

53. Kalapodi: destruction layer of Geo S temple with votives *in situ*

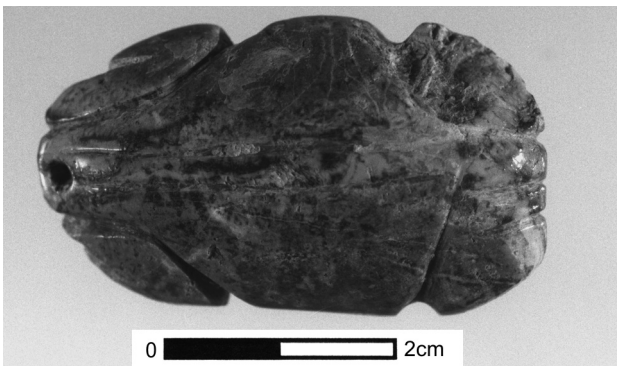
Publication: R.C. Felsch, H-O. Schmitt, *Kalapodi* 2. *Zur Stratigraphie des Heiligtums: Die Bronzefunde. Die Angriffswaffen* (Mainz am Rhein, Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 2007).

BOEOTIA
(9th EPCA: 23rd EBA)

D. Grosman, *Aerial Reconnaissance in Boeotia: Preliminary Report on the 2006 Test Season* (Ljubljana, University of Ljubljana, 2007), circulated as a university research report to specialist libraries, presents a valuable collection of new aerial images and discussion of their significance in understanding landscape change and site identification.

Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project (EBAP). B. Burke (Canadian Institute/British Columbia), B. Burns (Southern California), S. Lupack (London) and V. Aravantinos (Director, 9th EPCA) report on the first season of a project aiming to document and interpret evidence for land use, settlement patterns and burial practices in E Boeotia over an extended chronological period, but with a primary interest in the LBA. The study area focuses on the plains surrounding mod. Arma, Eleon and Tanagra, which are bounded by Mt Teumessos and the Soros range along the S and the Ipatos mountains on the N, chosen partly because of the intrinsically interesting sites present (Eleon and Tanagra) and partly because this area connected Thebes to the sea and was, therefore, a major route for external contact.

In a 4 week season, 277 units were surveyed across ca. 20ha. With a focus on the elevated settlement provisionally identified as Eleon, intensive methods were adopted. Walkers 10m apart covered individual transects totalling over 18km. Large quantities of diagnostic artefacts were identified in almost all areas surveyed. Preliminary analysis was conducted on all collected ceramic and lithic objects, which are now stored in Thebes Museum. More detailed analysis focused on material from within the walled area of Eleon. Even the region surrounding the walled settlement was relatively rich in artefact counts: average field density was 0.45 sherds/m^2, with only 30 fields of density higher than one sherd/m^2.



54. Kalapodi: ENeo stone amulet in the shape of a frog, from an LH IIIC level

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Preliminary analysis indicates 3 major phases of activity at Eleon: BA (including a robust MH phase), LCl–Hel and Ot. BA material was of a much longer chronological range than expected. In addition to some Neo, EH and E MH were more extensively represented by several distinctive handmade sherds. In the MH the population of Eleon may have increased significantly considering the large number of sherds of that period (the majority being Grey Minyan, but some Yellow Minyan was also found). Since these wares were probably not produced at Eleon, its inhabitants engaged in trade during the MH. E LH is signalled by the appearance of a distinctive LH fabric, although many examples are somewhat burnished, as if potters were reluctant to give up old methods of decoration. LH II and III are well represented by numerous handles with swaths of paint at their bases, kylix stems and rims with characteristic red bands. Several examples of monochrome deep bowls indicate that Eleon was active into the latest LH IIIB and LH IIICE periods, although further study is required to see how late occupation continued into LH IIIC. Geo sherds are represented, but their precise chronology awaits further study.

Digital mapping was begun of the site of Eleon, its natural topography and the built features preserved above ground. The site's most prominent feature was 70m of well-preserved Lesbian polygonal masonry, sometimes up to 5m *h*. This wall had previously been considered Ar, based on the masonry style, yet the relative absence of Ar material and the high concentrations of bg pottery with highly articulated profiles indicate that it was more likely part of a major LCl construction project. The history of Eretria provides a likely sequence of events, in which the 4th Ct saw an architectural revival that included sophisticated use of polygonal masonry. Understanding the function of this wall requires further study and possibly excavation. Although there are traces of towers and entry points, the concave form and the fact that only one face is visible suggest that this could have been a retaining rather than a fortification wall.

Survey around Eleon also produced significant results, notably the partial foundations of a square (3m x 3m) tower in the NW, with traces of a wall running to the N and S. These remains suggest settlement expansion well beyond the hill top centre of Eleon, perhaps during the Cl period. To the SW, a number of chamber tombs located in the hillslopes surrounding Eleon were apparently opened and emptied in recent times. The closest parallel for these rough-hewn chambers cut into the natural bedrock is found near mod. Tanagra, 7km SE. The largest concentration of tombs around Eleon was found below the church of Profitis Ilias, where over 20 tombs were recorded and mapped in 2007. All were heavily disturbed and devoid of anc. material. Erosion and mod. damage make the exact dimensions of many difficult to discern. One fairly intact example features a dromos ca. 6m *l*. from the hillside surface to a small low entrance cut into the natural rock face. A substantial chamber is preserved within the rock face, but the only material preserved derives from the tomb's mod. use as a shelter.

Tanagra
Publication: A. Andreiomenou, *Τανάγρα· η ανασκαφή του νεκροταφείου (1976–1977, 1989)* (Athens, ASA, 2007).

Asopia, Tsatsaris Monastery. S. Voyatzis (*DeltChAE* 28 [2007], 75–84) identifies in the katholikon of the monastery a small church (9.8m x 6m) of cross-in-square tetrastyle type, with a dome and narthex. It was dedicated to Profitis Ilias. The church probably dates to the last quarter of the 12th Ct AD, with the narthex perhaps in the 13th Ct.

Thespiai
Publication: B. Slapšak, *Thespiai*: *Preliminary Notes on the Results of the Ljubljana Research in 2006 and 2007* (Ljubljana, University of Ljubljana, 2007).

Thisve (Kastorion). A. Dunn (BSA/Birmingham) and E. Gerousi (23rd EBA) report on the 3rd season of survey of anc. Thisve and Byz-Frankish Kastorion, in collaboration with V. Aravantinos (9th EPCA).

Cleaning in 2006 in preparation for the magnetometer survey in the extramural survey zone, and subsequent processing of the results of that survey, led to the recognition of a spolia-built structure on an E–W orientation to the W of locus 5, which becomes locus 77. The surroundings of locus 77 were resurveyed in 2007. Completing the search for visible traces of the line of the fortifications between the upper and lower acropoleis and the recording of all *in situ* remains around the upper acropolis ('Palaiokastro') led to the discovery of 3 more features.

Locus 78: a fragmentary socle of monumental coursed trapezoidal masonry extending outwards from the N side of the upper acropolis across the narrow valley that defines this side of it; apparently a 'single skin' wall; Cl–Hel. Locus 79: several rectangular Graeco–Rom spolia set on end on an E–W orientation on flat ground within Palaiokastro resemble the foundations of Thisve-Kastorion's Byz-Frankish churches. Locus 80**:** a significant stretch of the W city wall (curtain wall and a tower front) was located N of the projecting tower discovered in 2006. It confirms the course taken by the W city wall between Neokastro and Palaiokastro and is in exactly the same masonry as the rest of the lower city's walls. In addition, locus 81: the Graeco–Rom rock-cut necropolis which is situated just outside the line of the W city wall, on the S slopes of Palaiokastro, was recorded topographically.

Palaiokastro (locus 23). Palaiokastro's multi-phase fortifications were a major object of study. Each identified phase of the fortifications was recorded as a separate exercise in 6 topographic layers, from 'Cyclopean' to 'Byz-Frankish'. At 2 points a phase of construction characterized by massive coarsely hewn quarried pieces of limestone up to 0.9m *l*., apparently define an earth embankment or 'core' whose other face is buried within later phases. They are clearly distinct from, and not functioning as, mod. agricultural terraces (of which there are examples on Palaiokastro). This is provisionally called the 'Cyclopean phase'.

Three Ar–Cl and Cl–Hel masonry styles are apparent on Palaiokastro itself (excluding new locus 78): (a) roughly dressed polygonal masonry forming the front of an approximately rounded bastion; (b) masonry of trapezoidal and rectangular blocks with smooth abutting facets and rough exposed facets; (c) ashlar masonry which is either immured within post-Rom work and only visible in top plan or, where visible in elevation, has been lime-mortar bonded (although not certainly disassembled first). Anc. masonry (b) is stylistically identical to that of the lower acropolis and the intermediate city walls; lost stretches of walls running up the slopes of Palaiokastro were likely constructed in the same technique. In this most important phase of activity single enceinte, with projecting towers, enclosed the heights known as Palaiokastro and Neokastro. Masonry (c) survives on the W-facing side of Palaiokastro, but its design is obscured by post-Rom phases.

The next discernible phase of activity in the walls of Palaiokastro is LRom–EByz. A utilitarian *opus incertum*, combining undressed quarried limestone with small spolia and bonded with lime mortar, is used to create an enclosed citadel for which there is no earlier evidence. The W, relatively

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vulnerable, side is defended by a simple forewall without towers and an inner wall with rectangular towers which may be Cl or Hel in origin, partly built in anc. masonry (c). Forewalls on vulnerable aspects are typical of 5th–6th Ct AD fortresses in the Balkans. The S side, which is poorly preserved, is also defended by a line of towers in the last stages of disintegration. The N side is also poorly preserved. Fragments of the line of the N enceinte (without preserved evidence of towers) are traceable, but its NE 'return' is well preserved: massive spolia-built lime-mortar bonded foundations perhaps belonged to a bastion which only projected on one axis. The short E side, the most accessible to stone robbers, is untraceable on the surface.

Despite its enclosed design, this phase of activity on Palaiokastro does not mean that the city walls were abandoned. It is likely to be one of the *phrouria* (forts or fortresses) built, according to Procopius, by Justinian in Boeotia in the 550s at the sites of earthquake-damaged 'settlements'.

Either one or 2 later phases of activity are apparent on the better-preserved W side of Palaiokastro: a lime-mortar bonded *opus incertum* which encases the Cl–Hel ashlar phase as reused in L antiquity; and, at the SE corner of the citadel, remains of a rectangular building characterized by engaged external piers (buttresses) in a diagnostic MByz–Frankish masonry which overlies the LRom–EByz phase at this point.

The 3-D laser-scanner was employed at several locations, sometimes in combination with geophysical and EDM survey. The laser-scanner was used at: locus 25, a Byz–Frankish redesign and reconstruction of a Hel tower at the SE corner of Neokastro; locus 3 and locus 74, Ag. Loukas and its monumental N annexe, which include Graeco–Rom spolia; locus 24, the Hel walls at Neokastro (the 'lower acropolis'). Resistivity survey was also carried out.

Orchomenos. *To Vima*, *Kathimerini*, *Eleutherotypia* and *Ethnos* (24/05/2008) report V. Aravantinos' (Director, 9th EPCA) announcement of the discovery of a small rural shrine located W of Orchomenos, in the foothills S of Mt Akontio and immediately N of the river Kifisos, at a site where the construction of an irrigation channel in the 1950s had destroyed anc. walls. Architectural remains are few: retaining walls, periboloi and an offering pit cut into the bedrock. Thousands of ECl–Hel votives include miniature vases (mostly kotyliskoi, hydriskoi and krateriskoi), terracotta figurines (seated and standing females, animals and female protomai), lamps, skyphoi, kantharoi, etc. Terracotta imitations of wreaths of corn and flowers are noted as unique. The deity, while certainly female and connected with nature and fertility, has not been securely identified. However, Pindar and Pausanias' reports of worship of the Graces at Orchomenos may be related to the inscription on a loomweight from the sanctuary of the name ΕΥΡΥΝΟΜΗ (the name of the mother of the Graces according to Hesiod, *Theogony*).

An anc. cemetery of cist graves uncovered close by continues to be investigated; it has been robbed and severely damaged by ploughing. This must have been established when the sanctuary was in decline, since a stele bearing an inscription related to the sanctuary was reused in the construction of a tomb.

EUBOIA
(11th EPCA: 23rd EBA)

A. Mazarakis Ainian (ed.), *Oropos and Euboea in the Early Iron Age: Acts of an International Round Table, University of Thessaly, June 18–20, 2004* (Volos, University of Thessaly, 2007) offers an important set of discussions of individual sites, categories of material, and relationships between the Oropos area of N Attica and sites especially along the S Euboian coast.

Lefkandi. I. Lemos (BSA/Oxford) reports on the 2007 excavation season in which both regions I and II were extensively investigated (**Fig. 55**).

Region 1 area M. The EIA 'megaron' and its LH IIIC predecessor were further investigated (**Fig. 56**). The flooring/packing and other lower soils were removed down to the latest LH IIIC floors. The EIA building had only one floor-surface – mostly mud-bricks or earth mixes: some additional postholes of this phase were discovered. The construction sequence of the building was visible at the S end of the W wall 65: the foundation of the main wall was one course deeper than that of the porch (which presumably weighed less). Slightly later, a further angled wall was added at the SW corner, built over a pebble spread that had accumulated there since LH IIIC. It is possible that a yard was added to the W side of the EIA 'megaron' (defined by walls 120 and 134), perhaps at the same time. More investigation is needed to clarify its date and function.

The LBA building is also long and rectangular in plan (at least 12m N–S x 5.5m E–W). At the S end, it was divided into 2 small compartments, of which the E one served as its entrance. A central room probably formed the main part of the building: there may have been another room at the N end, but hill erosion and the erection of a LGeo apsidal house have done much damage. The building was probably entered via a threshold placed just E of the central median line. There are slight indications of some sort of porch or walls *in antis* at the E end: postholes might indicate something similar at the W end too, but later walls cover much of the relevant area. The SE room is defined at the W by wall 153 and at the N by the E/W cross wall 149; the room had a further access through a doorway at the NE. Otherwise the SE room was completely disturbed and destroyed by the LGeo pit 13. Another small room immediately W of the SE room, the SW room (ca. 2.5m^2), has flat-laid mud-bricks in the E half which might originally have stood up to 0.2m above the floor. If so, they could have formed a low platform (2.5m *l.* x 0.8m *w.*). This could have been used as support for furniture. The main room (7.5m x 5.5m) was remarkably empty; one median posthole and evidence of mud-brick furniture to the NW have been discovered so far. At the N end of the room, and in particular the E part of this area, a stone construction is visible running E–W. It has a roughly flat and uneven surface, sits on a few centimetres of soil above the latest floors of the room and is covered by a thick yellow clay spread that runs on beyond it and under the floors of the later EIA building. It is hard to decide whether the structure belongs to the LBA or EIA building, but considering the manner in which the latest LH IIIC floor to the N runs off the edge of the stone structure (because of the presence of even earlier walls below), it was likely built sometime during the end of the use of the LH IIIC structure. Its full extent to the W is masked by the block of soil left to support the 'fire-box' (see below). Finally, at the N limits of the building, the existence of another room is indicated by the E–W cross wall 88. Nothing more can be known here because of severe hill erosion at this end.

As indicated, the LH IIIC building contained only minimal internal furniture: some small bins of mud-brick against wall 78/79 and a few small postholes. The latest floor was essentially bare, but a considerable number of earlier floors were found in the NW of the main room (the only area exposed this year). Seven 'pairs' of floors have been excavated; these

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