Readers' attention is also drawn to the revised note on transliteration inside the back cover. We have sought to make a clearer distinction between anc. names, where British Library conventions are more appropriate (although exceptions are made for common usage), and mod. Greek, where current conventions for the transliteration of demotic produce results of greater use to the reader in cross-referencing maps and primary literature. Throughout, we have made exceptions for personal names where an author has expressed a strong preference. The result is perhaps less consistent, but certainly more natural and of greater practical use in research.

This year, *AR* has been written by 3 officers of the BSA, the Director, the Knossos Curator, Don Evely, and the Assistant Director, Robert Pitt. We are, as ever, grateful to Heinrich Hall for German translation and the exercise of a sharp editorial eye, to John Hayes, for final proof-reading, and to Jessica Piccinini for emergency translation of an Italian contribution. All remaining translations are our own. The staff of the BSA offered invaluable support: the librarian, Penny Wilson Zarganis, compiled lists of publications, Tania Gerousi collated press cuttings, George Bruseker (IT Officer) prepared illustrations, Vicki Tzavara liaised with contributors and Helen Clark, the School Secretary, provided administrative support to the compilers and proof-read the entire text with a critical eye. This has been a true team effort, and we are very grateful to all for their hard work. Last but not least, the authors warmly thank the production editor, Gina Coulthard, for her tolerance and humour.

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MUSEUMS

National Museum, Athens
The temporary exhibition on *Praxiteles*, transferred from the Louvre, was shown from 25th July–31st October, with a new catalogue edited by N. Kaltsas and G. Despinis (Athens, Ministry of Culture/National Archaeological Museum, 2007).

Two new permanent exhibitions, of the Egyptian and Stathatos collections, were opened on 14th May 2008. The Egyptian collection was one of the first to be held by the National Museum, and is the only one of its scope and quality in Greece. It was substantially enhanced by large gifts from Ioannis Dimitriou (1880) and Alexandros Rostović (1904), and is now regarded as one of the finest in the world. Around one fifth of the 6,000 artefacts in the collection are now on display in 2 rooms. The Stathatos Collection, which spans the PH to post-Byz periods, but consists primarily of jewellery and metal objects (especially Hel jewellery from Karpenissi and Thessaly), is now more fully displayed in entirely refurbished galleries.

New Acropolis Museum
With the new building complete, the transfer of antiquities from the old museum on the Acropolis began in October 2007, amidst huge public interest. The spectacle of a chain of 3 cranes moving some 246 large items (113 tons) and 4,200 smaller marble items alone (124 tons) and the gradual opening of museum space to the public has engaged wide interest in the process of creating a new museum. The building itself continues to cause controversy both for its design and its location (see e.g. *Ergon* [2007], 113–24), and was strongly defended by its architect, Bernard Tschumi, in a lecture given at the Megaron Mousikis in October 2007 (*Ta Nea* [09/10/07]).

The Foundation of the Greek Parliament in collaboration with the **Epigraphical Museum** staged an exhibition *Ἔδοξεν τῇ Βουλῇ καὶ τῷ δήμῳ* (*Athenian Democracy Voiced Through its Inscriptions*), with complementary collections of material displayed in the new gallery of the Foundation (Mitseon 1) and in the museum. The catalogue (M. Lagogianni-Georgakarakos' and K. Bouraselis [eds], *Ἔδοξεν τῇ Βουλῇ καὶ τῷ δήμῳ* [Athens, Epigraphical Museum/Athens University, 2007]) includes a complete set of photographs and transcriptions.

Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki
The designs of the new thematic exhibitions reported in *AR* 53 ([2006–2007], 61–62) are discussed in detail by a number of contributors to *AEMTh* 20 (2006).

ATHENS
by Robert K. Pitt

Central Athens
(1st EPCA: 1st EBA)

Acropolis. A translation of the 1962 Gr edition has been published of S.E. Iakovidis, *The Mycenaean Acropolis of Athens* (Athens, ASA, 2006).

A report on the **Propylaia** restoration project is now available: M. Ioannidou, *The Restoration of the Propylaia of the Athenian Acropolis* (Athens, Ergon IV, 2007).

Anc. Agora. J.M. Camp (ASCSA) reports on the 2007 season of excavation.

In section BZ south (**Fig. 1**) 2 primary areas were investigated: the N–S road and the areas W of the road. In the road, we continued to take down the very hard-packed gravel surfaces, mostly of the 4th Ct AD. In doing so, we fully exposed the later water supply lines found in earlier seasons, one of terracotta and 2 of lead. These will all have been for fresh water and were probably pressure lines. Lower down, we cleared more of the deep street drain and, at the extreme N, another subsidiary channel entering it from the W. All these channels, both supply and drainage, were in use in the 4th or 5th Ct AD.

To the W, we explored deeper fills under the Rom levels. In one area we exposed a fairly well-preserved pyre, of the type known from across the anc. street and in other areas of the Agora. They are usually deliberately buried under the floors of private houses or commercial buildings and the example found this year seems to date to the L4th or E3rd Ct BC. It contained a lamp, a drinking cup, a pyxis and several of the characteristic unglazed plates, cooking pots and small saucers.

In section BZ north we excavated mostly Cl and Hel levels in and behind the Cl commercial building. One of the major gains of the season was to establish beyond doubt that the commercial building extended this far N. More of its E back wall was exposed, along with several cross-walls and we can now speak with some confidence of at least 6 rooms/shops set side-by-side along the E side of the street. An intermediate phase of the building was uncovered in the form of a draw-shaft and part of the tunnel of a Hel cistern complex found outside the building to the E. It was of standard form, a vertical shaft waterproofed with a good hard white mortar. The shaft itself was ca. 0.75–0.9m *di*., preserved to a *d*. of ca. 2.5m. The tunnel runs off to the NW and may be heading to a collapsed cistern located within the building itself. The tunnel showed signs of collapse about 1m from the draw-shaft and will have to be explored in future seasons. Fill within the shaft suggests that it went out of use in the 2nd half of

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