BYZANTINE GREECE

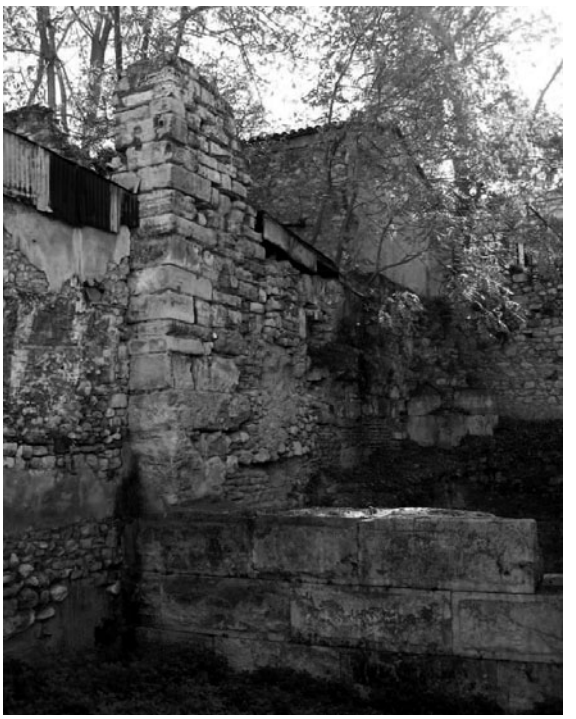
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The volume of reports is still rising – in print and on-line. Although mostly related to rescue-led archaeology, research is starting to reveal details of sites for all periods of the Byzantine era – small locations, of the kind to be found at the base of any site hierarchy, and sites that have so far only been just discernible (though still hard to characterize), as identified in the new 'ceramic landscapes' of the intensive surveys. The numerous small places that we should imagine at the base of Early, Middle and Late Byzantine site hierarchies will therefore be a particular feature of this section of 'Archaeology in Greece'. Discoveries will be presented in the same way as in last year's *AR*, in other words, divided chronologically between Early Byzantine (fourth to seventh century), Dark Age and Middle to Late Byzantine, and also thematically, whilst reflecting short-term shifts of focus in reporting and fieldwork. Besides a plethora of new references to agricultural complexes or installations, there has also been a surge in reports concerning Middle or Late Byzantine levels at urban sites and *kastra*.

Regarding terminology, 'Early Byzantine' is substituted here for most of the reports' references to 'Late Roman', 'Late Roman/Early Byzantine', 'Palaeochristian' and 'Proto-Byzantine', except for the well-established description of pottery of the fourth to seventh century as 'Late Roman'. By the same token, when brief reports use the term 'Byzantine' they usually mean, in the context, 'Middle or Late Byzantine', but sometimes they mean simply 'post-Roman'. It may therefore be necessary to reproduce the term as 'Byzantine' to avoid a precision that is at present lacking.

Early Byzantine

Many of the typical phenomena of the archaeological transformation of the Graeco-Roman into the Early Byzantine town or city have been documented. In **Athens** sections of a substantial spolia-built Early Byzantine phase of the walls have been excavated, including a rectangular tower (**Fig. 171**) at the junction of Adrianou and Diogenous Street, curtain wall on Adrianou Street (**Fig. 172**) and a probable gateway at the junction of Aiolou and Dexippou Street (**Fig. 173**). At ancient **Corinth**, on the eastern side of the city, the 25th EBA has excavated a section of the city walls, while the ASCSA has traced a (presumably) later phase thought to be of *ca.* AD 600 beside the Greek theatre. At **Chania** the 28th EBA has identified Early Byzantine phases of fortifications overlying the Hellenistic (**Fig. 51**). At **Palaio Phrourio** in the city of **Kerkyra** the 21st EBA's discovery of high-status buildings associated with two gold nomismata of Justin II (AD 565–578), a bronze coin of Maurice (AD 582–602) and sixth-century pottery indicates that this area (a natural acropolis after all) has an Early Byzantine phase. In **Thessaloniki** the 16th EPCA has explored another section of the historically recorded maritime wall, identifying the phase of *ca.* AD 620–630 which was intended to counter the Avaro-Slav threat (**ID2707**; *cf.* **ID1971**). This Early Byzantine phase is 1.9m thick. This means that four substantial phases (one Roman and three Byzantine) have now been identified archaeologically. Near **Volos** the 7th EBA has explored substantial



171. Athens: Early Byzantine fortifications with tower. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 1st EPCA.



172. Athens: Early Byzantine fortifications (curtain wall). © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 1st EPCA.

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173. Athens: Early Byzantine fortifications (probable gateway). © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 1st EPCA.

sections of the spolia-built defences of Byzantine **Demetrias**. This Early to Middle Byzantine site is to be distinguished, however, from the site of ancient Demetrias (see 'Thessaly' section).

The transformation, adaptation or upkeep of agoras (for example agoras, streets, theatres) is traced by ongoing research-led excavations and in the rescue excavations in advance of Thessaloniki's metro. At **Palaiopolis**, site of the ancient city of **Andros**, but also of an Early Byzantine bishopric, the University of Athens continued in 2011 to excavate two phases of Early Byzantine churches which overlie parts of the Hellenistic agora. At **Gortyn** (capital of the Early Byzantine province of Crete) the SAIA continued in 2012 to explore evidence of the conversion of parts of the theatre of the Pythion into stables, complementing evidence found in 2004. In the Roman forum of **Athens** part of the north side of a three-aisled Early Byzantine basilica was explored. In **Thessaloniki**, at the site of Agia Sophia metro station, excavations present a case-study of the maintenance of a marble paved street of the third century AD, which was still equipped with drainage and apparently functioning porticoes through to the sixth century, after which road surfaces were made of beaten earth (as elsewhere, of course, for instance at Gortyn). At ancient **Corinth** the ASCSA continued in 2011 to excavate a deposit of bovine bones (calculated to have weighed 10 tons at deposition) and a large deposit of imported Late Roman water jars, both in Early Byzantine levels, which indicate a significant change of use in the immediate vicinity of the Greek theatre. Were these deposits outside the Early Byzantine walls?

Recent excavations, whilst recording the downgrading of Roman public baths, make clear the widespread construction of bath buildings in Early Byzantine urban contexts, even if their precise associations and origins remain to be determined. In **Sparta** the 5th EPCA established that baths and an associated palaestra built under the Principate were only adapted to new uses after a late fourth-century destruction. In ancient **Corinth** the 25th EBA has explored two Early Byzantine bath complexes on the eastern side of the city in the Kraneion neighbourhood (intramural: a large one in which marble revetted floors and walls are preserved and a smaller one whose *caldarium* contained individual bath tubs: **Fig. 174**). At **Argos** the 4th EPCA has explored Early Byzantine baths 250m north of the agora, while the 25th EBA has explored Early Byzantine baths between the agora and an Early Byzantine *insula* to its south whose *caldarium* has marble-clad benches and floor and polychrome mosaic mural decoration. In **Athens** an Early Byzantine phase of baths has been identified, whose Roman predecessor is thought to belong to the Gymnasium of Hadrian.

Early Byzantine intramural housing is the focus of a collaboration between the EfA, P. Petrides (Athens) and the 12th EBA. At the *Domus protobyzantin* in the city of **Thasos** a major phase of adaptation is now assigned to the period *ca*. AD 400–450, followed, ca. AD 570 to the early seventh century, by low-status occupation, on the basis of the pottery. In **Argos** the 25th EBA has explored on Kallergi Street parts of an Early Byzantine house, one room of which had a mosaic floor while another contained evidence of a wine-press. At **Mousga**, **Kyparissia**, within the ancient city, a large residence, the final phase of which dates to the late fourth to early fifth century, has been partially excavated by the 38th EPCA, yielding much plain domestic pottery, many bronze coins, loomweights, parts of a decorated lamp and animal bones.

Artisanal production in intramural contexts has been documented again in **Thessaloniki**, where in 2009–2010 an Early Byzantine glass workshop was found (*AR* 57 [2010–2011] 28). In 2010–2011 significant traces of mercury in an Early Byzantine context are interpreted as evidence of gold refining.



174. Corinth: *caldarium* of Early Byzantine bath-house. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EBA.

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Intramural and extramural churches have been discovered at several sites. At **Sparta** the Early Byzantine basilica excavated by the 5th EBA on Alkman Street is extramural. Numerous objects (pottery, metalwork, architectural sculpture, glass, coins, fresco and glass tesserae) and the mosaic paving are the basis for its provisional dating to the late fifth or early sixth century. At **Thessaloniki** excavations for the Dimokratias metro station (just outside the Early Byzantine western walls) have recently revealed an Early Byzantine basilica at the same depth as the Early Byzantine western cemetery, while in the centre of the city a peristyle court, with mosaics, a fountain and a marble staircase, is attributed to an Early Byzantine church (presumably with a monumental two-storeyed atrium). At **Amphissa** (ancient and Early Byzantine Amphissa) an Early Byzantine basilica has been explored by the 1st EBA. In the centre of ancient-to-Byzantine **Photike**, northwest Greece, the 8th EBA discovered an Early Byzantine basilica with mosaic floors beneath a Middle Byzantine church. The 8th EBA also excavated a three-aisled Early Byzantine basilica at Rachi Maroutsi, northwest of **Photike**, at the church of Agia Paraskevi, Palioklisi (**Fig. 175**). It is unclear whether this is the reported Early Byzantine church of Palioklisi, Photike. At Agios Dimitrios on the edge of modern **Same**, **Kephallonia**, the 20th EBA partially excavated an Early Byzantine basilica which it would be reasonable to assume was closely connected with the ancient town of Same (located nearby). It has three aisles, a narthex, an exonarthex and annexes on the south side, mosaic paving and a cruciform sunken space in the north transept (a form shared with many baptismal fonts of this era). At ancient **Corinth** the 25th EBA has discovered a three-aisled basilica of the first half of the sixth century and perhaps the remains of another, on the eastern side of the site (Kraneion). At **Armenoi**, Demos of Armenoi, Crete, the 21st EBA has identified an Early Byzantine basilica with a mosaic paving of the second half of the sixth century underneath a Middle Byzantine church.

Extramural housing and cemeteries (situated outside the frequently reduced-defended areas of towns) are the subjects of several new reports. Extensive rescue excavations at **Sparta** by the 5th EBA around Alkman Street have demonstrated that there was significant Early Byzantine habitation outside the city walls. Early Byzantine cemeteries, or phases of multi-period cemeteries, have also been identified there. The 5th EBA's excavations show that a major ancient cemetery on the southwest side of the city was in use from Hellenistic times to the fifth century AD. South of ancient **Corinth**, on the slopes of Acrocorinth, two Early Byzantine cemeteries have been explored by the 25th EBA, one of which is 90m southeast of the Quadratus Basilica (**Fig. 176**). Remains of more than 1,000 skeletons were found in cist graves that were being re-used, and which are believed to form part of a larger cemetery. A 'Byzantine' cemetery of unspecified chronology has also been found just outside the eastern section of the Early Byzantine city wall. The 37th EBA meanwhile reports 'Byzantine' graves in association with the ancient Long Walls linking Corinth and the **Lechaion harbour**. At **Nafpaktos** the 6th EPCA reports three clusters of Early Byzantine graves around the historic town, two of which are recognized as belonging to cemeteries.



175. Palioklisi, near Photike: Early Byzantine basilica. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 8th EBA.



176. Corinth: Early Byzantine extramural cemetery. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EBA.

If the urban archaeology of Early Byzantine towns and cities starts to correspond to recognizable themes and their variations, the archaeology of the Early Byzantine countryside has remained, at least until recently, a huge challenge, still largely resistant to synthesis between the approaches of different 'schools' of archaeology. The dominant approaches consist of the excavation of rural churches without specific contextualization; extensive survey of the 'monumental landscape' (essentially rural churches and fortifications); and the identification of 'ceramic landscapes' on the basis of evidence from multi-period intensive surveys. It could be argued that many of the recently-reported excavations of features of the Early Byzantine countryside of Greece, nearly all 'rescue'-led, are potentially beneficial developments for the integration and interpretation of the data generated by the three dominant approaches, including the often architecturally defined excavations and surveys of rural churches.

On **Spetses** the 1st EBA excavated an Early Byzantine church with (implicitly) three aisles and a narthex, which seems to have functioned until the end of the 17th century. At **Laurion** (where mining was resumed in the Early Byzantine era) the 1st EBA uncovered a fine mosaic floor in the bema of the basilica datable to the first half of the fifth century. In the district of **Moschato** between Piraeus

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and Athens the 26th EPCA has excavated on 25th March Street a three-aisled basilica of the fifth century (presumably partially). This was a substantial monument (20m wide). At Agia Kyriake, **Livanates**, in Phthiotis, an Early Byzantine ecclesiastical complex with mosaic paving (**Fig. 177**) has been found whose destruction is attributed to the great earthquake of AD 551–552. According to Procopius, this did great damage in central Greece. On Crete at **Kastelli**, Demos of Kissamos, the 28th EBA has explored an ostotheke, east–west oriented graves containing grave goods of the sixth century and a circular building decorated with frescos and a mosaic floor containing Christian motifs, also of the sixth century. It is unclear whether a projecting apse has been found. Circular churches ('rotundas') are archaeologically uncommon in this period in both the East and West. The few known examples are very high-status in origin, as are circular baptisteries. Also on Crete, at **Agioi Saranta**, Demos of Viannos, the 13th EBA excavated within exposed ruins a cruciform font and six tombs, one being vaulted and frescoed and situated in the central aisle (occasionally the site of high-status burials in the Early Byzantine period). Most tombs contain Early Byzantine grave goods, for example perfume flasks, oinochoae and amphoriskoi. At **Ladochori**, Igoumenitsa, within an extensive Early Byzantine phase of settlement, a five-aisled basilica paved with mosaics in geometric designs has been partially excavated by the 8th EBA. For the rural settlement, see below.



177. Livanates: religious donor's inscription in mosaic paving (Early Byzantine). © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 24th EBA.

A clearly important example of the new fortified complexes that are such a feature of the Early Byzantine countryside is being excavated by the 8th EBA at **Opagia**, **Doliana**, at the northeastern end of the Plain of Kalpaki. An octagonal tower has been identified (indicative of a high-status origin) (**Fig. 178**) and two Early Byzantine churches. Excavation of Basilica A revealed a three-aisled church with transepts and a narthex and two phases of mosaic floors dated to the late fifth to mid-sixth century, containing scenes of hunting, marine life, personifications of rivers and animal combats. Élite patronage may be assumed. This complex invites comparison with contemporary foundations in the Balkans and elsewhere in northern Greece. It is not clear whether this is the mosaic-paved basilica at Kalpaki reported in *Chronika* in 1964 and 1968.



178. Doliana: aerial view of octagonal tower of Early Byzantine fortification. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 8th EBA.

The significance of the villa in Early Byzantine Greece (élite rural residence, bailiff-managed estate or both) is a challenge similar in importance to, and overlapping in substance with, the challenge of sites such as Opagia. Several recently-reported excavations concern sites which can be interpreted as centres of estates or units of estates. At **Maroulas**, Demos of Rethymnon, Crete, the 28th EBA has excavated an agricultural villa with at least two phases (mid-third to sixth century). At **Ladochori** near Igoumenitsa within the Early Byzantine settlement the 8th EBA has excavated a residential complex focused upon a long mosaic-paved central hall with annexes (**Fig. 179**). This design and the discovery within it of architectural sculpture indicate an élite residence of some kind. The discovery of much domestic pottery and glass could strengthen the case for it being an élite residence. The discovery of a terracotta mould of the Good Shepherd raises the possibility of its association with the church. In **Aitoloakarnania** on the north shore of the Gulf of Patras in the vicinity (implicitly) of ancient **Makyneia**, the 36th EPCA excavated parts of a probable Roman villa, including its baths. The complex underwent much adaptation in Early Byzantine times, including intrusion of



179. Ladochori: Early Byzantine élite residence. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 8th EBA.

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a potter's kiln into one room of the baths, a new enclosure wall in *opus mixtum* and installation of pithoi, implicitly within new structures built of undressed stone. At or around ancient **Hephaisteia**, Lemnos, the SAIA completed the excavation of the early seventh-century destruction layer of the Early Byzantine Residence with Columns (i.e., a peristyle residence) and distinguished two principal phases – a primary phase of the fifth century and a sixth-century one. At Kastelli near **Gortyn** the SAIA excavated a Roman rural villa at which occupation continued into Early Byzantine times.

Many other rural establishments were reported in 2010–2011 at which the centre, or a centre, of an estate may be inferred, whatever the institutional origins or economic scale of the estate. At Polichni, **Divari**, Messenia, the 38th EPCA has uncovered a large Early Byzantine complex that recycled spolia from ancient monuments and which contains a large mosaic-paved hall. At **Almyrida**, Demos of Vamos, Crete, the 28th EBA has excavated part of a probable bath, built of brick (unusual in a provincial setting), of the sixth century. This might be an amenity of a private élite residence. At **Kyani Akti**, **Aptera**, Demos of Souda, the 35th EPCA has explored an Early Byzantine installation for the production and transportation of wine (presumably the focus of an estate), situated on the shore and presumably close to the city of Aptera (which still functioned). At Daïlaki, **Kastoria**, the 16th EBA has explored a typial Early Byzantine bath-house (including an apsidal chamber), the wider setting of which remains unclear. Around **Agrinio**, Aitoloakarnania, the 36th EPCA has explored: (1) a Roman and Early Byzantine complex with stone walls, tiled roofs and tiled floors set in lime mortar, and evidence for the production of pottery, wine or olive oil, and for other 'workshops'; (2) walls of a probable agricultural installation associated with Early Byzantine (and older) sherds; (3) 'workshops' containing Early Byzantine sherds and glass. At Monastiriako Remma, **Ambelaki**, Petrina, in Arkadia, the 39th EPCA explored an agricultural complex containing a workshop.

In Crete, at **Chamalevri**, **Manouse**s, the 25th EBA has partially excavated the Early Byzantine phases of an agricultural installation that is Hellenistic in origin. In the Early Byzantine phase(s) of the fourth to fifth century, the earlier olive press was disused, but a potter's kiln (unexcavated) was perhaps in use. Amphorae (Cretan and imported) dominate the Early Byzantine ceramic assemblage, which includes imported finewares. Much of the complex remains unexcavated, including its baths. It suffered a sudden destruction in the fifth century. The 28th EBA excavated at **Potamoi**, Demos of Rethymnon, a small fourth-century bath complex, the broader setting of which is not characterized. At **Moires**, Demos of Moires, the 13th EBA partially excavated a bath-house, an associated *pitheonas* and residential rooms. The complex has two phases: a fifth- to early sixth-century phase and a sixth- to seventh-century one. Coins of Heraclius of the years AD 627–631 occur in phase II. A terracotta bread-stamp with invocative inscription (Christian) was found. The 28th EBA excavated at **Vryses** in the Demos of Kryonerida an Early Byzantine agricultural establishment consisting of five rooms (a possible 'workshop' and four storerooms) of the sixth and first half of the seventh century. At **Phounardos** in the Demos of Kissamos the 25th EPCA excavated a possibly Early Byzantine agricultural complex involved in the production of wine and olive oil, including two wine-presses. On the mainland, at **Kainourgio** in Aitoloakarnania the 36th EPCA excavated an Early Byzantine complex of workshops containing a wine-press and vat, and a storeroom for a large pithos. Pottery included, besides plain wares, sherds of finewares with scenes in relief and an inscribed lamp.

The Archaeological Service has also investigated numerous traces of Early Byzantine rural communities – villages, low-status rural cemeteries, farmsteads, isolated low-status burials and, apparently isolated small-scale productive installations. Recent reports of rural basilicas, which are potentially highly relevant to the distribution of rural settlements, have already been summarized (above). At **Ladochori**, Igoumenitsa, already reported above for its high-status features, the Early Byzantine phase of an extensive settlement and cemetery was explored by the 8th EBA. At ancient **Pallantion**, Arkadia, the 39th EPCA reports much Early Byzantine pottery, reoccupation of a Hellenistic stoa and a potter's kiln constructed upon the line of the ancient defences. At E. Venizelos Avenue, **Salamina**, the 26th EPCA has excavated an Early Byzantine farmstead containing diagnostic pottery and remains of beehives. At **Manari**, Arkadia, the 39th EPCA identified, during construction of the Asea interchange of the Tripolis–Kalamata motorway, an intact Early Byzantine wine-press and vat. At **Neo Phaliro**, the 26th EPCA excavated an Early Byzantine potter's kiln built within a circular Classical or Hellenistic funerary monument at 7 Mitea Street. At Xiropigado, **Tzavorema**, near Nafpaktos, the 36th EPCA explored an Early Byzantine rural cemetery, almost without grave oods. In **Moschato**, between Athens and Piraeus, the 26th EPCA excavated 30 Early Byzantine graves outside the line of the Long Walls, all on the east–west axis (one being a built cist grave; two *enchytrismoi*; the rest mostly simple cists) and datable to the fourth to fifth century.

Complementing the rapidly developing record of excavation at Early Byzantine rural sites is evidence of dispersed loci of maritime traffic. New sites can be added to those previously reported. The villa complex on the north shore of the Gulf of Patras (**Makyneia**) mentioned above may well have had such a function. The well-known Early Byzantine maritime villa and production centre at Porto Cheli (south Argolid) is a good archaeological prototype. On the Bay of Agios Panteleimon, **Astako**s, Aitoloakarnania, the 8th EBA reports a dense and extensive array of buildings, probably Roman or Early Byzantine, including a probable apsidal church now extending into the sea. Around the site of Roman and Byzantine **Nikopolis** the 33rd EPCA notes the remains of three harbours. At **Vathy** it has excavated Roman and Early Byzantine phases, including a workshop for the production of purple dye. Implicitly, two such workshops were found by this harbour, one of which is implicitly Roman. Can an Early Byzantine phase of production be distinguished at either workshop?

Dark Age

Site by site, or district by district, a fourth- to early seventh-century range of Early Byzantine archaeological phenomena (such as those reported above) overlaps with a very different archaeology whose *floruit* is of roughly equal length (from the late sixth century into a ninth-century period of transition) and which has sometimes, not without reason, been called the 'Dark Age'. The differ-

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ences between the two ranges of phenomena, the apparent absences or discontinuities of 'Dark-Age' evidence and therefore the great reduction or cessation of recognizable activity at sites, mean that the few clearly relevant reports cannot in general be arranged under the headings used above to organize the Early Byzantine material. But the value of the six relevant reports to a range of discussions should be obvious.

In the **Andritsa Cave**, Demos of Lerna, in the Argolid, the 2nd EBA and the EPSNE have excavated more than 40 skeletons (including those of children and babies), arranged in four clusters in close association with domestic pots, amphorae, wine jugs, lamps, metalwork and coins. Much of the pottery is identifiable as production of the northeast Peloponnese of the sxth to mid-seventh century. Coins are of the sixth century, ending with a gold solidus of Tiberius II (AD 578–582). At Loutro, **Same**, Kephallonia, the 20th EBA excavated a multi-phase Early Byzantine house in one part of which children were eventually being buried in pots (one being buried with a gold earring). *Enchytrismoi* already occur in the Early Byzantine period in cemeteries, but burial in the house suggests a relatively high degree of dislocation (at a date yet to be clarified). At **Panormos**, Demos of Gerospotamos, Crete, the 28th EBA has excavated a dwelling in which a partial destruction is associated with a coin of Phocas (AD 602–610) while other parts of the dwelling remained in use, as documented by diagnostic pottery (some implicitly imported) of the seventh to the first half of the eighth and by a coin of Constans II (issues of AD 659–664; implicitly of bronze). At **Sparta** the 5th EBA recorded in a recue excavation 16 graves that belong to a cemetery, two of which were lined with brick and stone laid in a herringbone pattern, while another was lined with mortar. Grave goods, which are of the seventh century, include wine jugs, cups, iron knives, glass beads and silver earrings (reminiscent of burial customs at other locations in the former Prefecture of Illyricum). At **Gortyn**, Crete, the SAIA excavated in the Byzantine Quarter (between the Pythion and the Praetorium) a group of small roofed units built upon, and around three sides of, a Roman stone-paved yard, one of which contained skeletons of animals caught in the collapse of the complex, an event dated by coins to the AD 670s (a decade already associated with seismic destruction in the excavations of Gortyn). On the hill of **Lykovouno**, northeast of **Daphne**, near Sparta, in an area clearly settled in Early Byzantine times on the basis of sherds at the surface, the 5th EBA found a seventh- to eighth-century 'Corinthian' bronze belt buckle (a type named after its early recognition in the Corinth excavations).

Middle to Late Byzantine

While the Byzantine Ephoreias' responsibilities for the conservation and study of the art and architecture of the Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches of Greece remain very demanding, the recently reported range of excavations, both research-led and rescue-led, at Byzantine sites of all kinds also offers potentially valuable contributions to Byzantine studies.

An encouraging proportion of new reports of activity concern towns and *kastra*. At ancient **Corinth** the 25th EBA has excavated on the eastern side of the site at Kraneion the remains of a Middle Byzantine brick building, perhaps with public functions, whose associated architectural members, pottery and coins indicate that it still functioned in the 14th century. Elsewhere, plain wares and finewares of the 11th and late 12th to early 13th centuries contribute to the argument that Kraneion was a significant neighbourhood in the medieval era. At **Sparta** the 5th EBA has continued to excavate around Alkman Street a very well-preserved Byzantine olive press in proximity to which a Middle Byzantine house and baths have been found. The house had at least four rooms with fine plaster floors and columns. The medieval Byzantine finds include two lead sealings. At **Nafplion** the 25th EBA excavated a small extramural kiln associated with Late Byzantine pottery. At the fortification of Agios Georgios tis Kolokythias, **Karavas**, Attica, excavations by the 1st EB**A** have revealed secular and religious buildings within an enceinte of horseshoe-shaped towers. The principal preserved occupation phase seems to be Late Byzantine (i.e. Franco-Byzantine in Attica), but an earlier foundation is proposed. At **Ioannina**, in the course of excavations designed to clarify the whole sequence of urban fortifications, the 8th EBA identified the foundations of the Late Byzantine enceinte (13th–14th century) and, within the walls, coins and pottery of the 11th–14th century. At the *kastro* of Agios Georgios, **Kolokythia**, Kythera, the 1th EBA's excavations established major Middle Byzantine and Late Byzantine construction phases. At **Nafpaktos**, on Plastira Street, the 22th EBA has excavated parts of a complete 'Byzantine' (implicitly Middle and Late Byzantine) bath complex (**Fig. 180**) and cistern associated with much glazed pottery. At Magazia, **Kastoria**, the 16th EBA has extended older excavations of a small implicitly Middle to Late Byzantine monastery. On the islet of **Sokastro** by ancient and Early Byzantine **Leukos**, Karpathos, the Canadian School and the 4th EBA have surveyed a castle which contains three vaulted cisterns, other simpler cisterns situated among numerous two- or three-roomed buildings and three churches (one basilical), associated with pottery of the 11th–16th century, most sherds being of the 12th–13th century. The primary and most important phase is deemed to be that of the 11th–13th century. This complex, given also its location, is potentially immensely instructive. In **Arta** the 11th EPCA excavated another part of a cemetery presumed to be linked with the Parigoritissa church and monastery. Forty



180. Nafpaktos: medieval Byzantine bath-house. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 22nd EBA.

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six Late Byzantine and Post-Byzantine graves (without grave goods) and a stretch of a paved street were excavated. On the northwest slopes of the citadel of **Nafpaktos** the 22nd EBA excavated another part of one of the principal 'Byzantine' cemeteries of the town, low-status in character. There is evidence of unworked stone grave-markers set into mortar.

Churches in towns and *kastra* were also the subject of excavations. Beneath the Post-Byzantine church of the Pantanassa, Monastiraki Square, **Athens** (**Fig. 181**), the 1st EBA discovered a Middle Byzantine church with two phases associated with graves containing numerous deposited objects. At **Amphissa** (Middle and Late Byzantine Salona) the 1st EBA reports that the Early Byzantine basilica found in 2001–2002 has later phases associated with burials. Beside (implicitly within) the maritime wall of **Thessaloniki** a three-aisled basilica has been found which has graves within and around it of the seventh to eighth century. This church was destroyed at the time of the Saracen attack (AD 904), against which the maritime wall was further strengthened. The destroyed church continued to be a burial ground. At **Nafpaktos** the 22nd EBA has excavated a three-aisled Middle Byzantine basilica paved with marble and equipped with a marble templon. Within ancient **Photike** in Epeiros the 8th EBA has excavated a three-aisled Middle Byzantine basilica that overlies an Early Byzantine one and recycles much of its architectural sculpture (**Fig. 182**). At the location Valsamari within this site, another three-aisled basilica, with a medieval tripartite sanctuary and later phases, has been identified. At **Christianoi** (medieval Byzantine Christianoupolis), Messenia, the 26th EBA opened ten trenches around the restored Middle Byzantine episcopal church and episcopal residence. Several graves were found within the church that contained grave goods. At **Leontari** in Messenia the Director of the 25th EBA, D. Athanassoulis, explored three churches within the medieval Byzantine citadel. Agia Kyriaki (**Fig. 183**) has three semicircular apses, a built bench around the nave and an underground vaulted chamber (presumably a crypt) accessible from the south. On the north side an annexe as wide as the church was added, equipped on three sides with built benches and with three subterranean ossuaries. A narthex and exonarthex have also been identified. Within the inner citadel a large cistern and other important medieval structures have been identified.

Several recent reports concern the Middle or Late Byzantine churches of recognized or possible monasteries and cemeteries in the countryside (or erstwhile countryside). At Ktio, **Diporo**, in the upper Haliakmon valley, Prefecture of Grevena, the University of Thessaloniki continued excavating the Middle Byzantine phase of a multi-period cemetery. This phase is rich in grave goods such as fired pots, iron knives, iron arrowheads, jewellery, dress ornaments and coins of the ninth century. This spectrum of grave goods (less the coins) is not uncommon from the end of the sixth century. Northeast of **Daphne** (southeast of Sparta) the 5th EBA reports on the study of excavations conducted in 1996 at the monastic complex of St George on the hill of **Lykovouno**. The wider hill-top settlement both pre-dates and post-dates the monastic church, of whose first phase of decoration an 11th–12th-century *opus sectile* floor and a 12th-century templon are preserved. A phase of recon-



181. Athens, church of the Pantanassa after restoration. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 1st EBA.



182. Photike, Valsamari: Middle Byzantine basilica. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 8th EBA.

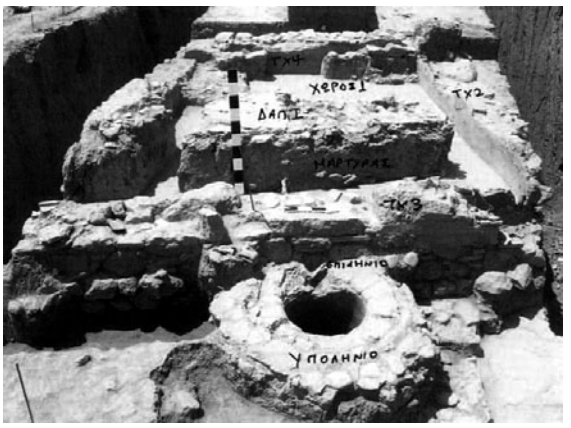


183. Leontari, Agia Kyriaki: medieval Byzantine church within the citadel. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 25th EBA.

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struction precedes frescos that are datable to the 13th–14th century. At **Metamorphosi** (formerly Skarmingas) in Messenia the 26th EBA, excavating beneath the modern floor of the church of the Metamorphosis of the Saviour, found a cist grave and several crudely built tombs lacking grave goods within a deposit rich in glazed pottery, bronze coins (12th-century) and fragments of glass vessels. At Agios Konstantinos, **Demetra**, by the Haliakmon, in the Prefecture of Grevena, the University of Thessaloniki has excavated a three-aisled basilica with three phases associated, by the 12th century, with a cemetery. A sequence of chapels succeeds the basilica in the 12th–13th century. At the church of Agios Andreas, **Livadi**, Kythera, the 1st EBA has revealed a ninth to tenth-century phase of architecture in a Middle Byzantine church. Agios Andreas is already known for three phases of Middle and Late Byzantine frescos. At **Plataniti** in the Argolid the 25th EBA has revealed parts of an extensive cemetery of the late 13th to early 15th century around the 12th-century cruciform church of the Metamorphosis of the Saviour. On the Prophitis Elias hill, at **Kechropoula** in Aitoloakarnania, the 8th EBA has explored a single-aisled 'Byzantine' church (implicitly medieval Byzantine) constructed of spolia from an adjacent Archaic to Classical temple. Could the association of Byzantine pithoi signify the presence of a small monastic community? At the village of **Alikianos** (west of Chania) the 28th EBA has excavated some 80 tombs of the 11th–12th century onwards, some containing grave goods, around the church of Zoödochos Pigi. Also in Crete at **Argyroupoli** in the Demos of Lappa, the 28th EBA, excavating within the church of Agia Kyriaki, has revealed that its lateral walls re-use the *caldarium* of an Early Byzantine bath-house. There are parallels for this phenomenon. Within and around the church are 12th-century cist graves. Meanwhile, rescue excavations around the village confirm the existence of a medieval Byzantine settlement. At **Armenoi** in the Demos of Armenoi the same Ephoreia has identified a 12th–13th-century domed building underneath a Post-Byzantine church. At the monastery of **Daphni**, Attica, the 1st EBA, in the course of excavations prompted by the restorations that have followed the earthquake of 1999, has demonstrated that the great peribolos is Middle Byzantine, not (as was thought by some scholars) Early Byzantine in origin. Middle Byzantine and Frankish phases have been distinguished in the excavations of the monastic cells. In the district of **Paiania**, Attica, the 1st EBA recorded an extensive medieval Byzantine and post-Byzantine cemetery. At Agioi Theodoroi, **Kiphissia**, a probable funerary church in use from *ca*. AD 900 onwards, associated with re-used and superimposed graves, some of which contained jewellery and pottery, has been explored too. At **Maroussi**, Attica, part of a Late Byzantine chapel (probably single-aisled) surrounded by graves has been excavated.

The medieval Byzantine (including 'Franco-Byzantine') agricultural landscape of Attica, so much of it now within Greater Athens, has also been the subject of numerous rescue-led excavations, which, however briefly reported so far, could, it is to be hoped, presage a new phase in the archaeology of the Byzantine countryside. In the district of **Gerakas** the 1st EBA recorded an extensive storage complex of 12 lined silos and 16 pithoi which, on the basis of associated objects, is Middle Byzantine. In the district of **Agios Ioannis Rentis**, at Odos Peiraios 254, the 1st EBA explored a site datable to the 11th–15th century containing two wine-presses and storage vats of lime-



184. Agios Ioannis Rentis: Middle Byzantine winery. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 1st EBA.



185. Athens, Kiphissou Avenue: Middle to Late Byzantine agricultural storage complex. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 1st EBA.



186. Athens, Pentelis Avenue: Late Byzantine to post-Byzantine agricultural storage complex. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 1st EBA.

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mortar-bonded undressed stone masonry (**Fig. 184**). By the Anotati Scholi Kalon Technon, the 1st EBA recorded a Middle to Late Byzantine wine-press. On Kiphissou Avenue the 1st EBA recorded walls, silos and pithoi belonging to an extensive agricultural complex of 'the Byzantine to Late Byzantine period' (**Fig. 185**). At **Ano Glyphada** the 26th EPCA explored a complex of rooms of varying width but almost all *ca*. 3m long, arranged around all four sides of a 43m^2 yard and associated with Middle Byzantine pottery. There is evidence of an outer yard with a protected entrance and the foundations of a substantial structure 2 × 2.5m at its base (called a 'tower' but perhaps a kind of storeroom). On Pentelis Avenue part of a Late Byzantine to post-Byzantine storage complex was reported (**Fig. 186**). In the district of **Gerani** an extensive agricultural storage complex of the 13th–14th century is also reported. Finally, at **Drosia**, **Kiphissia**, two wine-presses, pithoi and associated buildings of the 'Byzantine' era have been reported (**Fig. 187**).



187. Athens, Kiphissia: Late Byzantine winery. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 1st EBA.

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