

39. Lousoi: temple area

The temple (**Fig. 39**), erected in the EHel period, had a peristasis of 6 x 15 columns (15.8m x 42.35m) and a sekos subdivided into a pronaos, an elongated E cella hall (15 x 8 m), a square W cella hall (7.8 x 8 m), and a transverse room (adyton) to the W (2.8 x 8 m). The E cella hall was subdivided into 3 aisles by 3 pairs of interior supports, indicated by 6 individual footings, and in the NE by one limestone slab as bedding for a wooden pillar. This hall was paved with a well-preserved floor of clay slabs.

The building was radically redesigned, probably in the LHel period. The E cella hall was subdivided by a N–S wall. Its E part was transformed into a new pronaos and the W part remained a cult space, now divided into 3 aisles by 4 secondary internal supports, located in accordance with the room's new proportions. In the course of these modifications, the clay slab floor was partially removed, as were 5 of the 6 limestone bedding slabs for the original internal supports. The base of a cult statue, placed axially in front of the W wall, belongs to this modification. The same almost certainly applies to the 6 internal supports in the W cella hall. The surroundings of the cult statue base contained numerous LHel and E Imperial clay lamps from the period of the temple's use, as well as secondary deposits of older cult objects, including a LAr iron sword and a Cl bronze *sauroter*.

Soundings beyond floor level in the E cella hall in 2006 provided information about the pre-Hel use of the temple area. The terrain, sloping down to the N, was subdivided into terraces by E–W running support walls, of which rubble foundations survive at varying elevations. Associated with these walls were use deposits and fills above the preserved wall tops, containing finds such as sherds of Ar drinking cups and cooking pots, bones, ashes and burnt clay.

Thus the area was used for meals or feasting from the Ar period onwards, before the erection of the temple. A cult of the same duration is indicated by the secondary deposits in the area of the cult statue base. Fragments of an Ar Laconian clay roof suggest an older cult building, probably located S of the Hel temple. It can therefore be assumed that the Hel cult is intentionally connected with an older cult, the origins of which lie in the Ar period at the latest.

Overall, the excavations suggest that the extra-urban Sanctuary of Artemis is complemented by an urban sanctuary, with its own distinctive, but so far unidentified, cult from the Ar until the E Imperial Rom period.

LACONIA
(5th EPCA: 5th EBA)

Vasara (Veroia). Th. Papageorgiou (5th EBA) reports (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 4, 49–64) on the conservation of the wall-paintings of the church of Ag. Nikolaos (13th Ct AD, with a 2nd, post-Byz, layer of painting dated epigraphically to 1597).

Trypi (anc. Kaiada). Th. Pitsios (Athens) reports a renewed programme of anthropological research at this rock-cleft located in the foothills of Taygetos, on the boundary of mod. Trypes, ca. 10km NW of Sparta. A research programme instigated in 1983 by P. Themelis (*AR* [1984–1985], 24; *AR* [1985–1986], 29) documented the physical form of the feature and, on the basis of the large quantity of human bone present, identified it with anc. Kaiada, into which the Lakedaimonians threw condemned criminals, prisoners of war and weak infants. Anthropological investigation to date has not confirmed the presence of infants or small children: most of the skeletal material found inside the cleft probably belongs to men with a biological age of 18–35 years.

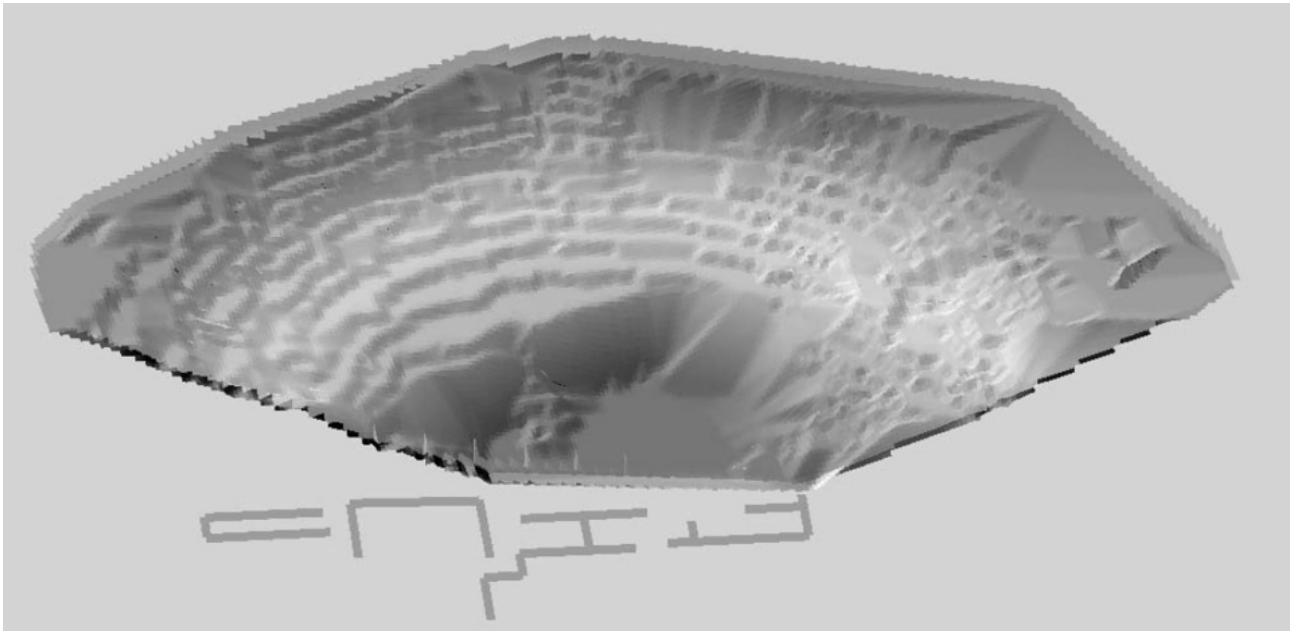
A new 3-year research programme, begun in 2003 by the Anthropological Museum of Athens University in collaboration with P. Themelis (Rethymnon) and under the supervision of the EPSNE and 5th EPCA, aims to investigate in detail the circumstances of deposition of the human skeletal material in the rock-cleft, and to collect, clean and characterize all remaining material.

Sparta theatre. C. Morgan (Director, BSA), A. Vasilogamvrou (Director, 5th EPCA) and K. Diamanti (Director, 5th EBA) report on the first season of a 5-year investigation of the anc. theatre in preparation for its proper conservation and public presentation. In 2007, the BSA undertook 2 non-intrusive surveys, to trace the extent of theatral and later antique remains in the koilon with a view to future excavation, and to contribute to the assessment of immediate and medium-term conservation needs. Combined topographical and resistivity survey (C. Gaffney, H. Goodchild and S. Harrison [Birmingham Archaeology]) revealed extensive areas where seating may be substantially undisturbed (**Fig. 40**), plus the likely location of structures probably related to Byz settlement. A new condition report on the exposed masonry was made by C. Woolfitt (Ingram Associates). The 5th EPCA and 5th EBA completed drainage work, removed part of the old excavation dump and continued archival and architectural study with particular reference to the parodoi. Ceramic finds from previous excavations in the area were located in the Archaeological Museum of Mystras, and conserved.

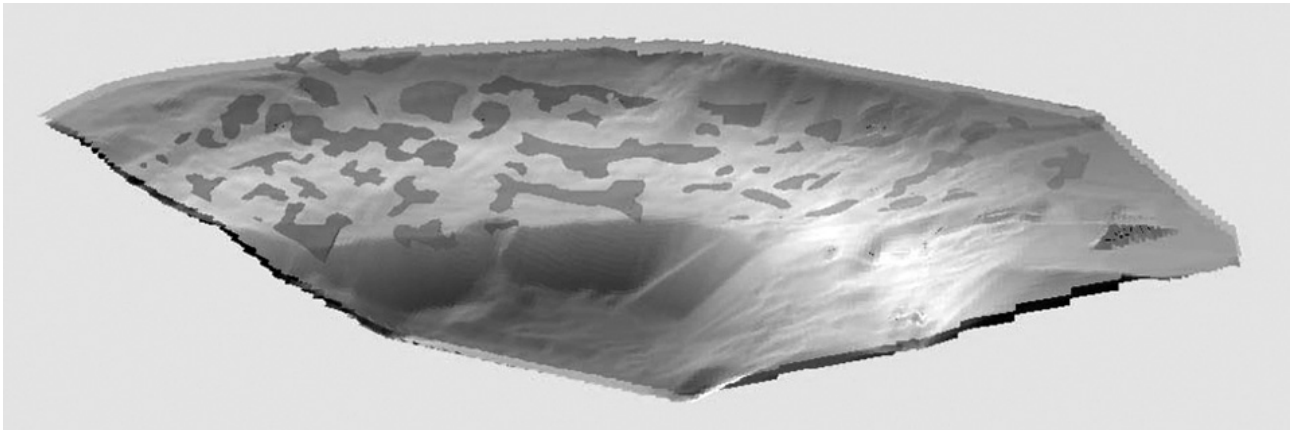
Kouphovouno. W. Cavanagh (BSA/Nottingham), C. Mee (BSA/Liverpool) and J. Rénard (Clermont-Ferrand) report that, following the 2007 study season, descriptions and interpretations have now been drafted of the stratigraphic sequences, archaeological features, sediments and finds in each of areas B, C, G and H (**Figs 41, 42**).

The sequence of MNeo contexts from the sondage in area C showed the range of shapes and decorative motifs. Sherds were examined for evidence of manufacture and use wear: even decorated pottery was sometimes exposed to fire, with burned areas inside and out. The M–LNeo transition (evident in area G, especially in the 2006 sondage) is characterized by an increase in storage and cooking vessels. The quality of Urfirnis decoration declines at the end of the MNeo and gradually evolves into the Matt Painted style. Black Ware is also present early in the LNeo period, and even proto Polychrome. Good

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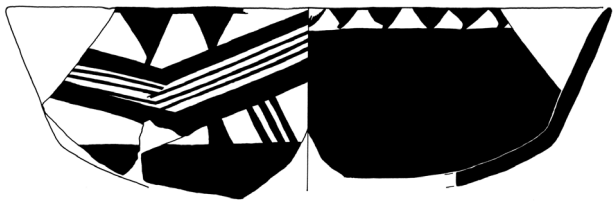
40a. Sparta theatre: topographical survey results



40b. Sparta theatre: geophysical survey results



41. Kouphovouno: LNeo bone pins from area G



42. Kouphovouno: MNeo carinated bowl from area C

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LNeo contexts in area G enable identification of variation in the proportions of different ware types from the stratigraphy. No clear FNeo levels were noted: possibly the settlement was restricted to the summit of the hill in this period. EBA contexts were associated with stone platforms: ceramics suggest that some date from transitional EH I/II or E EH II, while others represent a more developed stage of EH II and there are also later EH II contexts. The W edge of area G was disturbed by substantial LRom fill and it is evident that there was considerable Rom activity at Kouphovouno. I. Whitbread has identified the main pottery fabrics used: 130 samples will be subject to petrographic analysis in the Fitch Laboratory (BSA).

Initial identification and classification of the animal bones was completed (J. Cantuel). Preliminary observations confirm an overwhelming predominance of domesticated ovicaprines, pig and cattle, of varying proportions but with the first always predominant. Wild animal bones were not common, but show a variety of species including deer, boar, wild goat, hare, aurochs, wolf and fox.

A pilot study on the physical, chemical and lipid analyses of soil samples is in progress: hydrographic study of the environs of Kouphovouno has been completed (E. Fouache and C. Cosandey) and initial results obtained from micromorphological analysis of samples from the excavation (C. Ballut). In collaboration with the 5th EPCA, measures were taken for the long-term conservation of the site.

Publication: R. Orgeolet (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 1, 269–89) discusses the function of the EH pits.

Chrysapha, Monastery of the Agioi Tessarakanta Martyroi. J. Papageorgiou and D. Charalambous report (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 4, 225–74) on a programme of conservation of the 17th Ct wall-paintings (painted by Giorgios and Dimitrios Moschos) completed by the 5th EBA in 2005.

Amyklai. In an interview with *Ta Nea* (07/11/07), A. Delivorrias (Director, Benaki Museum) describes a programme of research begun in 2004, with the aim of completing excavation at the **Sanctuary of Apollo** and assembling all available material evidence for the Amyklaion Throne and other major monuments of the site. New information incorporated into the restoration drawings of the throne made by M. Korres indicates that it had a round base 8m *di*. and ca. 4m *h*.; the supports for the throne, with their lion-paw bases, have also been recognized.

Gytheion, Lakonis Cave. *Nautemboriki, Avgi* and *Eleutheros Typos* (09/02/08) all report the discovery of the tooth of a male Neanderthal, along with animal bone including rhinoceros, wild boar and deer (indicating a warmer climate at that time). The find was made in 2002 in an excavation directed by E. Panagopoulou (EPSNE): data on diet from strontium isotope analysis of the tooth (M. Richards and K. Charvati [Max Planck Institute]) reveal that the Neanderthal spent his early years in a more mountainous area (at least 30km from the area of the cave).

Anc. Helos. A. Themos (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 452–80) synthesizes a large quantity of published and unpublished material and textual evidence in discussing the location of Helos. Among the archaeological sites discussed, attention is drawn to the following new or updated information.

Lakka (Vlachioti). A. Themos (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 457) reports sherds of EH II light painted bowls and sauceboats in a location on the N side of the mod. village.

E part of Plain of Helos. A. Themos (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 458–59) reports surface evidence of Neo and Hel settlement from current and previous surveys at **Karaousi**, **Dragatsoula**, **Keramidiona**, **'Stou Manolaki'** and on the hill of **Ai Strati**. **Karaousi**, a hill N of mod. Asteri, has produced finds from the Neo–LH IIIC and from the PGeo–Hel (noting previous excavation here, *AR* 6 [1959–1960], 9). At **Dragatsoula**, E of Asteri, mostly PH pottery is visible in the fields around the cemetery: a marble column base (0.3m *h*.) is built into the porch of the cemetery chapel. At **'Stou Manolaki'**, a widely-cited candidate for the site of Helos, further surface finds of Cl, Hel and Rom pottery were made over ca. 50 stremmata, noting also PH sherds and obsidian. At **Keramidiona**, where pithos burials have previously been reported, Hel and Rom sherds were found.

Central part of Plain of Helos. A. Themos (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 460–64) reports in the vicinity of **Peristeri** a LH IIIA2–B1 chamber tomb excavated in the 1930s, and 2 others, found in the 1980s (*ADelt* 36 B1 [1981], 129) and in 2004 (*AR* 51 [2004–2005], 30). The last is described (containing multiple burials from LH IIA–SubMyc/EPGeo, including M or Minoanising cups). A SubMyc or EPGeo burial in the fill of the entrance contained an amphora, an oinochoe (with wavy line decoration), bronze pins and a bronze ring. Two further chamber tombs, found by G. Steinhauer in 1976–1977 at the site of **Solaki**, W of the mod. village, are here reported in full. One was destroyed in the course of the road widening that led to the excavation, but the 2nd was excavated (4 vases are traceable in Sparta Museum), confirming activity in the area from LH IIA–LH IIIC L: Myc sherds were collected just to the W. Slightly further W, from the area of **Filisi**, an EH pyxis probably comes from a tomb. On the hill of **Anemomylos Skalas** (the site of the Byz church of Ag. Giorgios) sherds and tile date from the PH–Hel periods. These include EH bowls, a Myc kylix, Cl and Hel bg, and part of a grinding stone. Further N from **Filisi**, on the E bank of the Evrotas, part of a water channel was located cut into the rock: its course could be followed for ca. 100m running S, parallel to the river, before turning E. In later periods, mills were constructed along its course.

Geraki (**anc. Geronthrai**). J. Crouwel and M. Prent (Netherlands Institute/Amsterdam) report on the 2007 season, which was dedicated to the final study of material from earlier excavation and survey, with particular focus on the PH and Hel pottery and other finds.

Following study of EH II L destruction deposits in 2006, work concentrated on the earlier occupation of the acropolis. Prolific but fragmentary pottery of earlier periods comes from different parts of the site, but rarely from good contexts. The presence of FNeo and EH I was confirmed, although EH II E pottery was rare (especially in comparison with EH II L). Attention focused on material associated with wall 30 (in trench 17/13K and the NE of field 17), which belongs to the EH fortification system (**Fig. 43**). This was constructed and filled in EH II (probably EH II L). Material of this date, as well as FNeo/EH I and EH I/II, deriving from occupation levels elsewhere on the acropolis, was used in the construction.

The defensive system on this part of the acropolis was extended in EH II L (wall 180 was built in front of wall 30, with a casemate room between them, in trench 17/13q), and the entire settlement and its defences were destroyed in the same phase – a sequence of events which strongly recalls that at Lerna in phase IIIC. Early pottery from another wall trench to the NE (17/13r), associated with a fragment of a wall of

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small stones resting directly on the original hill surface, which predates the fortification, was shown to date to EH I/II E.

An EH II L pottery deposit from the SW part of the acropolis (trial trench 19/2a), perhaps deriving from another casemate room, was strewn together with finds from survey in this area, resulting in further joins. Study of PH pottery from trial trench 25/4b, below the SE crest of the acropolis and outside the acropolis wall, together with survey finds from the area, produced much EH II pottery, including Geraki ware, and material of historical periods. Finds likely derive from higher up on the acropolis.

Ca. 40 EH clay sealings from the casemate room and other contexts were consolidated and studied (by J. Weingarten) for separate publication. Study of MH pottery from the site began: this largely comes from fills and dumps of household ware. I. Whitbread continued work on the MH fabric typology.

Study of the historic periods focused on 2 LHel buildings (room 1 of building C and room 5 of building B) and the intervening street in the SE corner of the excavation area, with further work on the stratigraphy and artefact assemblages. Work on the flotation and sorting of soil samples was completed.

Monemvasia, lower city, Church of Agios Nikolaos. P. Skagou (5th EBA) reports (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 4, 181–208) on survey and excavation undertaken to understand the plan and construction of the monument, which are described in detail. Ag. Nikolaos is built on the ruins of a predecessor, the S wall and apse of which are visible on the exterior on the S side. Part of the floor of the earlier church was excavated (along with a section of the N wall and the apse) 2.61m below that of its successor. In addition, excavation revealed traces of another, larger ruined church destroyed at an unknown time, and within which the predecessor of Ag. Nikolaos was located. The original level of the cobbled floor, sandstone column bases and a rectangular tomb, probably built for the founder when the church was constructed, were also found.

Cape Malea. E. Zavvou (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 413–51) summarizes archaeological and textual sources for the cities on the W shore of the cape, synthesizing published data and new discoveries, and providing a full bibliography. Among the new data, the following site entries should be noted.

Boza (Asopos). E. Zavvou (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 418–21) reports surface finds of EH and MH, as well as Myc, PGeo and Geo sherds on the S and SW slopes of the peninsula (where PH activity is previously attested). From the plateau of the peninsula come EH, Myc, Hel and Rom sherds (the last phases include bg and rf, amphorae, loomweights, tile and water pipe). Architectural members and traces of walling with cement are visible across the peninsula. On the W slope, EH burials and a large structure of this period (perhaps for storage and trading) are noted with previous bibliography. Surface finds include an EH clay sealing.

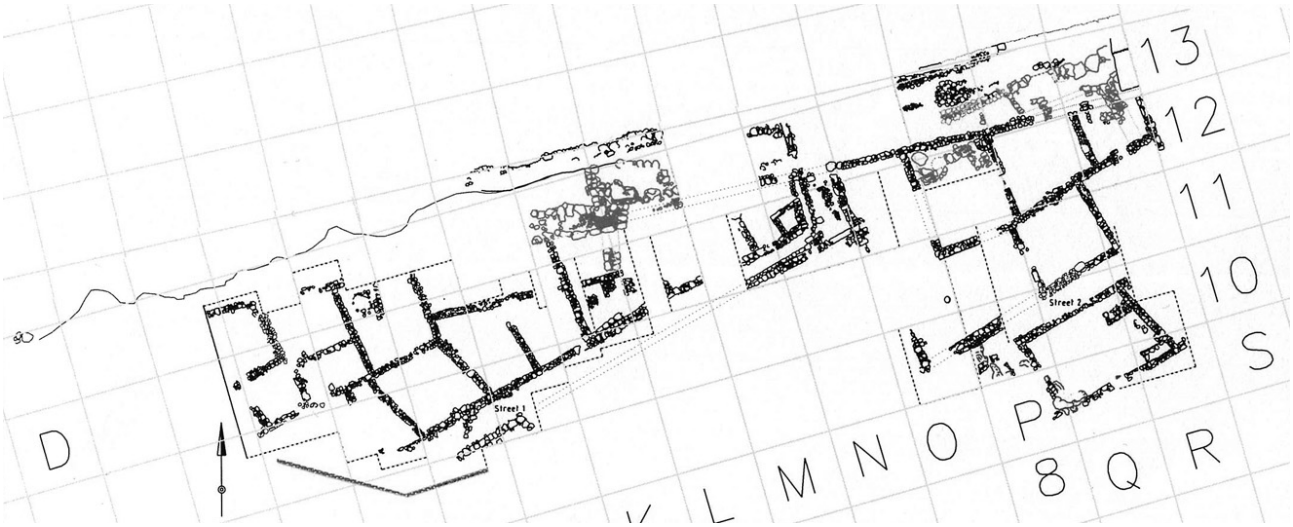
Byz and later remains on the S foot of the peninsula include the wall of a church and part of a Byz marble thorax with spiral decoration.

Aremos (Asopos). E. Zavvou (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 421) reports the discovery of a large rectangular kiln on the property of A. Tricha, preserving part of the furnace and firing chamber. Debris, including tile wasters, scattered around the kiln is as yet undatable.

Visaliades (Asopos). E. Zavvou (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 421-22) reports the discovery of a large rectangular kiln, similar to that at **Aremos**. The greater part of the firing chamber, the furnace and the subterranean chamber was preserved. Here too, debris, including tile wasters, scattered around the kiln is as yet undatable.

Cultivation of land on the S side of the road between Asopos and the coast at Boza (property of A. Vlachogiannakou) revealed architectural remains from a bath: tile, amphora, and Hel and Rom sherds were collected. Surface remains covered the entire 35 stremmata of the plot: the exact nature of the site (settlement or some other form of establishment) is as yet unclear.

Agridi (Asopos). E. Zavvou (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 422) notes spolia of what may be a funerary monument in sandstone, discovered and removed to the corner of the landholding during the opening of a drainage ditch some years ago. A large quantity of tile fragments, Rom sherds and part of a kioniskos was scattered across the plot. The site lies a short distance E of **Visaliades**.



43. Geraki: plan of excavated area

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Koutroubes (Asopos) lies 1km SE of Boza and just E of Agridi. Here, E. Zavvou (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 422–23) reports a stone slab bearing an inscription of the 1st Ct AD which refers to Η πόλη των Βιαντυνέων and honours the descendants of Gaius Iulius Eurykles, whose family owned estates in this area.

Tsoukalas (Asopos). E. Zavvou (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 423) reports Hel and Rom sherds at this site, which lies between Goula and mod. Asopos. Part of a grey marble door (likely from a tomb), sculpted to imitate a wooden door, was found on a neighbouring plot and handed over to Sparta Museum. Part of a similar door, in sandstone, is stored in the Demarcheion of Asopos.

Xyli peninsula (Pounta). E. Zavvou (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 424) reports Hel and Rom sherds, especially LRom combed ware, as well as EH sherds and obsidian.

Plytra. E. Zavvou (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 427–32) reports on renewed excavation and survey. One of the city's cemeteries is located on the W side of the archaeological site. Beside the mod. harbour mole lies a subterranean built tomb (columbarium) with niches, ca. 5.35m x 6.90m, oriented N–S with the entrance to the N (staircase in the NW corner). The upper surfaces of the walls of 2 further tomb monuments were located in the same area, one almost touching the E side of the first tomb and the other just to the NNW (dimensions ca. 4.7m x 5m). Their disposition and orientation suggest that a road ran between the former 2 monuments and the last mentioned. A further, similar tomb was found to the E along the line of this road (dimensions 4.17m x 5m).

Ca. 100m further E, a built subterranean columbarium with hemispherical and orthagonal niches was discovered in rescue excavation on the property of G. Venetsanaki and A. Vraimaki. Its dimensions were 1.72m x 0.64m. It was used for multiple burials from the 2nd to the 4th Ct AD. Grave goods included a large number of pottery and glass vessels, a marble ossuary with incised decoration of a bucranium and garland, and a Laconian bronze coin from the reign of Hadrian (117–118 AD). Notable finds include lamps of the Firmalampe type, one of which bears the mark of a N Italian workshop (NERI: 1st half 2nd Ct AD), and a glass bowl with a double-line incised signature (E4th Ct AD). These finds confirm that the local harbour had significant trading connections across the Mediterranean during the Rom period.

The area of the anc. city was even larger, however, taking into account published finds from within mod. Plytra, while many LRom and EByz structures are located in the NE part of the archaeological site, in the area of an anc. quarry with a relief of Herakles, and on the slope opposite it. These structures have blind apses at their sides and in many cases preserve traces of wall-painting within red painted frames – traits which identify them as tomb monuments.

An undecorated sandstone sarcophagus, with a stone headrest on the interior, contained a 4th Ct AD lekythos and a W sigillata fragment with a round, garlanded stamp (IVLI: end 1st Ct BC–E1st Ct AD). Finds from the area as a whole (architectural members, inscriptions, clay and marble vessels) have been assembled over a number of years: many have been handed over by local inhabitants to the Demarcheion of Asopos. Among these are: fragments of a sandstone door; the base of a grey marble perirrhanterion (0.55m *h.*; 0.32m upper *di.*); a sarcophagus lid (1.94m x 0.79m); and fragments of inscriptions.

MESSENIA
(38th EPCA: 26th EBA)

Messene. P. Themelis (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2007], 42–59) on excavation in several parts of the site (**Fig. 44**).

In the theatre, a large number of EByz graves containing no offerings were uncovered in front of the E and especially the W parodoi. In the latter case, graves were lined with blocks from the superstructure of the parodos, most of which had builders' marks (Gr characters denoting course and position). Graves in the E parodos were usually built of limestone blocks, notably the geison blocks of a Doric stoa, the location of which is not yet known. The channel round the orchestra was cleaned and work undertaken to drain the orchestra and proskenion. Fragments belonging to 2 surviving stone thrones were collected, and surviving elements from the steps and stairways of the koilon put in order.

The 2 body sections of the 2nd Ct BC marble statue of large Herculaneum type, found in the E apse of the proskenion, were joined and the statue set on a stone base. The missing head probably represented Claudia Frontina, wife of Claudius Hostilius Caelianus and mother of Tiberius Claudius Sathidas Caelianus I, who was *Helladarches* of the Achaian League and chief priest of the Sebasteion during the reign of Trajan. The torso of Hermes from the proskenion was also set on a base.

The theatre basilica and surrounding area were landscaped. One of the fallen columns from the S colonnade was re-erected. One of the stylobate blocks of the S colonnade is an inscribed statue base of the M2nd Ct AD, in honour of the chief priest of the Sebasteion, Tiberius Claudius Geminianus, son of Claudius Crispianus and Aufidia Gemina. His statue was erected by Claudius Aristomenes, priest of Zeus Ithomatas, and Claudius Nikeratos, *grammateus* of the Synedrion, both members of known families in Messene. Tombs were discovered along the S side of the basilica and outside the apse. One of the cover slabs bears a 2nd Ct BC inscription on both sides setting out the boundaries of an unknown region.

Excavation of the NE corner of the N stoa in the agora revealed 2 stone measuring tables for solid substances (**Fig. 45**), as well as orthostats on which the table tops were set. On the lower face of the table slabs, around the flow hole, were metal clamps and pegs. Among other finds from the fill between the tables and the E wall of the stoa was a cast bronze Hel head of Medusa from the fulcrum of a couch.

During cleaning and landscaping of the temple of Messene, numerous fragments of inscribed limestone were discovered, from 2 decrees. The first concerns the giving of honours to Messenian judges by the Thessalians. The 2nd, of the 1st Ct BC, records the honour paid to the Messenian Archidamos Philostratou as proxenos and benefactor by the polis of the Pylians. The stele with the decree was to stand in the Sanctuary of Athena Koryphasias at Pylos, with an exact copy in the homeland of the honorand, in accordance with the customs of the ancients, and probably in the sanctuary of the goddess Messene, where the stele was in fact found. It is the only stele so far found from the city of Pylos, which was also named Koryphasion. The Doric stoa, discovered long ago close to the W side of the temple of Messene, is the *prostoa* of a broad-fronted building, the function of which is still unknown. W of the Doric prostoa, 2 entrances, with large stone thresholds, lead to 2 chambers. Left and right of the thresholds were large limestone bases for inscribed stelae. Probably the building belonged to some city authority. A destruction level of tile from the roof covered the floor of the rooms: in certain places, especially in the SE corner of the N room, there were strong traces of fire. This occurred before the 3rd quarter of the 4th Ct AD (according to the ceramic

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