Peloponnesian Studies, April 2009); *Euboea and Athens: a Colloquium in Memory of Malcolm B. Wallace* (Athens, Canadian Institute, June 2009); *Unknown Treasures of Venetian Chalkis* (Chalkis, 23rd EBA and Society for Euboian Studies, January 2009); *Thasos à l'époque classique: frontières, institutions, épigraphie* (Athens, EfA, April 2009).

Thematic: *2nd Symposium on Prehistoric Archaeology* (Volos, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, University of Thessaly and 13th EPCA, December 2008), *8th Scientific Meeting on Hellenistic Pottery* (Ioannina, Ministry of Culture, 12th EPCA and Archaeological Institute of Epirotic Studies, May 2009); *Les arts de la couleur en Grèce ancienne… et ailleurs* (Athens, EfA, April 2009); *IMMORTALITY: the Earthly, the Celestial and the Underworld in the Mediterranean from the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age* (Rhodes, University of Crete, Institute for Cretan Studies and Institute for Aegean Studies, May 2009); *Markets, Festivals and Feasts* (Monemvasia, Monemvasiotikos Homilos, June 2009); *Tout vendre, tout acheter. Structures et équipements des marchés antiques* (Athens, EfA and ASA, June 2009).

2008–2009 saw 2 significant anniversaries. First, the start of the centenary year (2009–2010) of the Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene, marked in June 2009 by a conference entitled *Italian Archaeology from a Greek Perspective.* Secondly, the 50th anniversary of the National Research Foundation and the 30th of its Centre for Greek and Roman Antiquity – an extraordinarily dynamic and productive group of scholars who have been exceptional colleagues to all here in the Athenian community. On behalf of the BSA and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, we offer our warmest congratulations to both institutions and every good wish for a successful future.

As ever, a brief note is due here on the production of *AR*. The continuing absence of *Archaiologikon Deltion* has already been noted, and this year too, the proceedings of the previous *AEMTh* were not published (although we are assured that this is a temporary hiatus). The most up-to-date published source is the *Ergon* of the Archaeological Society, and we are particularly grateful to the Society and to its Secretary General, Dr Vasileios Petrakos, for the supply of many of the images used in this year's reports. *DeltChAE* 2008 has also appeared this year. Otherwise, the most up-to-date published sources remain press reports, and these have been cited where they can be independently verified or linked to a Ministry of Culture Press release. These releases are consultable online at http://www.yppo.gr, following the link to *deltia typou* where they are listed by date: individual citations thus appear in reports below referenced by date. In such cases, the reports are edited translations of the press release, with related press citations noted. We are also grateful to our many Greek colleagues who have taken time to provide short reports or to verify details of their work as reported in the press. We are, as ever, mostly concerned to present unpublished site reports and work originally published in Greek, and so foreign language reports have been included where they are primary notices of new material. We are grateful to all our contributors for taking time and effort to prepare reports for *AR*.

This edition of *AR* has been translated and compiled by the BSA Director, the Assistant Director (Robert Pitt) and the Knossos Curatorial Fellow (Todd Whitelaw). We would also like to thank Heinrich Hall for German translation and for keen-eyed editorial assistance, John Hayes for final proof-reading and Gina Coulthard, our production editor, for keeping us on course despite our worst endeavours. As ever, the BSA team of Penny Wilson Zarganis, Tania Gerousi, George Bruseker and Vicki Tzavara collected and collated material, liaised with contributors and prepared illustrations. However, a particular tribute is due to the School Secretary, Helen Clark, who took richly deserved retirement in July 2009. Helen has been a stalwart of *AR* (as of all BSA activities) for some 30 years, and I join all of our colleagues and readers of *AR* in expressing our appreciation of her work and offering our very best wishes for the years to come.

We conclude with a look to the future. *Archaeology in Greece* has been published jointly with the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies as part of *Archaeological Reports* since 1954 – and these 55 years are but the latest step in a history of collaborative publication which dates back to the foundation of the British School. This long tradition of disseminating to the scholarly community the results of archaeological fieldwork conducted in Greece is shared by the École française d'Athènes, which since 1920 has devoted a part of the *Bulletin de Correspondance hellénique* to a wide account of archaeological research in Greece, Cyprus and, every second year, the Cimmerian Bosphorus. Building upon this tradition, and enabling future generations of scholars to benefit most effectively from the growing volume of information available, lies at the heart of the academic mission of both Schools, and for some while we have contemplated ways in which we might work together to improve the service which we offer to the scholarly community. An electronic resource, which draws upon the strengths of both of our publications, is an essential means to this end. The British School therefore had no hesitation in accepting the invitation extended by the École française d'Athènes in October last to collaborate in the creation of a wholly new research tool named, in our respective languages, *Chronique des fouilles en ligne* and *Archaeology in Greece Online.* This resource, which will be accessible via our respective websites from late autumn 2009, will enhance but not replace the *Archaeology in Greece* section of *Archaeological Reports,* and will enable a wider scholarly audience worldwide to access our information in the medium best suited to their needs. It is an exciting prospect, and on behalf of the BSA team, I thank my colleague, EfA director Dominique Mulliez, for initiating this collaboration and for his tolerance and good humour throughout the ensuing process.

Catherine Morgan
The British School at Athens

MUSEUMS

As the extensive programme of museum redesign and new construction noted last year continues, a useful handbook has been published listing all archaeological museums and collections in Greece by region, with a brief review of their main holdings. *Αρχαιολογικά Μουσεία και Συλλογές στην Ελλάδα* (Athens, Ministry of Culture 2008) also appears in a pocket edition in English.

Among the new museums inaugurated in 2008–2009, the **Acropolis Museum** attracted the greatest attention worldwide. Having been partially open to the public for over a year, latterly for the temporary exhibition *Nostoi: Repatriated Masterpieces* (September–December 2008), it was formally opened on 20th June 2009. Displays in an exhibition space of over 14,000m^2, some 10 times larger than that of its predecessor, now include finds from the sanctuaries on the Acropolis slopes as well as the major shrines and monuments of the Acropolis itself (notably the Temple of Athena Nike), with a rich collection of Ar–Rom votive material. Further information is presented at http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr.

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Elsewhere too, new building and extensive remodelling of existing exhibitions can be reported, for example at the Archaeological Museums of Ioannina (reopened in November 2008), Kalymnos (April 2009) and Chaironeia (May 2009). The new **Archaeological Museum of Patras**, inaugurated in July 2009, just a month after the Acropolis Museum, is one of the largest archaeological museums in Greece and by far the most adventurous architecturally (the work of the architect Theophanis Bobotis). It houses Myc–LRom material from across Achaia, most notably the rich collection of mosaics from Rom Patras.

The **Archaeological Museum of Messenia** is also a new construction (on the site of the old market of Kalamata destroyed in the 1986 earthquake), enabling a full and representative collection of the rich discoveries from Messenia to be displayed for the first time. Attention has focused on the innovative, geographically-organized layout of exhibitions on the Triphylia, Pylia, Messene and Kalamata regions, which are set alongside thematic displays on subjects such as the 'kingdom' of the palace of Nestor, the Villehardouins and Messenia, and Pylia under Venetian rule (1206–1500).

The renaissance in the permanent exhibitions in the **National Museum, Athens** also continues, with the opening of galleries dedicated to the minor arts and the Vlastos-Serpieri collection in February 2009, and to the collection of Cypriot antiquities in March 2009. 2009 is the 180th anniversary of the establishment of the National Archaeological Museum, and the 120th anniversary of the opening of the present building. As part of the celebrations, the Museum hosted the temporary exhibition *Worshipping Women. Ritual and Reality in Classical Athens*, organized in collaboration with the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation.

ATHENS

by Robert K. Pitt

Central Athens

(1st EPCA: 1st EBA)

City Walls. An important and lavishly illustrated doctoral dissertation on the literary, epigraphic, topographic and archaeological evidence for the fortification walls of the anc. city has been produced by A. Theocharakis, *Ο Αρχαίος Αθηναϊκός Οχυρωματικός Περίβολος* (3 vols, University of Athens 2007).

Acropolis. M. Ioannidou (Director, Acropolis Restoration Service) reports on the work of the Service in 2007 and 2008 (*The Acropolis Restoration News* [July 2008], 2–4). **Parthenon**: structural restoration of the dismantled members of the N colonnade continued, with 8 columns reset in place, and work begun on resetting the entablature at the level of the architrave. At the W end of the N colonnade the dismantling of the metopes was initiated. **Propylaia**: restoration work on the ceilings of the W hall has been completed with the resetting of restored architectural members of the superstructure. Restoration of the E portico has reached the level of the frieze. **Temple of Athena Nike**: resetting of restored blocks of the architrave and column bases continued, alongside structural restoration of the intervening layers.

Eleftherotypia and *To Vima* (15/01/09) report the findings of a conservation and excavation project at the back wall of the **Stoa of Eumenes II** on the S slope of the Acropolis. This N wall appears to have been constructed in the 4th Ct BC as part of an athletics facility, and also supported the peripatos above. Many graffiti were discovered on the faces of the blocks, indicating that the structure was part of the first Panathenaic Stadium of the Athenians.

Anc. Agora. J.M. Camp (ASCSA) reports on the 2008 excavation season.

In **section BH** (plan: *AR* 54 [2007–2008], 6) excavations continued below the MByz walls in, over and behind the Painted Stoa. Both the back wall and the interior colonnade of the stoa were found well preserved at its E end. Largely in limestone, the workmanship of the superstructure is of the highest quality. The back wall has limestone foundations which project 0.24m beyond the inner face of the toichobate. Above, 3 toichobate blocks and part of a 4th remain *in situ*, 1.205m *l.*, 0.935m *w.*, 0.26m *h.* The tops are finished with a claw chisel and there are 2 pry-holes preserved. Resting on the toichobate are 2 blocks of the outer run of orthostates *in situ*, 1.205m *l.*, 0.325m *w.*, 0.915m *h.*, which were originally joined with a double-T clamp, now missing. The tops are finished with a claw chisel; the backs are well dressed with a drove and there is a rebate along the bottom, 0.09m *h.* and 0.01m *d.*; each block also has a lifting boss preserved.

Behind the back wall was found a fragment of a large terracotta pipe associated with the pipeline found *in situ* running behind the building further W, usually associated with the Kimonian aqueduct bringing water out to the Academy. The fragment was found in MByz fill, suggesting that at the E end of the building the aqueduct had been disturbed. Behind the stoa, generally the fill explored was rubble of the MByz and LRom periods, and so remains have not yet been reached that are contemporary with the stoa.

Within the line of the back wall inside the building is a second heavy foundation of soft limestone (**Fig. 1**) running 0.30–0.35m from the inner face of the foundations of the back wall and measuring 1.04m *w.* This same run of limestone was found in a similar situation at the W. Possibilities include support for an inner bench or installation; a pre-Persian version of the Stoa Peisianax, attested in a scholion to Aelius Aristeides (in which case the better-preserved remains above would represent a post-Persian rebuilding); or a remnant of the Ar city wall of Athens, no trace of which has yet been identified.

Within the building were exposed parts of the 2 E interior Ionic columns. The W of the 2 survives only in its foundations, 2 limestone blocks set side-by-side. The E is better preserved, consisting of a square limestone base, ca. 0.88m on a side, supporting a large cylinder of marble 0.18m *h.* and 0.79m *di.* (**Fig. 2**). On top of this is the unfluted limestone shaft of the column itself, 0.59m *di.*, preserved to a *h.* of 0.5m. The closest



1. Athens, agora: Painted Stoa, foundation and orthostats of soft limestone.

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