a deep threshold; the dry-stone wall which sealed it was largely removed by looters in antiquity. Very few finds survive: by the door was part of a stone vessel plus gold shavings and a few sherds were scattered through the fill. Two burials without goods lay on the floor of the dromos just outside the chamber entrance: the first a single child burial and the second that of two individuals, one above the other. Finds are insufficient to indicate a date.



52. Ithome: temple sekos.

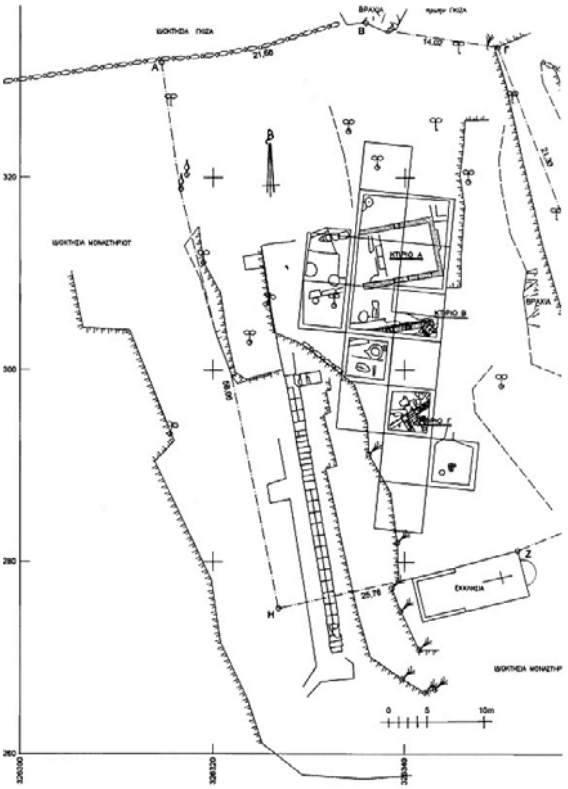
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Kastroulia Ampheias. X. Arapogianni reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 280) the discovery of two tumuli, *ca.* 40m apart, on a small hill *ca.* 500m from the Mycenaean cemetery of Ellinika and 450m west of the village of Ampheia. Prehistoric sherds have previously been noted on and around the hill.

Tumulus 1 had previously been the target of illegal excavation which may also have destroyed parts of the central elliptical structure of unworked stones. The rich sherd material from the fill dates exclusively to EHII. Tumulus 2 is scheduled for future excavation.

Ancient Thouria. X. Arapogianni (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2009], 33–41) on continuing excavation (**Fig. 53**).

A large polygonal retaining wall (14m long, 3.1m high, oriented north-south) forms a corner at its northern end, continues east-west for 4m and is continued for 30m to the south by a more recent isodomic retaining wall. A stone staircase leads up to the platform, on which the north, south and east sides of the large isodomic building A (oriented east-west) were exposed. Inside were the remains of its Laconian tiled roof above an ash layer. Small cisterns of tile and lime mortar were later constructed around the building.



53. Ancient Thouria: excavation plan.

The fourth-century BC building B lay 5m south of building A. The stylobate of its Ionic colonnade is preserved for a length of *ca.* 10m with three column bases *in situ* (**Fig. 54**). At the eastern end was an *in situ* monolithic engaged column with, beside it, part of the epistyle and other architectural members. This building



54. Thouria: building B, stylobate of Ionic colonnade.

also had a Laconian tiled roof: its public function is confirmed by a number of tiles stamped ΔΑΜΟΣΙΟΙ.

Building Γ (south of building B) had a monumental façade and a two-stepped stylobate supporting a wall of orthostates intersected by Doric half-columns (the northwest corner column is three-quarters fluted). The architectural members of this building were covered in light white plaster. The interior floor is of white pebbles, and, on the exterior, colours include black and red. Inside the building, a limestone base (0.6m x 0.82m x 0.14m) contains a void (0.41m in diameter, 0.25m deep) to hold an object now lost. Next to it is the base of an offering table with lion-paw feet (**Fig. 55**).

Finds from building A include Classical sherds and part of a terracotta relief plaque with an armed Athena. In the fill of building Γ is small relief metope of a satyr. The presence of three monumental buildings on the platform indicates that this was a public area of as yet undetermined character.

See also: X. Arapogianni, *Μεσσηνιακά Χρονικά* 4 (2008–2009), 9–14.

Dialiskari Marathoupolis. G. Chatzi-Spiliopoulou (7th EPCA) reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 281) on work to conserve and lift the black and white geometric floor mosaic originally noted by N. Valmin in 1930. The original farmhouse within which the floor was discovered had been



55. Thouria: building Γ, base of offering table.

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replaced by a modern building with a basement. The decorated area and white surround, as well as the later floor in *opus pseudospicatum*, remained untouched by this new construction, although Roman antiquities must have been destroyed by its foundation. Both floors were conserved, and the mosaic lifted for eventual museum display.

Kastania, Pyrgos Douraki. V. Albani (5th EBA) reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 263) on a study for the dismantling and re-erection in museum conditions of this five-storey 18th-century tower-residence. Excavation of the foundations of the ground floor at the east wall revealed untrimmed bedrock at a depth of only 0.25–0.3m. Investigation of the interior wall plaster on the first and second storeys revealed that the wall, of stones with a lime and red-earth binding, was originally left bare.

Iklaina. M. Kosmopoulos (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2009], 50–56) on a further season of excavation.

The LHII or LHIIIA1 house Β was built on the remains of earlier structures. House Γ had two phases. The first comprises three rooms, one of which contained a central hearth surrounded by four column bases. In the second, four small storerooms were built in the southern part of the structure, containing many LHIIIA2–B sherds of kylikes, skyphoi, pithoi and rhyta, figurines and animal bones.

House Δ had three rooms, one of which contained many sherds and figurines. Pottery from this structure dates to LHIIIA1 to LHIIIB. Investigation of one of the two rooms of the newly-discovered house Ε showed it to date to LHIIIA2/B. A conduit originating in that room suggests that the structure was used as a workshop; there were three further channels.

A long wall on the north side of the excavation area is likely part of a peribolos. At the northern end lay a room containing a cup and two kylikes: its walls were built into fill containing LHIIIA1–2 pottery. Below this fill was a deposit of sherds and burnt animal bone, as well as a large pithos set into the hard earth surface. A helmet was found close to the wall in 2008 and, in 2009, the skeleton of a 12–13-year-old female suffering from anaemia was also discovered.

An approach route to the site was identified; pottery in the fill dates to the Late Helladic and to the fourth to third century BC, and an 8m x 12m paved area is also preserved. There are the foundations of at least five rooms with LHII–IIIA1 pottery, part of a terracotta offering table and fragments of wall-painting depicting buildings, women and men with a ship.

To date, finds from Iklaina indicate a complex destroyed at the end of LHIIIB.

Pylos, **Palace of Nestor**. S. Stocker and J. Davis (ASCSA) report on the 2009 study season.

Human remains from Mycenaean chamber tombs at Kato Rouga in Chora and from a third tomb in the Kokkevis group at Kato Englianos were examined. Study of wall-plaster and floor-plaster continued, and documentation of all painted plaster remaining *in situ* in the palace was begun. Study of Byzantine artefacts from the Northeast Gateway was completed, as was examination of Middle Helladic pottery from the so-called Petropoulos Trench. Progress was made in the documentation of pottery from the Pantries, while documentation of artefacts from graves is nearing completion.

Christianoupoli, Church of the Metamorphosis of the Saviour. V. Albani reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 263–64) on excavation in connection with the second phase of an architectural study for the stabilization of this 11th- to 12th-century complex.

In the bishop's residence, by the southwest wall of the church, lay a marble offering table, metal and glass objects, and part of a floor at a depth of 1.37m. In the northwest corner of the residence was a Macedonian bronze coin of the reign of Hadrian. Two graves with complete skeletons were found in the northeast corner of the church, along with scattered bone, a bronze ring, a coin and a pot. On the north side of the junction of the bishop's residence and the church was a cist grave with tile cover, a metal clasp, clay pot and stone cross. West of the main entrance to the church and by the south wall was a large limestone structure, plus fragments of sculpture, architectural spolia and a pot. In the northeast corner of the central transept was a child's grave with stone cover slabs, plus a metal item and decorated metal sheet. Finally, there were broad walls between the central, north and south apses of the sanctuary.

ELEIA, including TRIPHYLIA
(7th EPCA: 6th EBA)

Prasidaki, Temple of Athena. X. Arapogianni reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 274) on continuing excavation.

The entire colonnade (6 x 13 columns) was exposed. The temple measures 35.3m long x 15.58m wide, with the krepis well preserved in the northeast and northwest corners. On the east and north sides, the building was destroyed down to the stereobate. The destruction level, which was intact along the long sides of the temple, contained, in addition to the roof, parts of the geison, epistyle, and column capitals and drums. Along the northeast side, at the level of the first step of the krepis, a clay drain removed rain-water into a terracotta sink and thence away from the temple via a closed conduit.

The column capitals date the temple to the first half of the fifth century: it continued in use into the first to second century AD, on the evidence of the pottery and lamps found in front of the cult statue base. Finds include decorated simas and tiles, and many terracotta and bronze figurines, found mainly around the outside of the temple. An orthostat set in front of the pronaos, inscribed ΑΘΑΝΑΙ, confirms the identity of the deity worshipped.

Taxiarches (Mophtika). D. Athanasoulis (6th EBA) reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 369) a study of the post-Byzantine and later churches in the listed historical settlement of Taxiarches.

Three small, single-roomed, wooden-roofed 19th-century churches are noted: Ag. Georgios, Ag. Theodoroi and the Church of the Panagia. The main church of the village and the location of the cemetery, the Church of the Dormition of the Virgin, is a one-roomed, wooden-roofed structure, with three semicircular apses in the east side.

Outside the village is the ruined, single-roomed Church of the Ag. Apostolon with a semicircular apse.

Kakovatos. B. Eder (DAI/Freiburg) reports on the first season of renewed fieldwork in 2009, to investigate the spatial extent, building types and chronological span of the Mycenaean settlement on the so-called acropolis.

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