ARCADIA
(39th EPCA: 5th EBA)

Pallantion. M. Petropoulos (Director, 39th EPCA) reports (*Ethnos*, *Eleftherotypia* [09/09/09]) rescue excavation in the lower town of Pallantion in connection with the project to re-establish Lake Taka. Houses and part of the fortification of the lower city were discovered, plus a building of possible public function with a row of column bases.

Ancient Manthyrea. M. Petropoulos reports (*Ethnos*, *Eleutherotypia* [09/09/09]) the discovery, in the course of excavation connected with the project to re-establish Lake Taka, of Mycenaean and Classical walls in a location near Tegea which accords with Pausanias' placing of ancient Manthyrea.

Tegea, Palaia Episkopi. A.-V. Karapanagiotou (39th EPCA), D. Athanasoulis (25th EBA) and K. Ødegård (Norwegian Institute at Athens) report on the first season of collaborative excavation in 2009 (Ministry of Culture and Tourism press release [01/12/09]).

West of the ancient theatre and the Byzantine church of Episkopi, the paving of the ancient agora was revealed in a succession of tile-packed surfaces of the Byzantine period, the latest dating to the 12th century AD. Slag from a Byzantine metalworker's shop was also found. To the north were the remains of Byzantine buildings, one of which was evidently linked to agricultural activity since the thick cement floor of one room fits its use as a wine-press.

Mount Lykaion, Sanctuary of Zeus. M. Petropoulos (Director, 39th EPCA), M. Voyatzis (ASCSA/Arizona) and D.G. Romano (ASCSA/Pennsylvania) report on excavation and study in 2009.

Stratigraphical evidence places the first use of the altar in the prehistoric period. Late Neolithic, Early, Middle and Late Helladic pottery was discovered, with Mycenaean especially well represented (noting numerous kylikes and other small finds). Strata above this include Submycenaean and Protogeometric material, and Geometric to Hellenistic sherds in an apparently continuous sequence. There were large quantities of Final Neolithic, Early and Middle Helladic sherds in nearly all layers of the altar. Dedications recovered include miniature bronze tripods, silver coins, metal objects and miniatures of various kinds. Quantities of animal bone continue to be found, but as yet no human bone.



43. Mount Lykaion, Sanctuary of Zeus: the stoa in the lower sanctuary.

In the lower sanctuary, excavation was continued immediately north of the seats or steps: part of a terracotta water channel may relate to the use of these seats in the fourth century BC. Outside the northeast corner of the xenon was a long, sunken open-air corridor with carefully cut walls. More of the 67m long stoa was cleared (**Fig. 43**) and three trenches were opened in the hippodrome.

Geological, topographical and architectural surveys continued alongside excavation, following directions outlined in 2008. Architectural study of the bath to the northeast of the hippodrome began.

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

LACONIA
(5th EPCA: 5th EBA)

Sparta
Platanista Street (O.T. 6, I. Panagaki property). E. Zavvou (then 5th EPCA, now Epigraphical Museum) reports (*ADelt* 55 [2000] *Chr*, 211–13) the discovery of a Roman residence during rescue excavation in 2000. Construction was in brick (with a plaster coating) on a stone foundation. Five of the six rooms uncovered had third-century AD mosaic floors with geometric motifs and central figure scenes.

The probable *triclinium* (area 2) lay in the north and west of the plot: a double doorway communicated with an atrium to the south, although the orientation of the central emblema of the floor mosaic indicates that the main entrance was on the north. This exceptionally well-preserved mosaic has a rectangular border with geometric designs: on the east and west intersecting circles form four-leafed designs; on the south is a series of lozenges; the north is divided into three smaller areas (the east contains shields, the centre eight-point stars and the west is lost). The far side of the floor, bordered by a band of perspective meander swastikas with interspersed squares, contains a composition of lozenges within squares. In the central area (bordered by monochrome bands and a garland) is Dionysos in a chariot drawn by two panthers, with a Maenad to the left and an actor to the right. In the lower part of the scene is a basket with a snake coiled around it, and a cradle.

The *triclinium* communicates with room 4 via a doorway with a marble threshold and a mosaic by the opening. Within room 4, beneath a destruction layer containing roofing material, was a floor mosaic. Two frames of geometric motifs border the further part, which is decorated with octagons in contact with parallelograms (an unusual motif in the Greek world); in the central area is a rectangular maze.

Room 1, in the northeast corner of the plot, also has a well-preserved floor mosaic. The external border, a series of shields, is so far unique among Spartan mosaics. The second border contains meander swastikas with interspersed parallelograms. The further part has a composition of intersecting circles forming four-leafed designs. In the central area (bordered by a stylized floral band) is a gladiator wearing a short-sleeved chiton and brandishing a spear against a wild beast rearing up on its hind legs. The orientation of the scene indicates that the main entrance was at the north.

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