ARCADIA
(39th EPCA: 5th EBA)

Y. Pikoulas (ed.), *ΙΣΤΟΡΙΕΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΡΧΑΙΑ ΑΡΚΑΔΙΑ. Proceedings of the International Symposium in Honour of James Roy* (Stemnitsa, University of Thessaly 2008) contains a range of papers on the archaeology and history of the region which is of wide interest. Specific articles are noted below (*Istories*) only when they present new data or significantly expand previous site reports.

Kynouria, Villa of Herodes Atticus (Loukou). *Kathimerini* (02/05/09) reports the discovery by G. Spyropoulos of one of the 10 tribal casualty stelai set up over the Athenian dead at Marathon. The stele had been taken to decorate the Villa of Herodes Atticus along with a number of sculptures and other antiquities. The stele bears an epigram, and lists 22 names of the dead of the tribe Erechtheis.

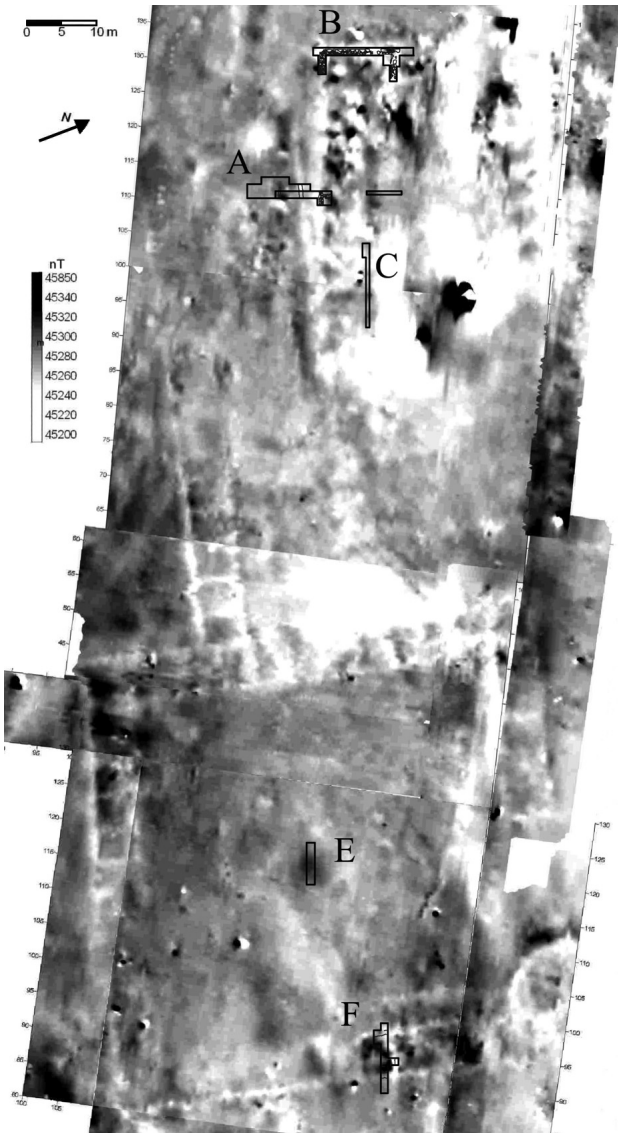
Agia Paraskevi Arachamitai. B. Forsén (Finnish Institute) reports on work conducted in 2008.

Further trial trenches were opened around the large courtyard structure and Hel stoa (*AR* 54 [2007–2008], 32), in order to define the date and function of the courtyard structure, to gain information about the relationship between these buildings, which are differently aligned and thus perhaps of different date, and to obtain data on the pre-Hel activities currently known only through the few finds made in 2007.

The plan of the monumental courtyard structure obtained from the 2007 magnetometer survey (**Fig. 37**) shows a series of 5m x 6m rooms around all sides of the courtyard. The survey suggested the presence of a round pit in the centre of the court, and 2 entrances in the middle of the E and W sides respectively. A trial trench (E) at the location of the possible central pit produced insufficient information to confirm the existence of a man-made feature here. A 2nd trial (F) revealed the exact location of 3 of the walls of one of the rooms flanking the courtyard. These walls are built of small unworked stones with no mortar, are ca. 0.6m *w.* and stand ca. 0.6–0.7m *h.* beneath ca. 0.2m of top soil. The room interior was covered by a 0.1–0.2m *d.* layer of roof tile mixed with a burned mass of red clay, possibly the remains of sun-dried bricks from the upper part of the walls. Very few finds were recorded in the layer below the collapsed roof – only some iron nails and a few non-diagnostic sherds mixed with charcoal and ash – and so the date and function of the courtyard structure remain unresolved. However, many of the roof tiles were decorated with finger strokes in the typical MRom or LRom manner, thus giving an approximate indication of date which is further supported by a C^{14} sample taken below the collapsed roof, which gives a date of the 3rd or 4th Ct AD.

A further objective of 2008 was to determine the borders of the shallow pit filled with dark soil, large quantities of pottery and other small finds revealed in 2007. The 2007 trench (A) was extended to the S and W, revealing across its area a 0.3–0.5m *d.* dark layer mixed with fragments of roof tiles, large amounts of pottery (including miniature vessels), fragmentary terracotta figurines, various small finds, charcoal and ash. The layer is thicker and slightly deeper in the N towards the stoa-like structure. Sterile soil lay below this dark layer except in a small area in the N of the trench, where more dark soil mixed with large quantities of pottery, various small finds and ash continues at least to 1.7m below surface. This dark soil, most likely from a pit, differs in that it contains some large stones instead of fragmentary roof tiles. The earliest finds, made in the S part of the trench, include parts of a M5th Ct local rf vase and bg pottery of the 4th–3rd Ct BC. Most finds date to the 3rd and 2nd Cts BC, and include Megarian bowls and bronze coins. Several coins were found in the pit, including one of Kassandros, recovered at a *d.* of 1.55m. The composition of the finds is thus rather similar to that presented in the 2007 excavations, although with more evidence for the early phases of cult activity as well as providing a better picture of the stratigraphy of the dark soil layer.

Gourtsouli (anc. Mantineia). Th. Karagiorga-Stathakopoulou presents (*Istories*, 125–43) a synthetic account of the results of excavations conducted in 1962 and 1989–1990, with extensive illustration and discussion of the largely unpublished portable finds from the Ar shrine (which was established, after a post-BA hiatus, towards the end of the 8th Ct BC).



37. Arachamitai: results of the magnetometer survey showing the courtyard structure and possible stoa, with the location of the 2007 and 2008 trenches.

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Gyros. E. Kourinou (National Archaeological Museum) presents archival evidence (*Istories* 163–87) which indicates that the 7th Ct BC seated statue (ANM 57) long assigned to the Sanctuary of Demeter near **Agiorgitika** instead probably came from the Sanctuary of Artemis at Gyros, near Mouchli, E of Agiorgitika in the W foothills of Mt Ktenias, partially excavated by V. Bérard in 1889. Documents here reproduced include lists of Bérard's finds and of items from the sanctuary confiscated from a local smuggler.

Leondari. *Eleftheros Typos* (03/09/08) cites a report by D. Athanasoulis (now Director, 25th EBA) of the discovery of fragments of LByz wall-painting and sherds at the Med Kastro, during excavation conducted as part of cleaning operations after the forest fires of summer 2008 had destroyed dense vegetation around the monument. The finds relate to the period, during the 15th Ct, when the Kastro was the seat of Thomas Palaiologos, brother of Constantine, the last Byz emperor.

Mt. Lykaion, Sanctuary of Zeus. M. Petropoulos (39th EPCA), M.E. Voyatzis (ASCSA/Arizona) and D.G. Romano (ASCSA/Pennsylvania) report on the 2008 season of excavation and survey (**Figs 38, 39**).

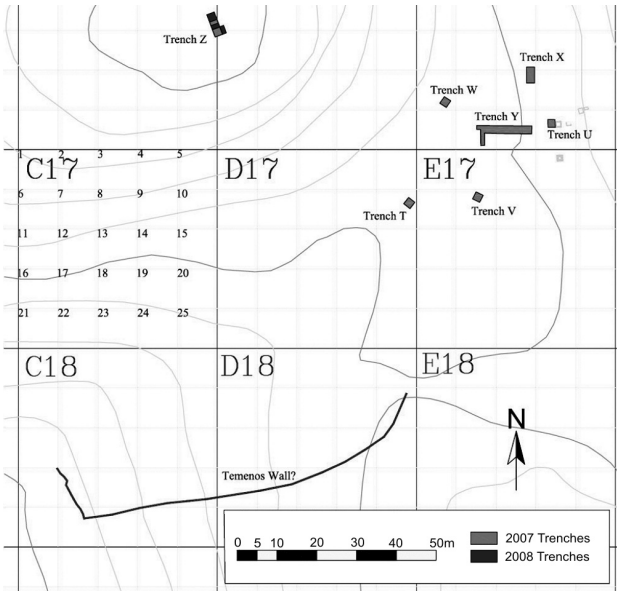
Excavation revealed stratigraphic sequences which probably indicate a first use of the altar in the Myc period, characterized by dozens of Myc kylikes and other small finds. Above this lowest level, the stratigraphy includes EIA material, as well as Geo, Ar, Cl and Hel pottery and other objects apparently in a continuous sequence. Many miniature bronze tripods were recovered, as well as silver coins, metal objects and miniature dedications of various kinds. Numerous EH and MH sherds, as well as large amounts of FNeo, were uncovered again this year in nearly all layers of the altar. Masses of animal bones continue to be unearthed, but no human bones have yet been found. Part of what may be the anc. temenos wall was cleared S of the altar. In the lower sanctuary, excavation continued immediately N and S of the seats or steps and outside the NE corner of the xenon, where considerable amounts of Hel pottery were found. More of the 67m *l.* stoa building was cleared: a trench was opened to the N of the stoa to recover information from a stele that had been illicitly uncovered.

Work continued to document the location of all extant stone blocks. Architectural study focused on completion of the documentation of the steps or seats to the N of the stoa, the E wall of the xenon and the fountain house to the S and W of the xenon.

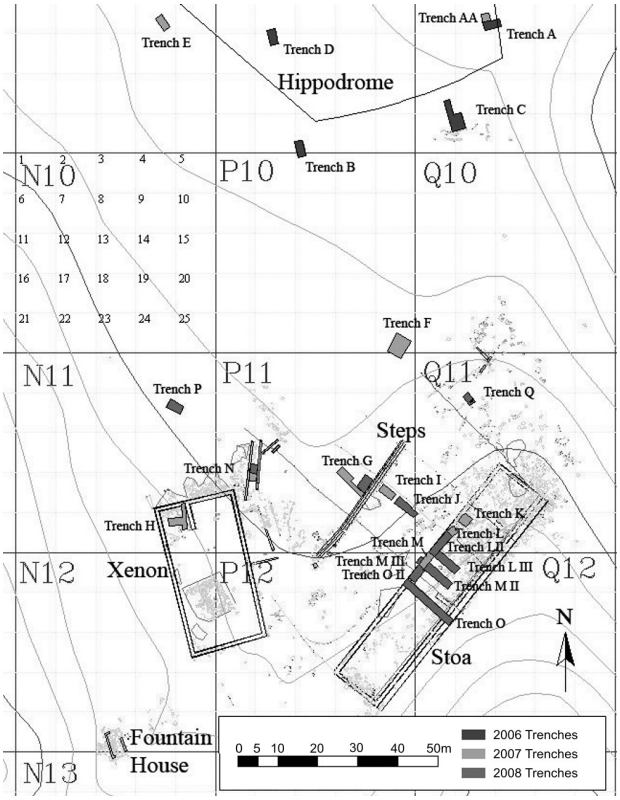
G. Davis' team continued the geological survey of the area immediately surrounding the southern peak of Mt Lykaion, defining the structural geology of the region. Y. Pikoulas continued the historical study of the Mt Lykaion area, identifying anc. roads and towns (see below, under **Theisoa**).

The project website is http://lykaionexcavation.org.

Theisoa. Y. Pikoulas (*Istories*, 251–60) reports on an investigation of the defensive system of Theisoa conducted under the aegis of the Mt Lykaion project, which led to the identification of at least 5 isolated patrol stations in the S part of the territory of Theisoa. These are located at **Elliniaki** (ca. 500m NNW of the cemetery of the village of Ano Kotilion), **Pyrgouli** (ca. 300m below and E of the road, 1km from the village), **Alonaki** (2km N of the village, immediately W of the road), **Vrachos tou Vidi** (almost 2.5m NNW of the village) and **Gourtsoules**. They likely date after the M4th Ct BC, and it is argued that they formed a network controlling access to the basin of Megalopolis from the W.



38. Mt Lykaion: upper sanctuary.



39. Mt Lykaion: lower sanctuary.

Palaikastro (Gortyn). A.-V. Karapanagiotou (39th EPCA) reports (*Istories*, 231–50) on excavation of a roadside cemetery of the LCl–Hel period, on the SW slope of the hill of Skeplia or Steplia, 1km ENE of Palaiokastro, above the mod. road from Palaiokastro to Rizospelia. A monumental limestone grave stele (more than 4.5m *h.* and undecorated), preserved in 4 sections, has long been known from the site. It is best

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paralleled in LCl Attica. In the S part of the cemetery, in addition to common graves, excavation to date has revealed the following monuments along the line of the road.

A rectangular structure (2.3m x 1m), of which the foundations are preserved: this is built of small and medium-sized worked limestone and local stone blocks, preserved in 2 courses to a total *h.* of 0.7m. No evidence for the superstructure survives. An empty elliptical pit was found behind and below the level of the foundations.

The foundations of a funerary monument (2.6m x 1.3m), preserving part of the euthynteria of limestone blocks (notably the well-worked NE corner block, 1.1m *l.*, 0.6m *w.* and 0.29m *h.*, plus a further smaller such block, 0.81m x 0.41m x 0.27m). The lower faces of these blocks, which sat on bedrock, were only roughly worked, and the spaces between the blocks were packed with smaller stones. This may be the foundation of the large stele long known from this site, or a similar such marker. A cavity 1.1m x 1.3m was cut into the bedrock inside the structure and below its foundations: this was empty, but had likely been looted. Surface cleaning above this monument produced a bronze coin of Heraia of 370–340 BC.

An elliptical pit (0.4m x 0.85m and 0.4m *d.*), cut into the bedrock, contained 5 bg vessels (an oinochoe, a krater, 2 skyphoi and a kantharos) of the L4th–E3rd Ct BC, carefully placed together. These may relate to rituals in memory of the dead. The pit was then covered with limestone slabs. A further 4 LCl–EHel vessels (a krater, 2 skyphoi and a trefoil-mouthed oinochoe) were found in a similar pit, 5m to the S of the stele monument detailed above.

Finally, following reports of tombs on the W slope of Skeplia, ca. 80m NW of the stele monument, 4 tombs were discovered, of which 2 have so far been excavated. Tomb 1 is a pit grave 1.15m x 0.35m, in which only the lower part of the skeleton was preserved; among the bones was a tear bottle and, by the right tibia, a lamp, finds which date the tomb to the 2nd half of the 2nd Ct BC. A tomb excavated to the W of the road dates to the end of the 2nd Ct BC on the basis of the grave offerings (a tear bottle and a lamp). Tomb 4 is a cist, 2m x 0.5m, which contained an extended skeleton, head to the N, but no grave goods.

While the anc. road has eroded away in the area of the major monuments, sections of it were found to the E of these graves. The road here is 2.76m *w.*, preserved for a *l.* of 6.5m and is built of pieces of the local soft bedrock, unworked slab-like stones and pot sherds. Cleaning of this general area revealed a further 11m *l.* stretch running N: the road surface was not preserved here, merely the cutting for the road bed (2.55m *w.*) and the lower levels of fill consisting of chips from the quarrying of the bedrock.

Kakouraiika (Heraia). A.-V. Karapanagiotou (39th EPCA) is cited (E. Salavoura, *Istories*, 79) as reporting the discovery of 2 further Myc chamber-tomb cemeteries in the region of this village, along the E bank of the Alpheios river, close to the cemetery at Loutra Heraias reported in *AR* 53 (2007–2008), 33.

Andriopoulo (Agios Andreas). In a general review of EByz remains from Arcadia, most of which have been previously reported, E. Eleutheriou (*Istories,* 266) notes EByz sherds at this site, which lies WNW of Karytaina, on the S bank of the Alpheios river, immediately ESE of the mod. church of Ag. Andreas. It is characterized as a probable farmstead.

Lousoi. G. Ladstätter (Austrian Institute) reports on the 2008 excavation season, concentrated on the area of the Hel peripteral temple and the cult complex just W of it (see *AR* 54 [2007–2008], 33–34).

On terrace 1, a small Hel cult structure (5.7m x 8.1m) associated with an altar has been studied since 2004. Underneath this so-called orthostat building lay the foundations of a further rectangular building (5m x 7m) of the LCl period; associated finds indicate a cult use. Probably in the E Imperial Rom period, the orthostat building was enlarged with the addition of 2 rooms to the N and S. Excavation in 2008 concentrated on the NE of the orthostat building and on the N hall of the enlarged phase. The architectural remains of the altar (1.3m x 2.6m) were uncovered completely. The altar is located 2.7m E of the orthostat building and symmetrically aligned with it. The bad state of preservation of this structure results from recent disturbance. Two further architectural members that can, by their measurements, be ascribed to the altar lay in recent fills in its immediate vicinity. The area N of the altar yielded severely fragmented finds dating from the Cl period to the E2nd Ct BC, similarly to the adjacent cult structures. A deep sounding in the N hall of the orthostat building led to the discovery of stratified Geo material for the first time in this area: at some distance below the lower edge of the Hel foundations lay very small pottery fragments, several sherds of a cooking pot and of a large hydria; for both vessels, 8th Ct BC dates are proposed.

The Hel peripteral temple (15.8m x 42.35m) had a peristasis of 6 x 15 columns in its initial phase. From E-W, the sekos consists of a pronaos, a succession of 2 large halls with internal supports and an adyton, inaccessible from the W. The 2008 excavations concentrated in the W hall of the sekos and the N colonnade. In both areas, deep soundings aimed to verify the 2007 results from the E hall of the sekos concerning the pre-Hel use of the area. It soon became clear that the 6 limestone slabs that once held supports subdividing the W hall into 3 aisles were part of the original building phase: in a situation similar to that in the E hall, the slabs rest on foundations of multiple layers of limestone blocks. Further, these foundations cut deeply into the virtually sterile layer of green clay that was placed here to provide stable support for the monumental Hel structure.

The deep sounding in the N colonnade produced the following stratigraphic sequence: underneath the clay packing into which the Hel foundations had been lowered, there is a 1m *d.* sequence of fills, consisting entirely of secondary deposits of Geo pottery. Under these fills (ca. 1.6m beneath the foundation of the sekos wall) was a primary stratum containing 2 well-preserved cooking pots. Placed carefully in the 2 vessels were a cup and a small jug. Based on their shape, and especially on the characteristic hatched triangles on the shoulder of the jug, this eating/drinking assemblage can be dated to the Geo period (**Fig. 40**).



40. Lousoi: Geo pottery from a primary deposit beneath the N colonnade of the Hel peripteral temple.

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41. Lousoi: Geo wall beneath the Hel peripteral temple.

In the sounding in the W sekos hall, excavation underneath the sterile clay packing supporting the Hel temple revealed a curved stone setting built of broken-up local flysch and a few pebbles (**Fig. 41**). Based on its elevation, building technique and stratigraphic context, this wall can be associated with stone settings recognized in the E sekos hall during the 2007 campaign: in combination they can be reconstructed as an apsidal structure 4.5m *w.* x at least 7m *l.* This will have to be further verified in future excavations. The deposit of earth within the suggested apse contained fragments of a jug with typical Geo band decoration. Based on the information currently available, the structure dates to the Geo period and is associated with the deep primary deposits under the N peristasis.

Although excavations in the area of the Hel urban centre of Lousoi revealed only occasional evidence for earlier activities, this area also appears to have been in use during the Geo period. Finds so far indicate occasional activities, including eating and drinking (feasting), perhaps with a cult background and probably associated with some simple architecture. These preliminary results suggest that at the bottom of the Soudena plain lay a further Geo settlement or cult place, complementing the Sanctuary of Artemis about 1km to the NE, which can also be traced back to the 8th Ct BC. It is further striking that in both cases there is evidence for elaborate rebuilding of the cult structures in the Hel period.

LACONIA
(5th EPCA: 5th EBA)

W. Cavanagh, C. Gallou and M. Georgiadis (eds), *Sparta and Laconia from Prehistory to Premodern* (London, BSA 2009) offers an invaluable overview of the region. Specific articles are noted below only when they present new data or significantly expand previous site reports.

Anc. Quarries in Laconia. G. Kokkorou-Alevras (Athens), A. Chatziconstantinou (Athens), A. Efsathopoulos (Athens), E. Zavvou (Epigraphical Museum, formerly 5th EPCA), A. Themos (Epigraphical Museum, formerly 5th EPCA), K. Kopanias (Athens) and E. Poupaki (Athens) present an overview of ongoing research into the main quarry locations in Laconia (*Sparta and Laconia*, 169–79). Quarry sites briefly noted are: Gynaika, Platyvouni (Sochas), Vresthena, Chrysafa, Viglafia (Rom–ECh), Daimonia, Ag. Marina, Zarakas and Tainaro. Fuller discussion is offered of **Oitylo** (including Rom–ECh cuttings) and especially **Plytra (anc. Asopos)**, where 3 sandstone quarry sites (probably LHel–ECh) are identified and details of the quarry cuttings and evidence for Rom cult and Rom–ECh burials in the quarry areas presented.

Anc. Sparta
E. Zavvou and A. Themos (Epigraphical Museum, formerly 5th EPCA) present (*Sparta and Laconia*, 105–22) a synthesis of the results of rescue excavations conducted in the mod. city from 1994–2005, analysing their impact on our understanding of urban development from EH–ECh times. Significant changes to the existing picture are provided, for example by the presence of EH activity on the SW edge of the city, and the extent of PGeo and Geo activity especially in the area of Limnai, S of the acropolis, and at the W edge of the city.

Sparta Theatre. C. Morgan (Director, BSA), A. Vasilogamvrou (Director, 5th EPCA) and K. Diamanti (Director, 5th EBA) report on the first season of excavation in the anc. theatre, focusing on investigation of the extent and nature of LRom and Byz use of the space, and combining new excavation with reappraisal of BSA work in the 1920s.

Excavation was conducted in the W part of the middle and upper cavea in order to locate the SW edge of the LAntique settlement on the acropolis and to establish the N limits of the housing on the W side of the orchestra, partially excavated in the 1990s (**Fig. 42**).

Attention focused on Byz landscaping between the main settlement areas. S of the lower retaining wall of the cavea, a substantial MByz (12th Ct) terrace wall prevented erosion of the upper slope and hill-wash onto structures downslope. This contains a quantity of architectural spolia from the theatre. In the easternmost of the upper cavea trenches, abutting the cavea retaining wall, one of the radial paths which linked the 2 settlement areas was revealed, containing MByz pottery.

In the westernmost of the upper trenches, an anomaly revealed in the 2007 resistivity survey was found to be a mass grave of the MByz period (**Fig. 43**). A large pit cut into the clay fill of the theatre housed a 2.5m x 2m structure of uncoursed cobbles, with walls, containing architectural spolia, which were well faced and plastered only on the interior. A composite lotus and acanthus capital reused within the lower wall probably originated in the upper part of the theatre (**Fig. 44**). To the N and W, the construction pit was backfilled with domestic refuse, including EByz–MByz cooking and table wares, and a quantity of severely burnt roof tile of Rom type, debris of a major fire nearby. It remains unclear whether the structure was entered from the side or from the top, and there is no evidence to show how it was covered. The chamber contained the remains of more than 22 individuals; preliminary analysis suggests both male and female, mostly adults of a wide age range, but with a few sub-adults and at least one child of 8–10 years. These remains were deposited in 4 episodes featuring very different practices. The lowest level contained an ossuary-like arrangement of crania against the N wall with long bones together to the S (**Fig. 45**). Subsequently, a low interior wall or bench was added on the W side of the chamber and a quantity of human bone was packed behind it. Over this was an inhumation which had been heavily truncated. And finally, a large deposit of mixed semi-articulated bone with badly broken bone overlaid it.

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