The EPGeo construction date of the first architectural phase of apsidal building A is confirmed, along with the MPGeo date of the 2nd, and a clear picture was obtained of the reuse of the apsidal area of building A as a courtyard of building E. Activities carried out in this courtyard included purple dye manufacture. A pithos had been sunk into the level of the courtyard for reasons unknown.

Proerna acropolis. Completion of work to conserve and present the acropolis area to the public, funded by the Third Community Support Framework, is marked by the publication of the booklet *The Acropolis of Proerna. Neo Monastiri in Phthiotis* (Lamia, Ministry of Culture/14th EPCA, 2007), describing the monuments of all periods and with updated plans.

Byz Museum of Phthiotis (Hypati). A new museum guide is published in Gr and English editions: D. Zapheiropoulou, Βυζαντινό Μουσείο Φθιώτιδας (Athens, TAPA, 2007).

THESSALY

Nomos of Magnesia
(13th EPCA: 7th EBA)

Spartia-Latomeio (Sesklo). *To Vima*, *Kathimerini* (08/09/07), and *Archaiologia* 104 (2007), 104 cite (with illustration) a report by A. Doulgeri-Intzesiloglou (Director, 13th EPCA) and E. Stamelou (13th EPCA) on the study of finds from a small sanctuary on the hill of Spartia, including part of a rectangular (3m x 4 m) stone altar with much burnt animal bone. The discovery was made in 1999, but systematic study of the material has only now begun. Many Ar dedications were found in deposits marked by stone cairns around the altar, including iron weapons and tools, figurines, lead objects, many bronzes, including vessels and spearheads, the arm of a marble statue and much pottery. An Ar dedicatory inscription (retrograde, in local script) from one Telefilos to Herakles on a bronze bowl confirms the identity of the cult. Hel pottery and a lamp, plus a coin of Histiaia (3rd Ct BC–146 BC) combined with stratigraphical evidence indicate that the altar, as preserved, is a Hel construction within an earlier cult area. Epigraphical evidence of this period from Pherai refers to this sanctuary. Excavation here in 1911 by A. Arvanitopoulos produced, in addition to Neo remains, similar votives plus roof tiles. Arvanitopoulos inferred the existence of a 5th–4th Ct temple with a predecessor contemporary with the Ar votives (now confirmed by terracotta metopes and geison). Renewed excavation on the hill top also produced Neo pottery and stone tools, plus Ot pottery and tile. The strategic importance of this region, through which passed the road between Pherai and Pagasai, is emphasized. Presentation of the results of the new excavations at the 5th International Conference, *Pherai – Velestino – Rigas*, 4–7th October 2007, is reported (editor's note: this conference is usually published promptly and in full).

Volos. *Ethnos* and *Eleutherotypia* (26/04/07) cite V. Sismani-Adrymi in describing plans to roof the 15th–14th Ct BC tholos tomb at Kazanaki close to Dimini, after rainfall led a block bearing 7 Linear B characters to become dislodged. These inscriptions describe the number of those buried within (4 adults and 3 children). A sample of gold from a bead necklace has been sent to the Louvre for analysis of its provenance, with much speculation that it may have come from Colchis. *Ethnos* and *Eleutherotypia* (22/02/08) further report on the question of the gold: first results of the analyses indicate that it came from a riverine deposit. Further tests, to compare with gold from Georgia, are awaited.

Volos, Episkopi. P. Androudis (*DeltChAE* 28 [2007], 85–98) publishes the architecture and sculptural decoration of the Byz Church of the Dormition. The original (ca. 13th Ct AD) church was probably a variant on the cruciform type: only the E wall survived rebuilding in 1639. The lower of 2 layers of wall-painting may date to the E16th Ct AD. The E and N fronts are richly decorated with anc. Gr and Byz spolia, among them reliefs from the sculptural decoration of the Byz katholikon of the Monastery of St John the Baptist at Portaria.

Mount Pelion. N.H. Andreasen (DAI) and A. Darlas (EPSVE) report on the 2nd season of the **Pelion Cave Project**.

Work in 2007 was focused S and E of Volos (municipalities of Milies, Artemida, Agria, Portaria, Makrinitsa and Volos), and on the Pelion foothills around Lake Karla (municipality of Karla). The main objective was to conclude the survey on the W part of the mountain. Seventy-five localities were surveyed (54 rock shelters, 20 caves and one artificial cave) and some localities surveyed in 2006 revisited.

The dense vegetation covering most of Mt Pelion (except the foothills around Lake Karla) leaves many caves and shelters unknown except to some local residents. Thus mod. rubbish and casual visitors do not impact noticeably on the material record left by the original users. There was a general low-level scatter of archaeological material on the surface of one third of the localities examined. Two hundred and eighty artefacts were collected from 24 caves and rockshelters, 5 of which had been visited and searched in 2006. This underlines how visibility can change from one season to another due to alterations in vegetation cover or disturbance of surface sediments. Pottery formed the numerically largest artefact group and was also the most frequently encountered artefact type**.** Half of the localities have an associated built structure, often a stone wall which confines an area in front of the cave. Some of these walls were very well constructed and reflect significant expenditure of effort. Direct evidence of repair or modification is rare.

Two archaeologists were employed to gather ethnographic and ethno-historical data related to husbandry practices and other cave uses with regard to their cultural and socio-economic contexts. Semi-structured interviews with local informants as well as informal conversations in the field generated a wealth of information. Varying degrees of ethnographic information were obtained for about one third of the caves and rock shelters located; indeed, some of these features were located exclusively by using the accounts and guidance of informants.

The rock outcrops in most of the research area are mainly schists with marble intercalations. Although areas of karstic limestone/marble are likely to hold more caves, we have numerous examples of shelters and caves in areas dominated by schists. Caves from different altitudes up to about 1,000masl (and particularly below 600masl) are well represented. There were not equally detailed site-specific ethnographic data for caves or shelters on the upper part of the mountain from 1,000masl to its highest point at 1,624masl. This arises to some extent from the fact that the environmental carrying capacity drops at altitudes above 1,000masl. Consequently, human activity is more limited than on the lower slopes and there are fewer roads or paths.

Our results show that in the vicinity of regularly used areas, localities and travel routes in the landscape nearly all rock shelters and caves have been used. One such example is a

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small cave on an important, regional trading route into the village of Makrinitsa. Various engravings on the cave wall have religious connotations, but there are also sketches of horses/mules and people dragging or riding these animals. Merchants may have made the carvings during overnight stays before entering or leaving Makrinitsa.

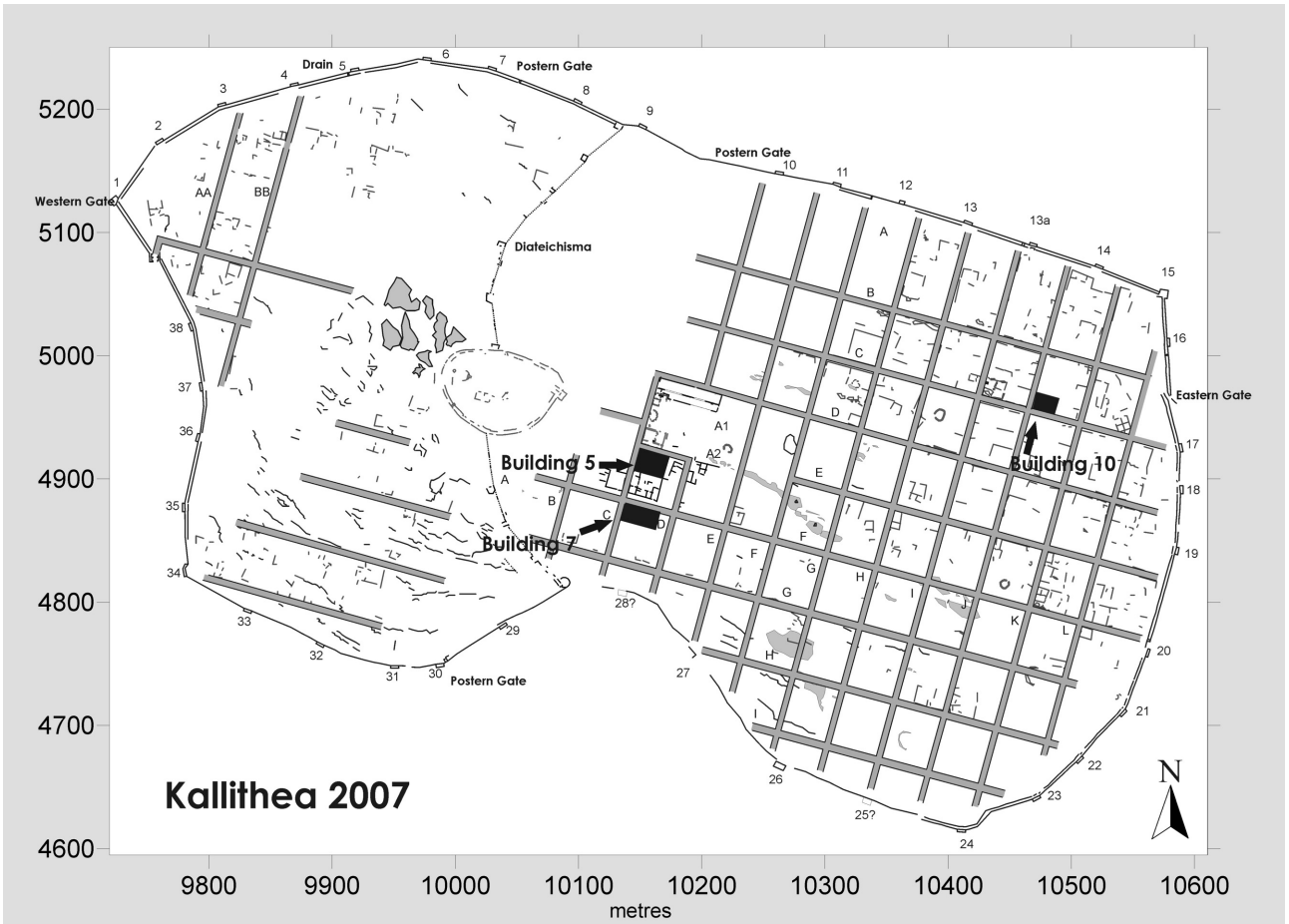
Nomos of Larisa
(15th EPCA: 7th EBA)

Kallithea (anc. Peuma). S. Karapanou (15th EPCA), M. Haagsma (Canadian Institute/Alberta) and S. Gouglas report on continuing excavation on the Kastro. Systematic excavation was begun in building 10, a possible domestic structure, and completed in building 5, a small temple near the agora (**Fig. 68**).

Building 10 measures 19.45m x 14.60m. Excavation began in the W part (**Fig. 69**) in units A, B, C, D and E. The discovery of additional wall foundations caused revision of preliminary interpretations of the internal configuration of rooms and areas. The so-called *pastas* (unit E) is split into 2 – a room and a possible open area. The W area of the building (units A, B and C) can be divided into 3 or 4 different rooms. The exact location of the main entrance of the house is now clearer. It is not near unit A, directly opening to the street, as originally thought and as is usual in Gr houses, but probably on the E side of the house, thus opening from the courtyard to an alley. This may be a local phenomenon, as there are similar entrances in Hel houses in nearby Pharsala.

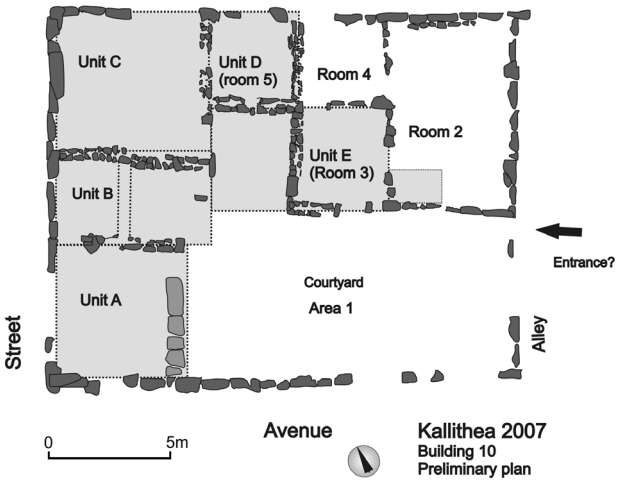
Much of the superstructure of the house was built from irregular stone blocks. Very large worked limestone blocks, some 2m *l*., are set on top of smaller irregular foundations. In some areas this upper foundation layer includes spolia. In various rooms the walls were plastered in black, yellow, light blue, white and red. The 2006 test trench in room 2 yielded a lot of plaster, much of which was *in situ*. In unit A, near the first floor level, plaster mouldings were also found and it is clear that plaster 'pilasters' framed the doorways. In area 3, 2 Doric marble capitals were found lying on the first floor level. It is as yet unclear whether these belonged to a peristyle lining the courtyard of the building or whether they were used as original construction material in the walls. In close proximity to them was a large marble block with 3 breast-like protrusions, similar to that found in the entrance of building 5 in 2005. Stones like these occur locally, for example in the courtyard of houses at Pharsala and at Phthiotic Eretria, where they seemed to have functioned as votives in a sanctuary of Apollo. Their significance is unknown.

The test trench in room 2 yielded 2 distinct floor levels. The first, at ca 0.4m below the surface, contained roof tiles, architectural fragments and few finds; the floor itself was made of beaten earth. Ca. 0.5m below this level, a 2nd floor consisted of small limestone fragments. The fill above the



68. Kallithea: city plan of the kastro with the location of the excavations in 2007

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69. Kallithea: preliminary plan of building 10

first floor level yielded many worn tile fragments and very little diagnostic material. A few pieces of combed ware indicate moderate EByz use. On this level were found 2, probably Byz, coins. No floor level could be associated with these finds.

The first floor level yielded many finds, some of which were datable. Many sherds of moulded ware were found in a variety of qualities. Some compare well to high-quality moulded bowls produced in Pherae during the 2nd–1st Ct BC: various fragments depicted mythological scenes and had names (Polydeukes) in relief. A large fragment of a glass bowl from unit B suggests a post-2nd Ct date for this floor level. The lowest floor level was only reached in the test pit (2m x 1m) in room 2. The finds were very well datable: a coin of the Thessalian League (M2nd Ct) and a distinct deposit of ashes, an unguentarium, a lamp, a small bowl, bones and astragaloi lying on top of a large roof tile. The lamp is an EHel type (3rd Ct), while the unguentarium dates to the 1st half of the 2nd Ct. Apparently this habitation stage ended half way through the 2nd Ct BC.

Building 5: excavation of this small temple, begun in 2005, was completed (**Fig. 70**). The E room (anteroom) has internal dimensions of 4.63m (N–S) x 0.96m (E–W). At least the S part was paved with big slabs (as was at least part of the courtyard in front of its entrance). Excavation in this room reached the natural red soil with gravel which follows the natural N–S inclination. This room produced a bronze coin and 3 iron nails (possibly from the door).

The W room of the shrine has internal dimensions of 3.30m (E–W) x 4.62m (N–S) and was entered via a doorway 1.25m *w*. of which the threshold was *in situ*. The threshold's top surface had 2 levels and there are sockets for the doorposts and pivots. In the central and W part of the room were 15 iron nails, a few fragments of clay figurine (possibly a female figurine – Aphrodite to judge from a nude upper leg with part of a himation) and a clay thymiaterion. Perhaps the figurine(s) and the thymiaterion were placed on a wooden shelf on the W wall or on a table. A few fragments of charcoal in this area may come from such an item. There was also evidence of burning in the soil in this part of the room. In the main room were 7 bronze coins, a small shallow dish with black paint, a few sherds of other vases (a lamp included) as well as many roof tile fragments. Both rooms were covered by stone debris from the walls.

EPIRUS

Nomos of Arta
(33rd EPCA: 18th EBA)

Anc. Ambrakia (Arta). *Ta Nea* (08/06/07) reports on the preparation of the new archaeological Museum of Arta**.**

Eleutherotypia and *To Vima* (08/06/07) report on the quickening pace of discovery of the anc. city of Arta following the creation of the 33rd EPCA (Director, G. Riginos), which covers Arta and Preveza. The results of recent work, including 14 rescue excavations in the city, were presented in a one-day colloquium. M. Karaba and A. Katsarou presented research into housing in the anc. city. Recent excavations have revealed, in addition to a range of public and private structures, Ar houses with 2–3 rooms and a courtyard oriented S, entered from the street. A form of blessing was made before houses were occupied (choes containing different forms of liquid, miniature vessels, figurines of animals, birds and humans, relief plaques, and miniature offering tables and furniture were placed, together with a sacrificed animal, in a small pit in a corner of the structure). The number of rooms increased in the Cl period and there was greater differentiation according to function, with particular attention paid to the andron, in which pebble pavements were laid with depictions of chariots, nereids, sea creatures and geometric and plant motifs (as well as one depiction of a young satyr), and the women's quarters, where large numbers of loomweights were found, as well as ceramic containers for jewellery or perfume. Houses now included provision for cooking and bathing. Other finds made over the past year include a stretch of the city wall, part of the E cemetery and evidence for the city's building plan. The grave monuments of this cemetery, the larger of the city's cemeteries, extended along both sides of a major road 12m *w*. Finds from these funerary periboloi include clay vases, glass and metal vessels, gold jewellery and stone grave stelae. Th. Kontogianni presented a synthesis of old and new findings to demonstrate that the city had a Hippodameian plan from the time of foundation, which continued into the Rom period. The W part was the residential and cult centre: the Doric Temple of Apollo Pythios Soter (founded ca. 500 BC), the tutelatory deity, held pride of place: 2 theatres and the city's prytaneion have also been found in the same area. A. Papadimitriou, A. Baladima and A. Chatzara discussed the course of the city wall, which is concealed beneath the Byz fortifications as well as mod. land-holdings.



70. Kallithea: building 5 from NE

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