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ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2010–2011

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INTRODUCTION

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The publication of the 57th *Archaeology in Greece* (*AG*) supplement to appear in *Archaeological Reports* coincides with the 125th anniversary of the British School at Athens. We therefore take the opportunity to present, in addition to the usual Director's introduction with its flavour of the year in Greece, an overview of recent work at the School drawn from our annual open lectures. These lectures, which are a fundamental part of our reporting, both formally to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and our subscribers in the UK and informally to the wider academic community, are now delivered in Athens, Thessaloniki, London and, every two to three years, in Scotland too (in 2011 we were generously hosted by the University of Glasgow). The School website, www.bsa.ac.uk, hosts a recording of the Athens lecture in a media library of all our major academic lectures, as well as the *Annual Report to Subscribers* which contains summaries of our field projects and other major activities. The annual lectures bring our work to life – and, as we celebrate 125 years of research in Greece, we hope that publication in this year's *Archaeological Reports* of a synthesis of the past two years' work (based on the 2011 Glasgow lecture) will remind a new generation of the role that the School can play for them.

Anniversaries also encourage thinking about new directions. As indicated last year, *Archaeology in Greece* is now taking its first steps towards becoming a more synthetic, reflective and accessible publication, building on the achievement of *Archaeology in Greece Online* (*AGOnline*) in providing quick access to authoritative accounts of primary data without constraint upon length or illustration. The desirability of this was clear last year, when one of the largest *Archaeology in Greece* supplements ever produced reproduced in their entirety the online texts and dominated *Archaeological Reports*, leaving scant room for anything else. Indeed, constraints of space in print meant that material from Attica was held over to 2011 both in print and online. There is no significant diminution in the available material this year. In addition to the regular volumes of *AEMTh* and the *Ergon* of the Archaeological Society, Ministry press releases and field reports from foreign Schools and Greek universities, an entire fascicule of *Archaiologikon Deltion chronika* is devoted to work in Attica from 2001–2004 (a period of major public works in preparation for the Olympic games). And while local journals have reported less archaeology this year, a number of Ephoreias have produced bulletins on work achieved with EU funding (the 5th EBA in Sparta, for example) and two major conferences held in 2006, *Mesohelladika* and *Κεραμεική της Ύστερης Αρχαιότητας από τον ελλάδικό χώρο (3ος–7ος αι. μ.Χ.)*, were published in 2010.

It is neither easy nor desirable to be selective in reporting excavation findings, especially when they come from rescue work: limited information from a single building plot may in time come to form an essential part of a bigger picture when larger areas can be investigated. Assembling such evidence from short reports published over long periods and often with long delays can be complicated, but it is made much easier by the search and report linkage functions of *AGOnline*. Conversely, including all such data in print creates a dense and difficult text when ideally one would recapture some of the quality of the *Archaeology in Greece* of the 1960s and 1970s, when lines of thinking were clearer and trends and achievements more easily spotted. For this reason, we are now splitting *Archaeology in Greece* into *AGOnline*, the fundamental online reporting of primary data which remains the joint responsibility of the British School Director and the Director of the École française d'Athènes, and the *Archaeology in Greece* print supplement to *Archaeological Reports*, excellently described by its new editor, Zosia Archibald, as a first review of the new data. The *AGOnline* and *AG* teams have worked together to tight deadlines, and it has been both stimulating and a little terrifying to see the online data subject to immediate and intense academic scrutiny.

One traditional function of the Director's introduction, to highlight key trends and major discoveries, has now largely passed into the hands of the review team. However, the greater emphasis on analysis and reflection in *AG* means that not all areas of Greece will necessarily receive equal treatment in any single year. Rather, we will take the opportunity to explore trends in data and to demonstrate how, over the course of a decade or more, discoveries may combine to change our understanding: this year, Maria Stamatopoulou's discussion of Demetrias is such a case. But annual highlights remain, and I will exercise the Director's prerogative to draw attention to a case of particular interest which is of a period and in a region which have received less attention than others this year. The sanctuary at Kalapodi continues to produce outstandingly well-preserved evidence of a sequence of buildings beneath the Archaic south temple. A trial trench in the adyton dug to bedrock revealed five mud-brick structures pre-dating the Archaic temple, the oldest of which dates back to LHIIIA2/B: four Mycenaean seals in steatite and glass are noted by the excavator, Wolf-Dietrich Niemeyer, as indicating a connection with the Mycenaean centre at Orchomenos 20km to the south. Its successor, temple 2, was in use in LHIIIC, and pottery found on a floor of temple 3 includes a skyphos-krater fragment with parallels from the Heroon at Lefkandi (i.e. of the first half of the 10th century). This also gives a *terminus post quem* for the construction of temple 4, on the floor of which was a fragmentary EGII skyphos. As yet, only temples 5 and

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6 (the Archaic temple) have been exposed to any substantial extent. Temple 5 is a double apsidal building with a thatched roof, built in the mid ninth century, which contained the *in situ* burnt remains of a wooden cult image before the west apse (**Fig. 1**). However one choses to place this in relation to literary traditions surrounding early *xoana*, it is of great significance as the first such discovery in an excavation context. The temple itself was ritually destroyed by fire in preparation for the construction of its successor, numerous bronze, iron and faience votives having previously been placed on its floor.

Discoveries at Kalapodi in this and previous years are highly significant in their own right, but the long stratigraphical sequence must now be set against our developing knowledge of wider regional patterns, with the decline of Orchomenos, the growth of large cemeteries nearby such as that at Elateia and the transformation in élite housing at more distant Lefkandi and Mitrou.

The new form of *AG* also offers greater opportunities to broaden coverage beyond fieldwork and study seasons to report the major site conservation and presentation projects which have been such a focus of Ministry work over the past few years. Many of these have important research components and many have been well published: EU-funded projects in particular have been systematically reported, often in illustrated syntheses published by individual Ephoreias. A notable example is the report of the work of the 26th EBA in Messenia in 2007–2010 which includes a rich diversity of restoration and conservation, mostly of churches and icons, but also fortifications such as the Niokastro at Pylos and the kastro of Kalamata. Further projects are in progress or newly approved as part of the National Strategic Reference Framework (ΕΣΠΑ) programme (2007–2013) – the reroofing and conservation of the palace at Pylos, for example, conservation of the castle walls at Androusa in Messenia and the Larisa at Argos, site conservation and presentation at Abdera, the restoration of the theatre at Thasos and the restoration of the Palace of the Palaiologoi at Mystra scheduled for completion in 2013. The role of private bodies should also be acknowledged: for example, the Diazoma organization has made a major contribution to the preservation of Greek theatres, most recently advancing the full investigation and presentation of the theatre at Orchomenos and facilitating local appeals for sites such as the Amphiareion at Oropos.

Here it is appropriate to record the publication of a number of important guide books and synthetic accounts of sites and regions. By region, we note:

Athens and Attica: Ch. Bouras, *Βυζαντινή Αθήνα, 10ος–12ος αι* (Benaki Museum supplement 6), Athens 2010.

Peloponnese: E. Konstantinidi-Syvridi, *Λουτράκι: Τα μνημεία του Ηραίου Περαχώρας*, Athens 2010.

Ionian islands: K. Preka-Alexandri, *Οι αρχαιότητες της Κέρκυρας*, Athens 2010.

Western Greece: Ph. Zapheiropoulou, M. Stavropoulou-Gatsi and G. Stamatis, *Τριχόνειον, Άκραι, Μέταπα: Αίτωλών πόλεις*. Athens 2011; A. Kanta-Kitsou, *Δίκτυο Αρχαιολογικών Χώρων Θεσπρωτίας*, Igoumenitsa 2009.

Central Greece: P. Varvarousi, *Η αρχαία Αλίαρτος – Ιστορία και Πολιτισμός*, Athens 2011.

Epirus: *Μνημεία των Ιωαννίνων*, Ioannina 2009.

Macedonia: *Αρχαιολογικοί Χώροι Ν. Καρδίτσας*, Karditsa 2010; M. Besios, *Πιερίδων Στέφανος: Πύδνα, Μεθώνη και οι αρχαιότητες της Βόρειας Πιερίας*, Katerini 2010.



1. Kalapodi, Middle to Late Geometric south temple 5: cult statue base with burnt remains of a *xoanon*. © DAI (W.D. Niemeier).

Dodecanese: P. Triantaphyllidis, *Agathonisi on the Frontier: The Archaeological Investigations at Kastraki (2006–2010)*, Athens 2010.

Cyclades: V. Lambrinoudakis and A. Sphyroera, *Συντήρηση και ανάδειξη του αρχαίου υδραγωγείου Νάξου και του Ιερού των Πηγών στις Μέλανες*, Athens 2010.

Crete: L. Platon, *Ζάκρος Σητείας: Το Ανάκτορο και ο Μινωικός Οικισμός*, Athens 2009; K. Yapitsoglou, *Ο ναός της Παναγίας Φανερωμένης στον Άγιο Ιωάννη Μυλοποτάμου*, Rethymnon 2011; A. Di Vita, *Gortina di Creta: quindici secoli di vita urbana*, Rome 2010.

The development of Museums also continues apace, despite extensive press coverage of gallery closures and low levels of staffing even in major centres (the National Archaeological Museum being a cause for particular concern). The final gallery at Patras Museum is now fully open, as is the permanent display at the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens. New developments include long overdue provision for neglected areas of research: the Museum of Frankish Antiquities in Chlemoutsi Castle is a unique resource, the Byzantine Museum to be housed in the Kapodistrian barracks in Argos will be the first museum covering this period in the Peloponnese and it is particularly exciting to report the acceptance of the study for Greece's first museum of maritime archaeology as part of the Piraeus coastal development plan. The building chosen for this museum, the former SILO grain warehouse beside the Piraeus passenger port, is itself a monument of industrial archaeology, built in the 1920s and in use until 2010. In the museum world too, private benefaction plays a vital role – a recent example includes the conversion of four traditional school buildings at Pheneos in the Corinthia into a cultural centre with an archaeological and folklore museum supported by the Club Hotel Casino Loutraki (which also sponsors renewed excavation at Pheneos). The importance of developments in the museum sector has been emphasized in most recent editions of *AG*. It is therefore appropriate that the first edition of the new-style supplement should include within Maria Stamatopoulou's discussion of Thessaly a feature on new museums and displays generously illustrated by colleagues from several Ephoreias.

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Three new museum guides may be noted: Th. Iliopoulos, *Το αρχαιολογικό μουσείο του Κεραμεικού*, Athens 2009; K. Servi, *The Acropolis: The Acropolis Museum*, Athens 2011; K. Kanta-Kitsou, *Μουσείο Παλαιόπολης (Mon Repos) Κέρκυρας*, Athens 2010. And the excellent series of lavishly illustrated studies of Greek museums produced by the Latsis Foundation now includes V. Aravantinos, *Το Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Θηβών*, Athens 2010. All of these studies are freely available on the website of the Latsis Foundation at: http://www.latsis-foundation.org/en/18/the_museums_cycle.html.

While there remains much cause for optimism in the quality and range of work being conducted in Greece against all economic odds, it is impossible to avoid the difficulties created by the crisis, with staff shortages widely evident and an increase in incidents of theft and illegal excavation reported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The latter are seen as an economic opportunity, with thefts of coins and ecclesiastical artefacts in particular on the rise and significant seizures of larger items (especially sculpture) too. These include rare items and pieces of high market value, such as the head of a caryatid (with an estimated value of over five million euros) seized in Loutraki, and 10 icons stolen from monasteries in Ioannina and Grevena and subsequently returned by galleries in London and Amsterdam. International collaboration, exemplified in 2011 by a new accord against the illicit antiquities trade between the USA and Greece, is of ever increasing importance. The potential damage caused by such activity extends beyond the objects themselves. As Daniel Stewart notes in his report on the Peloponnese below, the Tenea (Klenia) kouroi were seized in time to avoid further damage to their archaeological context. Other sites have been less fortunate: the press reported earlier in the year the use of dynamite to blast a 12m-long tunnel in a designated archaeological site at Seidi Vrysi Myrtophytou in search of Ottoman gold pounds. That such cases remain relatively rare is a tribute to the vigilance of the police and the Ministry.

As is usual in this introduction, we include a list of conferences held in Greece and Cyprus through the year which may be of interest to readers of *AG*.

Conferences focused on specific periods: *On Cooking Pots, Drinking Cups, Loom Weights and Ethnicity in Bronze Age Cyprus and Neighbouring Regions*, Leventis Foundation, Nicosia, November 2010.

Conferences focused on sites or regions: *Ninth Colloquium on Trikalinian Studies*, Trikala, November 2010; *Mycenaeans Up-to-Date: The Archaeology of the NE Peloponnese – Current Concepts and New Directions*, Swedish Institute and University of Thessaly, November 2010; *Second International Conference on Archaeological Research in Crete*, 28th EBA, University of Crete, Archaeological Institute of Cretological Studies, November 2010; *Edessa and the Surrounding Area. History and Archaeology*, Edessa, December 2010; *Ερευνητικό Πρόγραμμα Αμυκλών: Οι εργασίες 2005–2010*, Benaki Museum Athens, May 2011.

Conferences focused on specific themes, with the presentation of new material: *Mycenaean Wall-Paintings in Context: New Discoveries and Old Finds Reconsidered*, ASCSA/KERA, Athens, February 2011; *Late Roman Coarse Ware, Cooking Ware and Amphorae in the Mediterranean: Archaeology and Archaeometry (LRCW 4)*, Aristotelian University Thessaloniki, NCSR Demokritos, Thessaloniki, April 2011; *Η Κεραμεική της Αρχαϊκής εποχής στο Βόρειο Αιγαίο και την Περιφέρειά του (700–480 π.Χ.)*, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, May 2011; *Στεφάνια στην αρχαία Μακεδονία – νέα ευρήματα*, Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, June 2011.

In closing, I join my colleagues in the BSA *AGOnline* team, Robert Pitt (Assistant Director), Don Evely (Knossos Curator) and Penny Wilson Zarganis (Librarian) in welcoming the new *AG* editor, Zosia Archibald, and this year's specialist team of John Bennett, Bill Cavanagh, Archie Dunn, Robin Osborne, Maria Stamatopoulou and Daniel Stewart. Collectively we would like to express our thanks to our colleagues at the École française d'Athènes, and especially to Dominique Mulliez as he comes to the end of his tenure as Director. As an architect of *AGOnline* and a mainstay of the team throughout, he has been essential to the success of the project: we wish him well as he moves to the Sorbonne and look forward to welcoming his successor, Professor Alexandre Farnoux.

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