Tiryns. J. Maran (DAI/Heidelberg) reports on a further season of excavation and study.

W lower town: for a 2nd year, excavation continued in grid squares L51 and L52, offering a rare opportunity to uncover EMyc (LH I–II), EPalatial (LH IIIA) and EIA remains, elsewhere missing or covered by later structures. Undisturbed pre-LH horizons were not reached, but finds in later levels reveal the history of pre-Myc occupation. The earliest pottery dates to the LNeo, while the next clear horizon is EH II. In addition to large quantities of EH sherds, certain finds unexpected in domestic contexts include at least 3 EH clay sealings and building materials, such as terracotta and slate tiles, used to roof major constructions during the 'Period of the Corridor Houses'. Such finds suggest that significant EH architectural remains linked to administrative practices are to be expected.

The earliest architectural phase is EPalatial (LH IIIA), continuing into the incipient LPalatial period (LH IIIB). Two Myc building phases in L52 exhibit marked differences in construction techniques, orientation and probably also size. Architecture of the earlier phase appeared only at the end of the excavation: accordingly, the layout and size of the emerging building remain unclear. The uppermost part of a carefully built, solid wall was uncovered, which closely resembles in construction and width the walls of the large LH IIIA complex found in 1969–1974 S of the new excavation. A multiple-room building of similar size and construction dating to LH IIIA1 and IIIA2, with its origins possibly reaching back into LH II, is therefore expected. The later Myc phase (LH IIIA2 and possibly LH IIIB1 E) is represented by a partially uncovered building with painted walls (noting plaster fragments with blue, and sometimes one further colour). Finds, such as lumps of unused clay, fragments of unfired or slightly fired vessels and a spiral clay coil used to build up vessels, indicate the use of the building for pottery manufacture – the first such discovery in Tiryns. Domestic wares and coarsewares were produced, but a smaller number of pieces are thin-walled and made of fine clay. The choice of this particular area for a potter's workshop may have been guided by the proximity of the acropolis. The workshop is very close to the acropolis rock and to the upper citadel in particular. When the first megaron was built in the 14th Ct, the workshop was immediately visible to its occupants. Therefore, although only one disputable sealing has so far been discovered, an immediate relationship between palace and potter's workshop is postulated.

A decisive break in settlement in the W lower town occurred early in LH IIIB1: the lack of LH IIIB2 and IIIC occupation, indicated by previous excavation, was confirmed. The potter's workshop and contemporary neighbouring buildings were abandoned without destruction and there are no signs of Myc reoccupation of the area. The abandonment of this part of the lower town may be connected with the creation of a new approach to the citadel from the W in LH IIIB2 with the construction of the W staircase and the associated gate in the W bastion. No construction in the area of the W lower town bordering on this approach was thenceforth tolerated, perhaps for reasons of security or aesthetics (to preserve the view of the palace and fortification on the low acropolis).

Further investigation of an EIA construction of large horizontal slabs and stones discovered in 2006 and thought to be a grave, revealed no grave pit or post-Myc finds. The possibility of a burial at a greater depth cannot be ruled out, but the structure was probably part of a well-built slab pathway built when the foundations of the Myc potter's workshop were used for a new PGeo building. This phase was short: MGeo or LGeo horizons cut into the ruin of the reused Myc building.

Fresco project: A. Papadimitriou (4th EPCA) and U. Thaler continued the restoration and analysis of a large complex of wall-paintings found in Archaeological Service excavations in the area of the W staircase (1999–2001). Wall-paintings in the National Museum from earlier excavation in the same area are also included (in co-operation with L. Papazoglou-Manioudaki), since they form part of the same complex. A systematic search for joins between fragments from the new complex began by focusing on friezes showing imitations of wooden beams and spirals. These probably belong to the famous Tirynthian procession of life-size women, and are thus important for clarifying the relation to the old frescoes published by Rodenwaldt. It was thus possible to assemble large parts of the friezes as well as new compositions of figural fresco painting.

Publications: C. Podzuweit, *Tiryns* 14. *Studien zur spät-mykenischen Keramik* (Wiesbaden, Reichert, 2007); K. Kilian (with T. Mühlenbruch), *Die handgemachte geglättete Keramik mykenischer Zeitstellung* (Wiesbaden, Reichert, 2007).

Epidauros. V. Kyriaki (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 1, 363–84) reviews restoration work undertaken on the hestiatorion (the so-called gymnasium) of the Asklepieion by the Committee for the Conservation of the Monuments of Epidauros (ESME) from 1984–2006.

S. Makrypodi and E. Mastellos (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 4, 337–60) also report on the restoration of the stadium of the Asklepieion.

Franchthi Cave. K. D. Vitelli (ASCSA) reports on continuing study and analytical programmes.

Comprehensive analysis of the fauna from trench H1B began with the lowest unit (unit 213) and progressed upward. Full taphonomic analysis was undertaken on every 3rd unit, while a more restricted analysis was recorded for the remaining units. By the end of the 2007 season, full taphonomic analysis was completed for 2,407 specimens from 16 units. Restricted analysis was completed on an additional 1,492 specimens. In order of decreasing frequency, the most common taxa include: hare (*Lepus* sp.); birds (partridge and pigeon [*Columba livia*], in particular); red deer (*Cervus elaphus*); wild ass (*Equus hydrantinus*); tortoise (*Testudo graeca*); wild cattle (*Bos primigenius*) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).

Research on shells and ornaments (C. Perlès) continued: the sequences in H1A and FA were completely studied for the Pal and rarer Mes species. For the much more numerous Cyclope shells a sample of ca. 2,100 individual specimens was recorded for the Lower and Upper Mes and a record of all FMes specimens was completed. All the micromolluscs from H1B were identified and counted, and all food shells were resorted to establish the proportions of burnt specimens. Finally, samples were assembled for a major programme of C^{14} redating.

ARCADIA
(39th EPCA: 5th EBA)

Paralio Astros. S.I. Arvaniti (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 4, 385–410) provides a detailed description of the fort of Paralio Astros, arguing for a Ven (L17th–E18th Ct AD) first building phase, comprising the external enclosure, NW tower and NW gate.

Louka. Y. Pikoulas identifies a section of the anc. cart road from Nestane to Tegea in the area of this village (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 1, 170–76).

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E. Eleutheriou (Volos) reports (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 4, 283–99) on Byz remains in the small mountain plain around Louka. 2.9km N of Louka and 11.5m N of the church of Panagia Faneromeni is a large (14.2m x 8.6m) rectangular structure containing 2 cisterns. An EByz date is proposed on the basis of the construction technique and the little pottery preserved. Byz marble spolia are built into the S peribolos wall of the church. Ca. 200m ESE of the church are the remains of a one-roomed church (Ag. Theodoroi) 8.6m x 2.8m, with an internal apse and walls 0.8m thick (precluding a tiled roof). The wall construction and the little pottery preserved suggest a M–LByz date (12th–13th Ct AD). Continuing ENE, tiles and MByz and LByz sherds (plain, incised and glazed) are visible in the fields. Ca. 400m away is the ruined 'Kokkini Ekklisia' (cruciform, without narthex), the plan and construction of which are described in detail: an E13th Ct date is proposed on architectural grounds (there were no ceramic finds). Cleaning and excavation are required to verify this. Ca. 800m NE from the Kokkini Ekklisia are traces of a rectangular building (W side 6m *l*. with a 1.6m *w*. entrance; N 7.75m *l*.; S 9.7m *l*.; E traces only), with walls 0.75–0.80m thick, preserved to a maximum 0.72m *h*. Only a few tile fragments were visible, and the structure cannot yet be dated. 750m further on is the path to the mod. church of Ag. Efthimiou, whence leads the route to the hermitage of Ag. Vasileiou. Here 2 small churches, enclosed in a peribolos, are probably Byz (likely LByz) constructions, but have undergone major mod. reconstruction. Finally, going S through Louka, the site of Vidi lies ca. 120m before the church of Profitis Ilias. Here the S side and NW corner of a 2-storey tower (7.4m x 4.8m) are preserved to ca. 10m *h*.; around the tower, especially to the E, were traces of buildings. The tower likely controlled routes to the LByz settlements at Mouchli and Tsipiana (mod. Nestane). Surface finds of tile, unpainted, incised and glazed pottery, combined with the architecture, indicate a LByz date.

Agia Paraskevi Arachamitai. B. Forsén (Finnish Institute) reports on a project conducted in 2006–2007 to clarify whether column drums allegedly found here in the 1930s could belong to an anc. temple. The site is located at the highest point of the pass leading from Asea to Arachamitai: magnetometry revealed at least 2 monumental buildings, one rectangular (ca. 30m x 11m), the other square (ca. 65m x 65m) with a large central courtyard. Trial trenches showed that the rectangular building is a stoa, open towards the N and with a series of square rooms along the S side, and likely Hel on the basis of form. A Lakedaimonian coin found below the collapsed roof offers a *tpq* of 50–25 BC for the destruction of the stoa.

S of the stoa lay a shallow pit filled with dark soil, much pottery and other small finds. The pottery includes many mouldmade bowl fragments, both imbricate and floral bowls of ca. 225–50 BC and some long petal bowls of ca. 150–80 BC, as well as miniatures, cooking pots, amphorae, jugs and some lamps, plus a few female figurines of the 2nd Ct BC (**Fig. 37**). At the S end of this trench lay a terracotta water channel, and next to it L5th–M3rd Ct BC bg pottery and a foot fragment from a 2nd half 6th Ct BC bronze hydria. These finds may be the remains of ritual dining common in sanctuaries. Two tile stamps, one beginning ΑΡΤΕΜ… and the other ΔΕΣΠ…, might indicate the cult of Artemis Despoina, although further research is needed. Further work is also required to explain the date and function of the larger square courtyard structure.

Skortsino, Troupitses Cave. I. Efstathiou-Manolakou (EPSNE) reports (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 4, 126–40) on renewed study of this cave in 2005 (see previously *AR* 48 [2001–2002], 29). A full plan and geological study were made, trenches opened to confirm the stratigraphy and a large quantity of surface pottery collected. Pottery was mainly FNeo (the only phase of occupation, ca. 4200–3300 BC). It consisted of handmade coarseware in both open and closed shapes: pithoi and pithoid vessels with flat bases and vertical strap handles, plus deep bowls predominate (undecorated or with plastic decoration), with smaller numbers of black bowls with incised decoration. Strainers and scoops are also present. In addition, bone, flint and obsidian tools were found, plus one obsidian tanged arrowhead, shell and bone beads, animal bones (of domesticated and hunted species) and a piece of bronze sheet. Most evidence of occupation came from the forward rather than the rear part of the main chamber; part of a hearth was located. Evidence suggests that the cave was mostly used for storage, with only occasional human occupation. Human bones were scattered though the cave: it remains unclear whether the cave was used for burial.



37. Agia Paraskevi: 2nd Ct BC figurine heads

Leondari. A. Louvi-Kizi (*DeltChAE* 28 [2007], 99–114) presents a study of the architecture of the church of the Ag. Apostoloi as part of a programme to restore the monument. New architectural observations refine the building sequence from the point of original foundation, probably in the L14th Ct AD, onwards.

Mt Lykaion, Sanctuary of Zeus. M. Petropoulos (39th EPCA), M.E. Voyatzis (ASCSA/Arizona) and D.G. Romano (ASCSA/Pennsylvania) report on the 2007 season of excavation and survey.

Trenches were opened in the lower and upper areas of the sanctuary, at the altar of Zeus, in the temenos, in the xenon, in the area of the stoa seats or steps and on the terrace SW of the hippodrome. The altar trench produced EH, MH and LH pottery, an LM II rock-crystal lentoid seal, plus pottery and votive objects from the Geo–Hel (miniature vases, bronze tripods and rings, iron blades and a spit, silver coins) and much animal bone. Use of the altar from the 3rd millenium BC is inferred. Some 52m^2 of the temenos area near the altar were excavated to bedrock, with virtually no finds. In the lower sanctuary, excavation within the xenon revealed a small area of the floor and evidence for interior wall-plaster. Trenches outside the N wall of the stoa exposed the building's foundation and part of the interior.

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Documentation of all extant blocks via a combination of topographical survey and architectural drawing continued, and the first actual state drawings of the buildings and monuments of the sanctuary were created. Architectural documentation focused on a ca. 40m *l*. series of steps or seats to the N of the stoa and on the E wall of the adjacent xenon.

Y. Pikoulas continued his historical study of the Mt Lykaion area, identifying anc. roads and towns, and M. Davison continued the cultural landscape study reported in 2006.

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

Loutra Heraias. A.-V. Karapanagiotou (39th EPCA) presents (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 2, 260–72) a preliminary publication of a Myc cemetery on the S slope of the hill of the chapel of Ag. Giorgos, close to the NW edge of the village of Iamatikes Piges, 12km from Paloumbas and ca. 15km from the known Myc cemetery at Palaiokastro. Remains of a collapsed tholos tomb and traces of at least 6 more were visible on the surface, along with remains of slabs displaced by the digger used to open a road up the hill. Only the chamber of the tholos tomb survived, cut into the soft limestone of the hill (2.8m x 2.15m). The dromos could not be located. The chamber floor was covered with fill which had seeped in from above and the S part of the chamber had subsided. The tomb was reused, presenting evidence of earlier burials pushed aside, as well as the latest burials on the floor of the chamber. Remains of a least 8 individuals lay at the W side of the chamber, along with their grave goods. In the southernmost part, 2 skeletons were preserved in supine position. Grave goods consisted of more than 25 vessels representing a variety of closed shapes (especially alabastra, also pithoid amphorae), plus dress ornaments (bronze and bone pins), beads, whorls, 2 knives and 3 razors and a sealstone. Use of the tomb dates to LH IIIA–B.

Karytaina. E. Yannouli (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 4, 141–58) reports on excavation inside the castle by the 5th EBA in 2002 and 2003. Particular attention was paid to a rectangular structure, 5.4m x 4.25m in the centre of the castle. This has a pebble and mortar floor through which the bedrock projected to 0.15m *h.* in the centre and walls of rough stone and tile in lime mortar, up to 1.45m thick and preserved to 0.3m *h.* The strong foundation of the S wall, combined with the central location of the structure, imply that it was a defensive tower, and perhaps the Frankish donjon. The building dates to the 13th Ct AD, contemporary with the castle walls. Finds consist of roof tiles with incised and impressed decoration and household pottery, as well as painted and glazed ware, noting one Byz and one Hel or Rom vessel (unique at this site).

A 2nd trench was opened in the central court, in the SW part of the castle. At a *d.* of 2m were remains of an arched gateway built in limestone (*w*. 2.3m, *d*. 1m, *h*. 2m), set into bedrock; grooves for the opening of the door are preserved in the threshold, plus one of the iron hinges. This was approached via a descending path from the higher courtyard. S of the gateway, 8 walls created a series of 4 small storage areas. These also date from the period of the castle's construction in the 13th Ct. Pottery dates to the Byz (and in particular, LByz) period, and includes household, painted and glazed wares: most characteristic is a small amphora with decoration typical of the L12th–E13th Ct AD. A coin of Andrea Venier (1382–1400) was also found, plus much shell and animal bone.

A final trench was opened further N, 1.5m from the interior face of the W wall. Four walls of 13th Ct structures were discovered, plus 3 later, probably from the period of the 2nd Tourkokratia. Proximity to the W tower suggests that these may have been auxiliary buildings serving the guard.

Cleaning outside the castle provided new data on several matters, notably the building's defences and access points.

Lousoi. G. Ladstätter (Director, Austrian Institute) reports further examination of the cult building on terrace I and of the peripteral temple (*AR* 53 [2006–2007], 30–31).

On terrace I, W of the peripteral temple, the following sequence of cult buildings is visible following excavation from 2004 onwards. First, the foundations of a simple rectangular building (5m x 7m) of LCl date; a hoard of terracotta figurines (found in 2005) indicates a cult function. Above this oikos, a rectangular building, subdivided into 2 rooms (5.7m x 8.1m), was erected in the Hel period; its E access and some limestone orthostats from its superstructure survive. Deposits of lamps and balsamaria (located in 2004) indicate that this structure also served a cult purpose. Probably in the LHel period, this structure was extended with the addition of symmetrically placed halls in use at least until the E2nd Ct AD.

In 2007, an altar was revealed 2.7m E of the orthostat building, oriented axially towards its entrance (**Fig. 38**). The rectangular substructure of 6 limestone slabs (2.6m x 1.3m) survives; the upper surface was smoothed and mortises cut into it to facilitate the placing of orthostats. One of this upper level of limestone blocks survives *in situ* in the NE corner (*h*. 0.6m). Similarities with the materials and techniques used in the orthostat building and the stoa NW of terrace I suggest a Hel date for the altar. The exact orientation towards the orthostat building further indicates a cult ensemble combining that structure and the stone altar to its E. The surroundings of the altar contained relocated fills with anc. disturbances, with finds of occasionally Ar date, but mostly Cl, Hel and Rom dates.

A sounding NE of the structures revealed the rubble foundation of the N hall of later date, also foundations of the Hel orthostat building cut into a fill containing sherds of numerous Geo and Ar thin-walled drinking cups. Numerous Cl, Hel and ERom sherds indicate continuity of intensive eating and drinking (feasting) in the context of this building, suggesting a cult that preceded the LCl oikos and went back to the Geo period. It could be a local heroon.

In the area of the Hel peripteral temple, work concentrated on the W area of the E hall in the sekos. In conjunction with previous excavation results, the following architectural phases can now be proposed.



38. Lousoi: orthostat building, altar in foreground

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39. Lousoi: temple area

The temple (**Fig. 39**), erected in the EHel period, had a peristasis of 6 x 15 columns (15.8m x 42.35m) and a sekos subdivided into a pronaos, an elongated E cella hall (15 x 8 m), a square W cella hall (7.8 x 8 m), and a transverse room (adyton) to the W (2.8 x 8 m). The E cella hall was subdivided into 3 aisles by 3 pairs of interior supports, indicated by 6 individual footings, and in the NE by one limestone slab as bedding for a wooden pillar. This hall was paved with a well-preserved floor of clay slabs.

The building was radically redesigned, probably in the LHel period. The E cella hall was subdivided by a N–S wall. Its E part was transformed into a new pronaos and the W part remained a cult space, now divided into 3 aisles by 4 secondary internal supports, located in accordance with the room's new proportions. In the course of these modifications, the clay slab floor was partially removed, as were 5 of the 6 limestone bedding slabs for the original internal supports. The base of a cult statue, placed axially in front of the W wall, belongs to this modification. The same almost certainly applies to the 6 internal supports in the W cella hall. The surroundings of the cult statue base contained numerous LHel and E Imperial clay lamps from the period of the temple's use, as well as secondary deposits of older cult objects, including a LAr iron sword and a Cl bronze *sauroter*.

Soundings beyond floor level in the E cella hall in 2006 provided information about the pre-Hel use of the temple area. The terrain, sloping down to the N, was subdivided into terraces by E–W running support walls, of which rubble foundations survive at varying elevations. Associated with these walls were use deposits and fills above the preserved wall tops, containing finds such as sherds of Ar drinking cups and cooking pots, bones, ashes and burnt clay.

Thus the area was used for meals or feasting from the Ar period onwards, before the erection of the temple. A cult of the same duration is indicated by the secondary deposits in the area of the cult statue base. Fragments of an Ar Laconian clay roof suggest an older cult building, probably located S of the Hel temple. It can therefore be assumed that the Hel cult is intentionally connected with an older cult, the origins of which lie in the Ar period at the latest.

Overall, the excavations suggest that the extra-urban Sanctuary of Artemis is complemented by an urban sanctuary, with its own distinctive, but so far unidentified, cult from the Ar until the E Imperial Rom period.

LACONIA
(5th EPCA: 5th EBA)

Vasara (Veroia). Th. Papageorgiou (5th EBA) reports (*Praktika Z' Synedriou* 4, 49–64) on the conservation of the wall-paintings of the church of Ag. Nikolaos (13th Ct AD, with a 2nd, post-Byz, layer of painting dated epigraphically to 1597).

Trypi (anc. Kaiada). Th. Pitsios (Athens) reports a renewed programme of anthropological research at this rock-cleft located in the foothills of Taygetos, on the boundary of mod. Trypes, ca. 10km NW of Sparta. A research programme instigated in 1983 by P. Themelis (*AR* [1984–1985], 24; *AR* [1985–1986], 29) documented the physical form of the feature and, on the basis of the large quantity of human bone present, identified it with anc. Kaiada, into which the Lakedaimonians threw condemned criminals, prisoners of war and weak infants. Anthropological investigation to date has not confirmed the presence of infants or small children: most of the skeletal material found inside the cleft probably belongs to men with a biological age of 18–35 years.

A new 3-year research programme, begun in 2003 by the Anthropological Museum of Athens University in collaboration with P. Themelis (Rethymnon) and under the supervision of the EPSNE and 5th EPCA, aims to investigate in detail the circumstances of deposition of the human skeletal material in the rock-cleft, and to collect, clean and characterize all remaining material.

Sparta theatre. C. Morgan (Director, BSA), A. Vasilogamvrou (Director, 5th EPCA) and K. Diamanti (Director, 5th EBA) report on the first season of a 5-year investigation of the anc. theatre in preparation for its proper conservation and public presentation. In 2007, the BSA undertook 2 non-intrusive surveys, to trace the extent of theatral and later antique remains in the koilon with a view to future excavation, and to contribute to the assessment of immediate and medium-term conservation needs. Combined topographical and resistivity survey (C. Gaffney, H. Goodchild and S. Harrison [Birmingham Archaeology]) revealed extensive areas where seating may be substantially undisturbed (**Fig. 40**), plus the likely location of structures probably related to Byz settlement. A new condition report on the exposed masonry was made by C. Woolfitt (Ingram Associates). The 5th EPCA and 5th EBA completed drainage work, removed part of the old excavation dump and continued archival and architectural study with particular reference to the parodoi. Ceramic finds from previous excavations in the area were located in the Archaeological Museum of Mystras, and conserved.

Kouphovouno. W. Cavanagh (BSA/Nottingham), C. Mee (BSA/Liverpool) and J. Rénard (Clermont-Ferrand) report that, following the 2007 study season, descriptions and interpretations have now been drafted of the stratigraphic sequences, archaeological features, sediments and finds in each of areas B, C, G and H (**Figs 41, 42**).

The sequence of MNeo contexts from the sondage in area C showed the range of shapes and decorative motifs. Sherds were examined for evidence of manufacture and use wear: even decorated pottery was sometimes exposed to fire, with burned areas inside and out. The M–LNeo transition (evident in area G, especially in the 2006 sondage) is characterized by an increase in storage and cooking vessels. The quality of Urfirnis decoration declines at the end of the MNeo and gradually evolves into the Matt Painted style. Black Ware is also present early in the LNeo period, and even proto Polychrome. Good

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