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ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2019–2020

Introduction & overview

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This brief introduction presents the structure and contents of the current issue and links the various contributions to events or very recent discoveries that were reported in the press in the period immediately before its completion in September. It also offers an overview (not meant to be exhaustive) of archaeological activity in Greece over the past 12 months, focusing on major exhibitions and important recent publications.

Nominally this volume of *AR* covers fieldwork up to the end of 2019, with updates from the first half of 2020. In reality, 2020 has been almost the year that never was for archaeological fieldwork in Greece. Most fieldwork projects involving the foreign schools were postponed and the work of the Archaeological Service has also been severely affected. On 13 March 2020, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports made the decision to close all archaeological sites and museums in Greece. Sites reopened on 18 May and museums on 15 June. Although these were public-health measures taken in the face of a devastating pandemic, the reopening of the Acropolis was a symbol of hope and was widely reported in the world's media. Exactly 2,500 years earlier, in 480 BC, the Acropolis was razed during the second Persian invasion. This anniversary is being marked in 2020 with commemorations centring on the battles of Thermopylae and Salamis (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3064; see also Loy, this volume). The fortunes of the buildings on the Acropolis have long had a symbolic and political resonance for those living in Athens and beyond. In their own way, the discoveries and research reported in this year's *AR* are contributions to the long view of archaeology, helping to contextualize the events of what has been a turbulent year.

This volume starts with the customary update on the work of the BSA in 2019–2020, contributed by its Director, John Bennet. Based on his report to the annual meetings in London, Athens and Thessaloniki in February 2020, it covers the period when lectures, meetings and conferences could still take place in person. As ever, the BSA has been at the centre of a varied programme of events, covering a broad chronological and thematic span, from the origins of agriculture to modern Greek poetry and music. The Director highlights the work of two of the BSA's centres of research: the Marc and Ismene Fitch Laboratory and the Knossos Research Centre. As the Fitch approaches 50 years of operation, he thanks the donors who have sustained its impressive research output by supporting both equipment and staffing. And, as the BSA's attention turns to the rebuilding of the 'Strat', he initiates an appeal to the generosity of the BSA's supporters for the *Knossos 2025* fundraising campaign.

In 'Newsround', Tulsi Parikh (Cambridge) discusses archaeological discoveries reported in the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020. As noted above, field seasons in 2020 have been largely disrupted, but work by Greek teams was possible at the sanctuary of Poseidon at ancient Helike, Agios Vlasios in Atsicholos, Megalopolis and the Archaic sanctuary of Apollo on Despotiko. Among the most spectacular finds reported this year are those made during rescue excavations resulting from the extension of the Athens metro line to Piraeus. The depth of the excavation meant that waterlogged layers with exceptionally well-preserved wooden objects from the Hellenistic to Roman period were encountered, including a small headless wooden sculpture possibly of Hermes. Among other highlights from a busy year, two long-running projects reported important discoveries in 2019: 200,000 year-old stone tools on Naxos discovered by the *Stelida Naxos Archaeological Project* (SNAP) and two new tholos tombs at Pylos found as a result of continuing work by the University of Cincinnati/ASCSA at the site.

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The thematic articles start in the north of Greece with Eleni Vasileiou's (Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina) summary of research into Neolithic and Bronze Age Epirus over the last three decades. Her aim is to disperse the metaphorical fog that hangs over the prehistory of this region and has led to its omission at times from discussions of Greek prehistory. As she suggests, one of the reasons for this neglect is that the settlement and subsistence patterns in Epirus remained remarkably stable throughout the period under discussion, in contrast to the palatial societies that emerged further south. New discoveries also demonstrate similarities with other regions, such as the extended Neolithic site at Episkopi, the first of this type to be found in Epirus. As she argues, there is also evidence for contact with both the north, as suggested by Early Bronze Age tools, and the south, in the form of Mycenaean pottery. Rich Late Bronze Age burials show that such trade could have contributed to some social stratification without fundamentally altering the way of life.

Unlike Epirus, palaces abounded in Bronze Age Crete, and excavations have continued at a number of them over the last few years. Kostis Christakis, BSA Knossos Curator, summarizes the significant amount of research on sites of the palatial period (Middle Minoan IB to Late Minoan IIIA, *ca.* 1900–1300 BC) that has been undertaken since 2016. As elsewhere in Greece, research excavations have continued at sites that have been known for a century or more, such as Gournia, Palaikastro, Knossos, Malia and Phaistos. Continued exploration of the area around the palaces at Zakros and Petras, and the recent discovery of palatial centres at Sissi, Galatas and Zominthos have complicated the picture. Despite this, Christakis welcomes a growing archaeological interest in the lives of ordinary people, through the excavations of typical houses and theoretical attention being paid to the archaeology of households. As the areas around Ierapetra and Rethymnon become better known, he argues that it is time to focus on the differences between regions rather than to continue to treat Minoan Crete as a single entity.

In their contribution, Mark Lawall (Manitoba) and Chavdar Tzochev (BSA) examine the last decade's work on transport amphorae in the Aegean and Black Sea areas. They trace a widening of the chronological limits of study, so that Early Iron Age amphorae are now discussed as part of this phenomenon. At the same time, a more traditional interest in the stamps of Hellenistic amphorae has continued to yield new corpora and to refine chronologies for a number of production areas, particularly Rhodes, Thasos and Herakleia Pontica. They also highlight new technology that allows for the detailed imaging of shipwrecks and their cargoes. All this work contributes to advanced knowledge of trade patterns with fine chronological resolution. Despite such progress, however, they note that more needs to be done to make these data accessible, both through digital methods and collaboration with economic historians.

The sanctuaries of the Peloponnese have been a focus of archaeological attention since at least the 19th century. Maria Spathi (Society of Messenian Archaeological Studies) shows that there is no shortage of new information about them as she rounds up the research of the last ten years. She highlights work at a variety of sanctuaries including the well-known sites of Messene, Amykles, Olympia, Nemea and Isthmia. Even so, new sites remain to be discovered, as demonstrated by test trenches for a large-scale infrastructure project in Achaia which resulted in the discovery of a sanctuary to Demeter and Eileithyia. Although archaeologists continue to make extensive use of Pausanias, she identifies a shift towards interest in material culture in the last decade. This shift includes renewed attention being given to the meaning of votive offerings, as well as to the use of faunal remains and ceramics to identify consumption rituals at a number of sites.

The final contribution this year, on recent work in the islands of the Saronic Gulf, is by Michael Loy, recently appointed Assistant Director of the British School at Athens. In addition to the individual significance of discoveries on Aegina, Poros, Salamis and the Methana peninsula, his contribution also highlights the growing interest in looking at the connections between them. New data have emerged both from long-running projects, such as that investigating the sanctuary of Poseidon at Kalaureia, and rescue excavations occasioned by development. He also highlights the importance of pottery studies to trace some of these connections, such as scientific work to characterize Aeginetan ceramics. His article spans all periods, from the Neolithic on Salamis to the Byzantine churches and monasteries of Aegina, and also covers the reception of the archaeological remains of this area in early modern travel literature and contemporary art.

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Travelling pots of a different kind characterized the *Countless Aspects of Beauty*, a touring exhibition that has moved around Greece and which reached its final stop at the Chios Mastic Museum (June to September 2019). It was organized alongside the exhibition of the same name that opened in the National Archaeological Museum (NAM) in 2018 and closed in December 2019 after receiving a total of 950,000 visitors. This was followed at the NAM in February to July 2020 by the exhibition *These Are What We Fought For … Antiquities and the Greek War of Independence* which combined 18th- and 19th-century artworks with antiquities in order to examine subjects including philhellenism and the plundering of monuments (https://www.namuseum.gr/en/temporary_exhibition/these-are-what-we-fought-for-antiquities-and-the-greek-war-of-independence/). It also marked the start of events to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the start of the Greek War of Independence which will get into full swing in 2021. In the meantime, as part of the NAM's *Unseen Museum* displays, the Andronianoi Hoard – a group of 20 Late Bronze Age bronze objects (mostly tools and weapons) from Euboea – was put on show (https://www.namuseum.gr/en/hidden_museum/o-thisayros-ton-andronianon/).

Exhibitions at other venues have included the *Last Monk of the Strofades* by Robert McCabe and Katerina Lymperopoulou (May to September 2020) at the Benaki Museum of Greek Culture (https://www.benaki.org/index.php?option=com_events&view=event&id=1004840&lang=en). Further afield, a collaboration between the Archaeological Park of Pompeii and the Ephorate of the Cyclades resulted in an exhibition at the Quirinale in Rome, *Pompeii and Santorini: Eternity in a Day* (October 2019 to January 2020). The exhibition explored ideas of preservation as well as catastrophe, and it marked the first time that objects from these kindred archaeological sites have been shown together.

There have been a number of digital developments, too, this year. In his contribution, John Bennet announces the launch of the BSA Digital Collections (https://digital.bsa.ac.uk/index.php). Among these are the BSA's Mycenae records, which have been made available in time for the centenary of the start of the excavations of Alan Wace. To celebrate this anniversary, the Faculty of Classics in Cambridge collaborated with the University Library and the BSA to unite digitally the physically separated archival material pertaining to these important excavations. The collection principally consists of notebooks, drawings, plans and photographs of the archaeological endeavours of the BSA team at Mycenae in 1920–1923, 1939 and 1950–1957 under the directorship of Wace. These records are invaluable in helping specialists to conduct archaeology in reverse – starting from physical records in digital format and working their way back to the excavation trenches and individual finds – and in allowing all those interested in Mycenae's past to get closer to the day-to-day activities of these pioneers of archaeological fieldwork (https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/mycenae; https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/digitalmycenae).

Another significant development has been the digitization of the publications of the ASA (with the exception of the five most recent years), including those in the *Praktika*, *Archaiologike Ephemeris*, *Ergon* and *Vivliotheke* series (https://www.archetai.gr/index.php). The digitization of the full collection of the Society's archival records is also in progress (http://webapps.servers.archetai.gr/scarabaeus/viewer/archetai/viewer.html; https://www.lifo.gr/articles/archaeology_articles/269710/deite-gia-proti-fora-to-polytimo-arxeio-tis-en-athinais-arxaiologikis-etaireias).

We are particularly pleased that in this year's online edition of *AR* most images appear in colour – a first for our journal and a feature that we hope to continue from now on. In conclusion, we note that, as in previous years, the last 12 months have seen numerous publications. Without claiming to be exhaustive, we list here a sample of those that have appeared since the last issue of *AG* up to mid-2020.

Aurigny, H. (2019) *Fouilles de Delphes* 5: *bronzes du haut-archaïsme à Delphes: trépieds, chaudrons et vaisselle de bronze (fin VIIIe–VIIe siècle)* (Paris)

Blakolmer, F. (ed.) (2020) *Current Approaches and New Perspectives in Aegean Iconography* (Aegis 18) (Louvain-la-Neuve)

Boardman, J. (2020) *A Classical Archaeologist's Life: The Story so Far* (Oxford)

Bonetto, J., Francisi, D. and Mazzocchin, S. (2019) *O teatro del Pythion: scavi e ricerche 2001–2013* (Gortina 9.1–2) (Athens)

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Brunet, M., Coulié, A., Hamon, P., Holtzmnn, B., Marc, J.-Y., Muller, A. and Picard, O. (2019) *Thasos: heurs et malheurs d'un Eldorado antique* (Paris)
Chalikias, K. and Oddo, E. (eds) (2019) *Exploring a Terra Incognita on Crete: Recent Research on Bronze Age Habitation in the Southern Ierapetra Isthmus* (Philadelphia)
Chankowski, V. (2019) *Parasites du dieu: comptables, financiers et commerçants dans la Délos hellénistique* (Paris)
Davis, B. and Laffineur R. (eds) (2020) *Neôteros: Studies in Bronze Age Aegean Art and Archaeology in Honor of Professor John G. Younger on the Occasion of his Retirement* (Aegaeum 44) (Leuven)
Devolder, M. and Kreimerman (eds) (2020) *Ashlar: Exploring the Materiality of Cut-Stone Masonry in the Eastern Mediterranean Bronze Age* (Aegis 17) (Louvain-la-Neuve)
Drougou, S. (2019) *Βεργίνα η νεκρόπολη των Αιγών: οι τάφοι 'Heuzey' – ο τάφος 'με το περιστέρι' στα Παλατίτσια* (Thessaloniki)
— (ed.) (2020) *10th International Scientific Meeting on Hellenistic Pottery: Pottery Workshops: Craftsmen and Workshops* (Athens)
Dumont, S. (2020) *Vrysaki: A Neighborhood Lost in Search of the Athenian Agora* (New Jersey)
Garcia, D., Orgeolet, R., Pomadère, M. and Zurbach, J. (eds) (2019) *Country in the City: Agricultural Functions of Protohistoric Urban Settlements (Aegean and Western Mediterranean)* (Oxford)
Girella, L. and Caloi, I. (eds) (2019) *Kamilari: una necropoli di tombe a tholos nella Messarà (Creta)* (Monografie della Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene e delle Missioni Italiane in Oriente 29) (Athens)
Hamon, P. (2019) *Études Thasiennes* 26: *corpus des inscriptions de Thasos* 3: *documents publics du quatrième siècle et de l'époque hellénistique* (Paris)
Herbin, F. (2019) *Exploration archéologique de Délos* 45: *le sanctuaire d'Apollon a Délos* 2: *les monuments votifs et honorifiques (sans toit)* (Paris)
Hood, S. (ed. L.M. Bendall) (2020) *The Masons' Marks of Minoan Knossos* (British School at Athens Supplementary Volume 49) (London)
Karagiorga-Stathakopoulou, T.G. (2019) *Ντόλις Μαντινείας: η κεραμική της ανασκαφής* (Athens)
Knappett, C. (2020) *Aegean Bronze Age Art: Meaning in the Making* (Cambridge)
Korres, M. and Eleutheriou, V. (2019) *Σμίλη και μνήμη: η συμβολή της μαρμαροτεχνίας στην αναστήλωση των μνημείων / Chisel and Memory: The Contribution of Marble Craftsmanship to the Restoration of Monuments* (Athens)
Kremydi, S. and Marcellesi, M.-C. (2019) *Les Alexandres après Alexandre: histoire d'une monnaie commune* (Athens)
Lambrinoudakis, V. and Ohnesorg, A. (2020) *Das Heiligtum von Gyroulas bei Sangri auf Naxos* (Athens)
Lippolis, E., Caliò, L.M. and Giatti, C. (2019) *L'isolato del Ninfeo: la topografia, i monumenti e lo scavo (campagne 2003–2008)* (Monografie della Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene e delle Missioni Italiane in Oriente 27) (Athens)
Lovén. B. and Sapountzis, I. (2019) *The Ancient Harbours of the Piraeus* 2: *Zea Harbour. The Group 1 and 2 Shipsheds and Slipways: Architecture, Topography and Finds* (Monographs of the Danish Institute at Athens 15.3) (Athens)
Machaira, V. (2019) *Ελληνιστικά γλυπτά της Ρόδου* 2 *(*Athens)
Matthaiou, A.P. and Bardani, V.N. (2019) *ΣΤΕΦΑΝΩΙ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ: μελέτες εις μνήμην Στεφάνου Ν. Κουμανούδη (1931–1987)* (Athens)
Meadows, A. (2019) *Between Greece and Rome: Coinage in the Imperium of Mark Antony* (Athens)
Melena, J.L. with Firth, R.J. (2019) *The Knossos Tablets* (6th edition) (Philadelphia)
Michaelidou, M. and Papi, E. (2019) *Hermes Balducci Pinxit: Ψηφιδωτά δάπεδα από την Κω / Pavimenti a mosaico da Coo* (Athens)
Miller, S.G. (2020) *Nemea and Me: 1971–1999* (Athens)
Moretti, J.-C. and Valavanis, P. (2019) *Les hippodromes et les concours hippiques dans la Grèce antique* (Bulletin de correspondance hellénique Supplement 62) (Paris)

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Mulliez, D. (2019) *Corpus des Inscriptions de Delphes* 5: *les actes d'affranchissement* 1: *prêtrises I à IX (nos 1–722)* (Paris)
Murphy, J.M.A. (ed.) *Death in Late Bronze Age Greece: Variations on a Theme* (Oxford)
Nikolaou, Y. and Touratsoglou, I. (2019) *ΟΒΟΛΟΣ* 14: *η κυκλοφορία του Βυζαντινού νομίσματος στο χώρο του Ελλαδικού κόσμου και στα Βαλκάνια: η μαρτυρία των θησαυρών, 5ος–15ος αιώνες / The Circulation of Byzantine Coinage in Mainland Greece and the Balkans: The Hoard Evidence, 5th–15th Centuries* (Athens)
Palagia, O. and Sioumpara, E.P. (2019) *From Hippias to Kallias: Greek Art in Athens and Beyond 527–449 BC* (Athens)
Palyvou, C. (2019) *The Architecture of the West House* (Athens)
Papadimitriou, A. and Spathari, E. (2020) *Mycenae: A Journey in the World of Agamemnon* (Athens)
Papadimitriou, N., Wright, J.C., Fachard, S., Polychronakou-Sgouritsa, N. and Andrikou, E. (eds) (2020) *Athens and Attica in Prehistory: Proceedings of the International Conference, Athens, 27–31 May 2015* (Oxford)
Papadopoulos, S. (2019) *Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Δράμας* (Drama)
Papadopoulos, T.I. and Papadopoulou, E. (2020) *Ephyra-Epirus: The Mycenaean Acropolis: Results of the Excavations 1975–1986 and 2007–2008* (Oxford)
Pappa, M. (2020) *Δ.Ε.Θ., Θέρμη, Μακρύγιαλος: οργάνωση του χώρου και οικιστικά στοιχεία στους νεολιθικούς οικισμούς της κεντρικής Μακεδονίας* (Thessaloniki)
Petrakos, V.C. (2020) *Ο Δήμος του Ραμνούντος* 3–6 (Library of the Archaeological Society at Athens 324–27) (Athens)
Relaki, M. and Driessen, J. (eds) (2020) *OIKOS: Archaeological Approaches to House Societies in the Bronze Age Aegean* (Aegis 19) (Louvain-la-Neuve)
Sakellarakis, Y.A. (ed. E. Sapouna-Sakellaraki) (2020) *Kythera: Hagios Georgios sto vouno: Minoan Cult and the Post-Bronze Age History of the Site* (Library of the Archaeological Society at Athens 323) (Athens)
Sampson, A. (2019) *Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Sailors in the Aegean and the Near East* (Newcastle upon Tyne)
Schulz, T. (2019) *Die römischen Tempel im Heraion von Samos* 2: *der Peripteros und der Naiskos Thekla Schulz* (Samos 29) (Wiesbaden)
Sekunda, N. (ed.) (2020) *Wonders Lost and Found: A Celebration of the Archaeological Work of Professor Michael Vickers* (Oxford)
Vivliodetis, E. (2020) *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum Greece* 15: *Athens, National Museum, Attic Black- and Red-Figure Pyxides* (Athens)
Walter, H., Clemente, A. and Niemeier, W.-D. (2019) *Ursprung und Frühzeit des Heraion von Samos Teil* 1: *Topographie, Architektur und Geschichte* (Samos 21.1) (Berlin)

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