

89. Ellinika, Kopani: part of the Π-shaped burial enclosure with 3 cist graves.

WESTERN MACEDONIA

Nomos of Grevena
(30th EPCA: 17th EBA)

Pindos. N. Efstratiou (*Egnatia* 12 [2008], 45–63) summarizes (with full bibliography) trends in data collected in a survey conducted since 2002, focused around the mod. villages of Samarina, Smixi, Avdella, Perichori, Polyneri, Philippaii and Panorama in the SW mountain zone of the Nomos of Grevena (see *AR* 51 [2004–2005], 68; *AR* 54 [2007–2008], 62). A high (but unspecified) number of MPal sites has been identified; these always lie above 1,600masl and often above 2,000masl (the highest site found in 2008 is close to 2,012masl), often on mountain ridges (well above the tree line) and always in open-air locations close to sources of water and sometimes also flint. Many sites with MPal lithics are above the moraine deposits of the last glacial. Excavation was conducted at 5 sites identified in the survey. Attention is drawn to the association of MPal lithic technology with Neo and BA (MBA) pottery at certain sites.

Spilaio, Monastery of the Dormition
Publication: A.S. Petkos, *Conservation of the Catholicon of the Monastery of the Dormition at Spilaio Grevena* (Veria, Ministry of Culture 2008).

Nomos of Kastoria
(29th EPCA: 16th EBA)

Dispilio. S.I. Chatzitoulousis (*Egnatia* 12 [2008], 65–85 publishes the waterlogged wood remains from the Neo settlement, examining the species used, the location of woodworking, the evidence of toolmarks for the nature of woodworking techniques and the purposes for which the wood was used.

The new biennial periodical, *Anaskamma*, of which volumes 1 and 2 (2008) have so far been published, is substantially devoted to reports of the Dispilio excavations. The journal's website, from which articles can be downloaded, is www.anaskamma.wordpress.com.

Pentavryso. A. Laftsidis publishes (*Egnatia* 12 [2008], 145–77) a potter's kiln located 1.8km from the mod. village of Pentavryso and 800m from mod. Avgi, immediately N of the road between these 2 villages and only 200m from the PH settlement of Avgi. On the hill immediately NE of the kiln lies a known Ar–EHel cemetery, with 2 more cemeteries in the neighbouring hills. The kiln was discovered in 1996 (*ADelt* 51 [1996], B2, 543) and systematically excavated in 2004. Sherds were scattered over a wider area, and it is possible that a further kiln and workshop installations remain to be discovered.

The kiln was a 2-storeyed construction, with an underground furnace preserved almost intact and a firing chamber almost certainly above it, although this is now completely lost. The stomion is half-preserved, but only a few burnt bricks remain of the eschara, none *in situ.* The kiln is cut into the natural soil, is oriented NW-SE and its dimensions are 2.1m *l.* x 1.8m *w.* x 1.8m maximum preserved *h.* It has rounded corners, being more pear-shaped than rectangular. The furnace walls show some (surprisingly limited) exposure to high temperatures: in places they preserve traces of a clay lining. The support column for the eschara (0.8m *l.* x 0.7m *w.* x 0.36m maximum *h.*) is preserved in the centre of the furnace chamber (placing the kiln in Hasaki Type 1a). The support is made of handmade, sundried brick for the most part, with moulded bricks forming the straight sides. The stomion is protected by 2 flanking walls. No trace of the vaulted roof survives: two severely burnt masses of clay found nearby surely come from the kiln and may be part of the roof. A large quantity of mud-bricks, of different dimensions but with a curving profile, likely come from one or 2 courses of insulation of the chamber.

The fill in the chamber contained a large quantity of sherds, mostly of domestic plainwares in 9 different shapes (oinochoai, ladles, amphorae, flour bins, pithoi and pithoid vessels, basins, hydriae, cups and a strainer), but also cooking pots, bg and red-glazed wares. Parts of 3 kantharoi, 1 bolsal, 2 one-handled skyphoi, 1 deep skyphos and 2 uncharacterizable skyphoi were found. On the basis that these vessels are local products, the clays represented are described macroscopically, as is the technique of burnishing used on the plainwares and decoration with plastic bands and incision. The kiln structure itself cannot be used as a dating criterion. Dating rests on the pottery, and can only be given within the broad limits of the end of the 5th to the end of the 3rd Ct BC, although it is unlikely that the structure could have withstood use for more than 2–3 generations within that period. Archaeomagnetic analysis of samples of the kiln fabric indicates a date of 250–200 BC. After the kiln fell out of use, it was likely used as a dump for the waste of the workshop.

Nomos of Pella
(17th EPCA: 11th EBA)

Pella. *Eleftherotypia* and *Kathimerini* (31/03/09) cite a report by M. Lilibaki-Akamati (Director, 17th EPCA) of the discovery of a potter's workshop at some distance from the main commercial centre of the city in the agora. The workshop, which remained in use from the last quarter of the 4th Ct until ca. 200 BC, is a square complex with a central paved courtyard containing a well and the base of an altar, surrounded by porticoes which have rooms leading off them. Kilns and storage areas were found, as well as a system of tanks for the purification of clay, thus providing important evidence for the technological processes employed. In addition, moulds for vessels, luxurious domestic equipment, fragments of figurines, and silver and bronze coins were found.

Kathimerini (31/03/09) cites a report by I. Akamatis (Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki) of the discovery of the public archive of the city. Hundreds of seals and sealings from papyrus documents have been found, along with a gold stater, pens and ink holders, and raw materials for the production, sealing and storage of documents. The public archive did not

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only hold the official papers of the Macedonian kingdom, its officials, the cities of the kingdom and their rulers, but was likely the location where these documents were written, signed and sealed. The archive was housed in a 2-storeyed building in the SW corner of the anc. agora, constructed in the L4th Ct BC over an extensive Cl cemetery (of the period of Archelaos and Amyntas) which contained mostly child burials equipped with rich grave goods. The building was destroyed in the earthquake which devastated the city at the beginning of the 1st Ct BC. Several hundreds of clay sealings from papyrus documents, which fell from the upper floor where they had been stored in the peristyle and S stoa, were recovered from the ruins. In the same areas were found several fragments of pens, metal and clay ink holders (one of which bore the name of Philip), and masses of the clay used to form sealings. Motifs depicted on the sealings vary: deities, male, female and animal forms, portraits and the Macedonian club and star. One group, which bears the legend ΠΕΛΛΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΑΡΧΩΝ, shows Pella personified as a female head wearing a mural crown. Other sealings show the head of Zeus with the legend of the Macedonian generals, in some cases of commercial magistrates and of the rulers of Edessa, Europos and various other cities. A number depict the image of a grazing cow, as used on the coinage of Pella: the legend on the coinage reads ΠΕΛ/ΗΣ, whereas that above the cow on the sealings reads ΠΕΛΛΗΣ ΕΜΠΟΡΙΟΥ, thus linking it with the official organization of the commercial centre of the city, while emphasizing the fertility of the region and perhaps alluding to the old name of the city, Bounomos or Bounomeia. A seal type depicting the head of a satyr may have been used by officials inside the building as a guarantee of the confidentiality of the documents prepared there.

Publication: A.S. Petkos, *Diocletianopolis. Guide of the Archaeological Site* (Veroia, 11th EBA 2008).

Agrosykia
Publication: P. Chrysostomou, I. Aslanis and A. Chrysostomou, *ΑΓΡΟΣΥΚΙΑ. Ενας Οικισμός των Προιστορικών και Ιστορικών Χρονών* (Veroia, National Hellenic Research Foundation 2007).

Archontiko. W cemetery. *Kathimerini*, *Ta Nea*, *Eleftherotypia* and *To Vima* (11/09/08) partially report a fuller Ministry of Culture press report (10/09/08) by P. and A. Chrysostomou (17th EPCA) of continuing excavation which has revealed a further 43 tombs, comprising 4 of the EIA (7th Ct to 580 BC), 31 of the Ar period (580–480) and 8 of the Cl–EHel period (480–279). The excavators note that the date of the earliest tombs indicates Macedonian settlement of the area by the 2nd half of the 7th Ct BC. Of the EHel graves, T714, the burial of a young girl, is of particular interest: this contained a gilded bronze wreath, 3 clay vases, a bronze kantharos and a unique life-sized terracotta head of the deceased girl.

Of the Ar tombs, 20 were male burials and 11 the graves of women. Five of the male burials were in the 1st warrior category, 8 in the 2nd and 7 in the 3rd. Those in the 3rd category of warriors contained bronze helmets, iron weapons (a sword, 2 spearheads and a knife), gold, silver, bronze and iron ornaments (pins, rings, eye-, chest- and mouth-plates, sheet metal etc.), terracotta figurines, pottery and bronze vessels, and iron models of carts, furniture etc. Singled out for their wealth are 2 women's graves of the 3rd social rank, which contained gold, silver, bronze and iron jewellery (diadems, dress ornaments, spirals, earrings, mouth-plates, necklaces, pendants, pins, rings, bands and sheet metal etc.), glass, terracotta and faience beads, iron knives and iron models of carts, terracotta figurines and clay, glass and faience vessels. Some of the gold mouth-plates and sheet ornaments bear depictions of upstanding heraldic lions noted as symbols of royal power. Ceramics include Cor bf kraters, Atticizing kraters depicting animals and birds in the manner of the workshop of Lydos, which were mass produced in a workshop in the Chalkidike in the M6th Ct BC, and Attic bf kylikes.

In 8 years of excavation since 2000, the 17th EPCA is reported as having uncovered a total of 915 graves over an area of ca. 1ha (estimated at 5% of the total area of the cemetery): of these, 231 date to the EIA, 441 to the Ar period and 236 to the Cl–Hel period, while 7 are undiagnostic.

Edessa
Publication: A. Chrysostomou, *Αρχαία Έδεσσα* (Edessa, Ministry of Culture 2008).

National Road, Nea Halkidona-Edessa
Publication: A Chrysostomou (ed.), *National Road Thessaloniki-Florina. Rescue Excavations in 2006–2008 at Nea Halkidona-Edessa Segment* (Thessaloniki, Region of Central Macedonia Public Works/17th EPCA/11th EBA 2008) presents well-illustrated accounts (in Greek and English) of excavations linked to this public construction project (notably at Pella, by the Edessa S bypass and at the Psili Vryssi site), as reported in previous editions of *Archaeology in Greece.*

Nomos of Imathia

Vergina (anc. Aigai). *Ta Nea* (29/08/08), *Eleftherotypia*, *Apogevmatini* (30/08/08) and *Kathimerini* (02/10/08) cite a report by C. Saatsoglou-Paliadeli (Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki) of the discovery within anc. fill in the sanctuary of Eukleia of a gold wreath of oak leaves, of the same dimensions and technique as those in the royal tombs of the Megali Toumba and surely of the same 4th Ct date. The wreath, which lay over human bones, was contained within a solid gold vessel (a round, pyxis-like shape with a lid which so far appears unique), which was itself contained within a larger (ca. 0.5m *h.*) cylindrical bronze vessel, also with a lid. The discovery of such a funerary assemblage outside the area of the royal cemetery raises questions about the function of the agora itself. Questions centre on why a surely significant individual was buried with such wealth in the most public and most sacred spot within the city walls. Subsequent examination of the bone remains, reported in *Ta Nea* (31/03/09), indicates that they belong to a young male.

Eleftherotypia, *Kathimerini*, *Ta Nea* and *To Vima* (05/12/08) report a lecture given by A. Kottaridou (17th EPCA) in which she presented a new reconstruction of the **palace of Philip II** made after an extensive programme of restudy, excavation and site conservation undertaken since April 2007. A 2-storeyed building is reconstructed (13.6m *h.*), facing E, with two 10-column stoas along the façade (Doric on the lower level and Ionic on the upper), flanking a large central propylon. It covers an area of ca. 7,000m^2, with the interior courtyard alone covering ca. 2,000m^2 (and with 60 columns around the sides). There are indications that one of the stoas along the E façade may have served as a *pinakotheke.* Androns around the court included 3 large rooms (of ca. 250m^2) capable of accommodating some 30 couches each, plus several smaller rooms: the court and the rooms around it were all furnished with mosaic pavements of pebbles or marble tesserae in coloured plaster, with designs varying from the simple geometric to the complex figurative (for example, the Rape of Europa). The bottom 1.6m of the structure was built of limestone quarried from Vermio, ca.

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15km away, with the superstructure in brick and covered in plaster made from a mixture of Theran earth (used here for the first time), lime and grit, with a variety of colours including blue, red and ochre. The marble threshold blocks of the entrance were preserved *in situ*; stone members collapsed from above, which imitate window shutters and Ionic columns, permit a full reconstruction of the façade, including the 1st floor which must have held the women's and sleeping quarters. The roof was tiled in the Corinthian system. A separate block held the kitchens and related facilities. Construction began in 350 BC and is believed to have taken 10–12 years, forming part of a wider building programme under Philip II which also included, for example, the theatre. Dr Kottaridou develops a case for the identification of Pytheos as the architect of the building, noting comparisons with the Mausoleum at Halikarnassos and the Temple of Athena at Priene: the impact of Pythagorean mathematics on the design of the building is emphasized.

CENTRAL MACEDONIA

Nomos of Pieria
(27th EPCA: 9th EBA)

Adrianos, Kastro. S. Gimatzidis (27th EPCA) and R. Jung (DAI) report (*Pierikoi Antilaloi* [11/04/08]) on a trial excavation on this extensive (ca. 1.4ha) multi-period hill settlement by the river Mavroneri (anc. Aison), close to Katerini. Three cemeteries probably related to this settlement are noted: one at Adrianos (Cl–Hel), another ca. 2–3km to the W (of the same period) and the third very close by, which is probably EIA in date. Excavation in the settlement revealed EBA activity in the lowest levels (on the basis of pottery, some datable to EHII, rather than architecture), followed by LBA (with handmade pottery of fine quality, burnished and matt-painted, although no evidence of production in the Myc tradition). Architectural remains appear in the EIA: in the lower part of the settlement, an artificial terrace (more than 0.5m *d.*) may have been intended to support large pithoi. Above this was a wall (of mud-brick on a stone foundation), inside which were found more than 10 loomweights. While the pottery found in these levels does not permit close dating, both the terrace and the wall can be generally characterized as LPGeo–SubPGeo. Scattered sherds indicate that activity continued in the later phases of the EIA, and the surface level (which lies directly over the LPGeo features) includes pottery and coins of the LAr–Hel period, when it seems that settlement was on a large scale. A very few Byz sherds and coins were also found.

Finally, the authors note the chance discovery in 2005, during the opening of a water channel, of a closed EIA tomb assemblage at **Moschochori**, 5km W of the Kastro by the river Mavroneri. The burial was reported to be an extended inhumation, and to contain, in addition to a handmade kantharos, gold spirals and a large quantity of bronze jewellery (fibulae, beads, pendants and 3 bracelets). The assemblage has been handed over to the local authorities.

Nomos of Thessaloniki
(16th EPCA: 9th EBA)

Thessaloniki, metro excavations
A Ministry of Culture press release (11/09/08), which details progress to date on the excavation programme conducted by the 16th EPCA under the direction of L. Acheilara, is widely cited in the Greek press: see, for example, *Eleftherotypia* (28/09/08), *To Vima*, *Ethnos* and *Apogevmatini* (12/09/08). The following synopsis is drawn directly from this press release: the grave totals cited below thus update those given for the same sites in *AR* 54 (2007–2008), 74.

Work is reported at: the Neos Sidirodromikos Stathmos (i.e. the metro station linked to the city's New Railway Station); the Sintrivani, Panepistimio and Eukleides metro stations; and the interchange for Sintrivani station which is located S of the central library of the Aristotelian University. In total, 1,414 tombs from the E and W cemeteries of the city have been uncovered since the start of excavation in 2007, of which 21.3% include grave goods; architectural remains (walls, water channels, floors and kilns) have also been found. Archaeological findings so far confirm the current understanding of the topography of anc. Thessaloniki as based on previous rescue excavations conducted by the 16th EPCA and on preparatory work for the metro.

Neos Sidirodromikos Stathmos. Excavation initially focused on the E part of the station boundaries (an area of 1,350m^2) and specifically on the area of the entry shaft for the tunnel-boring machine. Ninety four tombs were revealed, bounded to the N by 4 distinct peribolos walls oriented NW-SE, which were revealed at a *d.* of 3–5.5m beneath the mod. surface. A rich variety of tomb types was revealed (funerary monuments, built-chamber tombs, cist and pit graves, tile graves, *enchytrismoi* and altar-like structures of unworked stones which mark graves), which mostly contain inhumations, with a few instances of cremation and secondary reburial. Fifty eight of these contained ceramic or glass vessels, bronze coins, gold and bronze jewellery, gold *danakes*, and bone and metal artefacts. This part of the W cemetery was in use from the Hel–LRom period.

Excavation in this area is now complete. A further area of ca. 2,500m^2 has been opened in the W part of the station area, at the front of the station forecourt. At a *d.* of 2–2.8m, 4 potters' kilns were found, with a dump area for broken tiles, wasters and discarded clay. This area, outside the W city wall, was known as the Potters' Field due to the presence of many ceramic workshops. (Further details are noted in *Eleftherotypia* [22/08/08], without attribution to source: the largest kiln, 5m *l.* and 3.5m *w.*, is dated to the ECh period and described as used for the production of tiles and bricks; a smaller kiln nearby is dated to the 4th Ct AD.)

Agia Sophia. *Ta Nea* (08/04/08) reports the decision by the Central Archaeological Council to rebury a mosaic pavement discovered close to this station.

Sintrivani. Excavation took place in 3 areas, revealing tombs of the Hel-LRom period.

During removal of the network of public utilities outside the station boundary, 109 tombs were uncovered, of different types (chamber tombs, tile graves, pit graves without covers, *enchytrismoi*, vaulted tombs, stone- or brick-built cists, altar-like constructions of unworked stones which mark simple pits or orthogonal repositories and a group of 5 vaulted chambers). Inhumation is the dominant rite, though there are several instances of multiple inhumations, secondary reburial and cremation. Forty five tombs contained grave goods (pottery and glass vessels, bronze coins and gold *danakes*, terracotta figurines, bone pins, daggers, and gold and bronze jewellery). In the same area were found sections of wall and water channels.

During construction of the perimeter wall of the station, in front of the Children's Refuge, a total of 178 tombs were found, of various types (chamber tombs, tile graves, pit graves, *enchytrismoi*, vaulted tombs, stone-built tombs, altar-like structures and cists), including 6 small monolithic marble

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