Kythera

Kythera Island Project. Cyprian Broodbank (UCL) and Evangelia Kiriatzi (Fitch Director, BSA) report on the 2006 study season of the Kythera Island Project (KIP).

Study by Cyprian Broodbank, Alan Johnston, Evangelia Kiriatzi and Joanita Vroom focussed on the large amount of pottery from *ca* 1,100 collection squares set out in 1999–2000 over the major coastal site of **Kastri**. The individual study of 5,143 feature sherds and the bulk fabric analysis of a much larger statistical sample fully documented the size of Kastri, covering *ca* 10–11ha overall, less than 1% of which has been excavated. Furthermore it allowed phase-by-phase exploration of site size and functional differentiation, in collaboration with Varina Delrieu using probabilistic GIS techniques. Some examples of these explorations will be presented here.

The settlement was already fairly large in the Final Neo–EBA I and especially EBA II periods (**Fig. 8**). E Minoanising material is widely scattered, but First Palace remains are, as usual on Kythera, elusive or genuinely rare. Second Palace material is abundant; the settlement area expands to *ca* 5–7ha, plus peripheral, possibly destroyed funerary, areas (**Fig. 9**). Third Palace pottery is patchily present, and there are a few possible EIA finds, plus limited Ar. Cl is widely represented, as is LRom, with little Hel and ERom. Activity then declines very sharply until the return to the coast during the last two centuries. Similar probabilistic GIS techniques were used by Delrieu to define period-specific site sizes for a large selection of KIP's surface sites.

A geological survey was also undertaken by Ruth Siddall, Vangelio Kiriatzi and Myrto Georgakopoulou, in Kythera and S Laconia, with some assistance by Ian Whitbread, aiming at the comparative characterization of pottery and metallurgy resources from the two areas, to complement the ongoing analysis of ceramic and metallurgical finds from the Kythera Island Project survey.

Antikythera

Kathimerini, *Eleftherotypia* (01/12/2006) and *Ta Nea* (30/11/2006) report on a recent symposium on the Antikythera mechanism, the Hel (2nd Ct BC) astronomical device originally discovered off the island in 1901. Several new reconstructions have been put forward, including one by Michael Wright of the Science Museum in London.

KORINTHIA

Isthmia. Elizabeth Gebhard (ASCSA/Chicago) reports on the 2006 study season of material from the main **sanctuary** area (Chicago excavations).

The site is scheduled to reopen in 2007 after renovation and modernization of the Isthmia Museum, reinstallation of displays and new paths and signage in the archaeological area.

Studies of the collection continued. Martha Risser in her work on Ar and ECl ceramics from the great circular reservoir observed that the large dining services identified last season were not intended for a single use but were collected and stored, probably for reuse at the next festival. New vessels were added as needed.

In the **Rachi** settlement Virginia Anderson-Stojanović documented all visible remains on the S side of the ridge where there was extensive development in antiquity, not visible from the sanctuary. The features included terrace walls, a ramp, steps, floors, niches and beam holes in the bedrock between houses IX and X.

Fritz Hemans continued study of the **Ar Temple**. He found that the fragments from Doric columns that may have been used in the pronaos had a maximum lower *di.* of *ca* 0.55m. It is likely that the wooden columns of the colonnade were similar in size, less than Oscar Broneer's estimate of *ca* 0.70m. They suggest a *h.* of around 3.30m based on a proportion of *ca* 1:6. Fragments from fluted stone pilasters are oval in shape and may have been added to the walls during a renovation to the temple. The base for the marble *perirrhanterion* was almost certainly set into the floor of the E *pteron* instead of resting on it as previously reported.

Stella Bouzakis completed conservation of an iron discus that Oscar Broneer had recovered from the great circular reservoir. From the context, it belongs to a period before *ca* 450 BC, and was probably a dedication of 550–450 BC.

Tim Gregory (ASCSA/Ohio) reports on the study undertaken in 2006 of material from the Ohio excavations at Isthmia.

Study of material from the **Rom baths** continued, while study of material from the so-called E Field, located between the Temple of Poseidon and the Byz fortress, and partially excavated between 1970 and 1972, was renewed. Elsewhere, cleaning continued on the edge of the S boundary of the excavated area of the Rom bath, in order to stabilize the earth and even out this line, which has been eroding seriously since it was exposed in the 1970s. Cleaning continued almost to the SW corner of the Rom bath. In addition, it is planned to fill some of the old trenches left exposed since the 1970s and complete work along the S side of the building.

In 2006 a new phase of investigation was begun in the NE corner of the Rom bath, at the point where the Rom building meets up with the EByz fortifications (the Hexamilion) as they run E toward the fortress. It has long been known that there were several buildings of Rom date in this vicinity, and a project was begun to record the architectural pieces that remain in this area and attempt to associate them with the existing foundations.

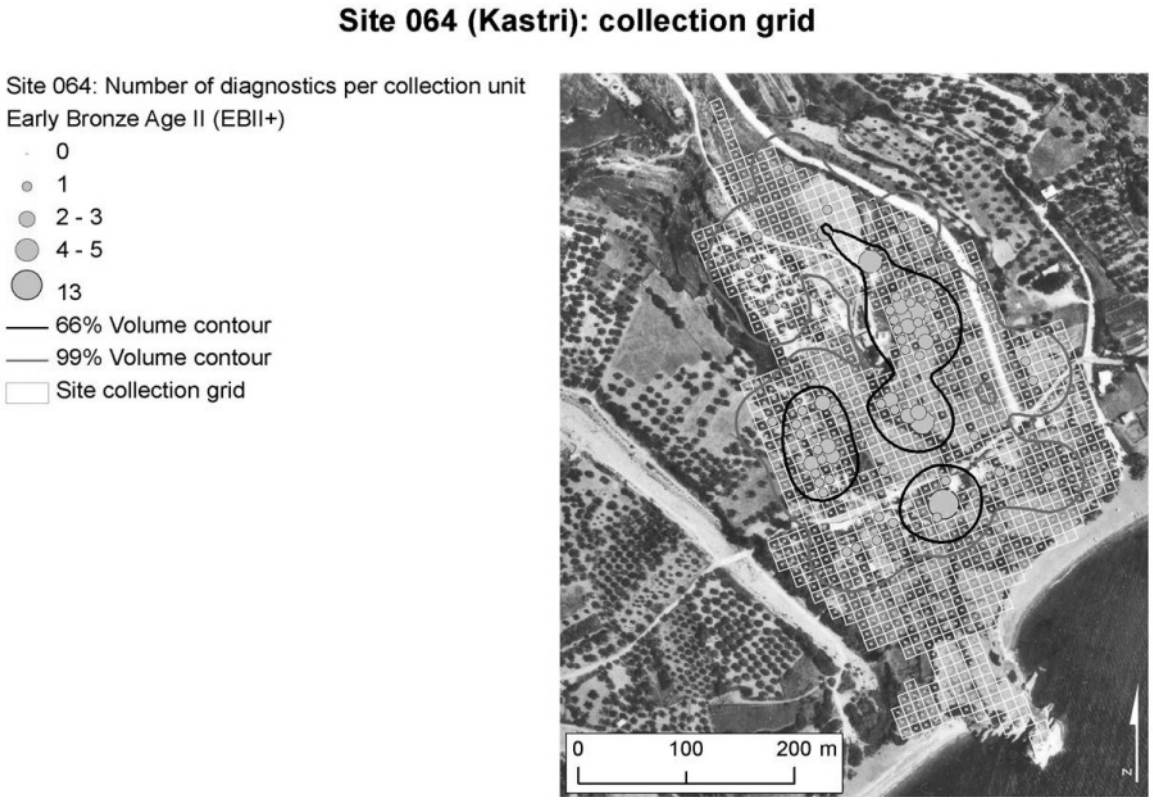
Kenchreai. Joseph L. Rife (ASCSA/Macalester College) reports on the 2006 study season and final excavation season of the **Kenchreai Cemetery Project**.

The cemetery consists of 30 subterranean Rom chamber tombs and 28 individual Rom cist graves cut into the bedrock along the E slope of the Koutsongila ridge over an area of *ca* 220m N–S by 60m E–W (**Fig. 10**). Research this season involved further work on the site plan; inspection of the natural terrain; the exploration of five tombs; the study of wall-painting; the study of all classes of artefacts from the site; and the examination of human bones.

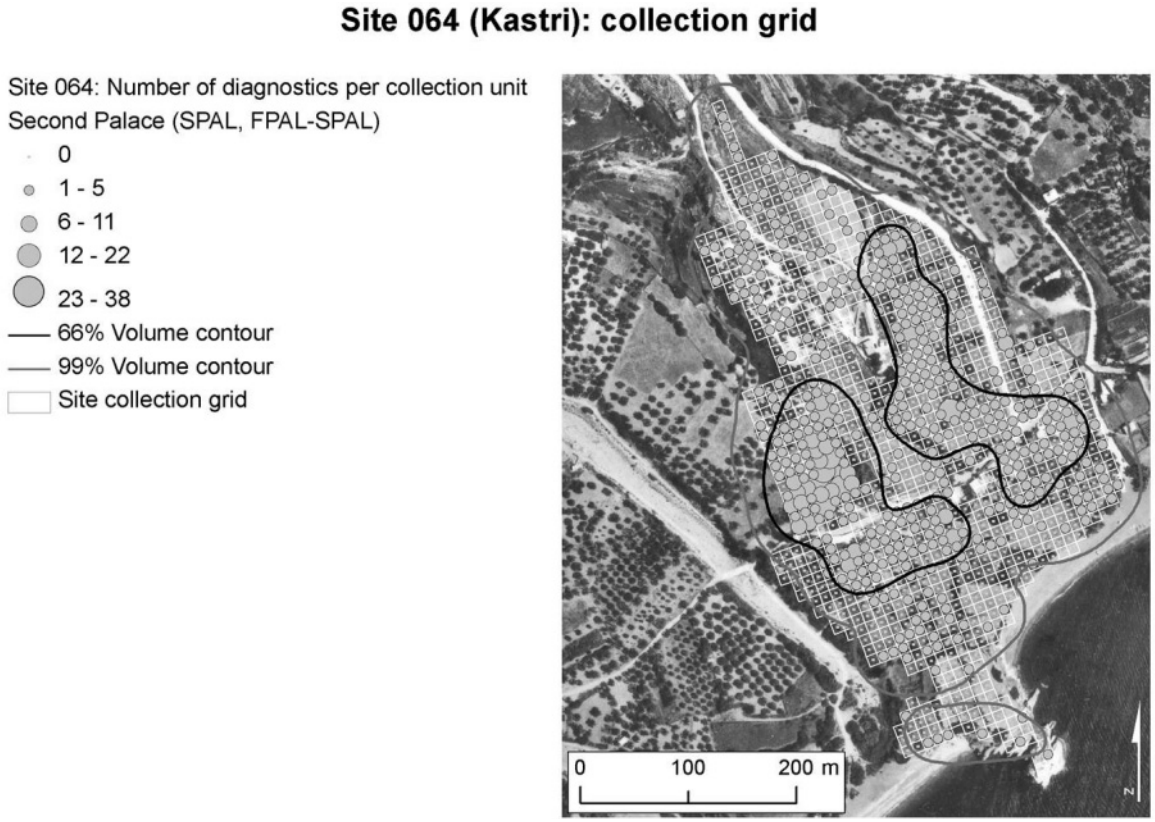
A composite topographic plan of the site is currently under preparation using digital technology. Team members finished recording several features on the ridge, including wheelruts from a coastal cartroad and several ashlar blocks, probably from an E fortification wall. In documenting traces of looting, we found that extensive clandestine excavation has occurred since 2005. One freshly opened grave (G27) was recorded on the W part of the ridge. We also discovered two previously unknown burial sites, another slab-covered cist grave on the E edge of the ridge (G28) and a collapsed chamber tomb (T30) directly behind tomb 4.

The examination of the natural landscape by Rick Dunn (Norwich) focused on the distribution of colluvium across the ridge and the taphonomic processes in the subterranean tombs. He found that variable colluvial depths across the ridge reflect the presence of burial structures, especially the large rectangular building (a temple?) at the ridge's S end that was

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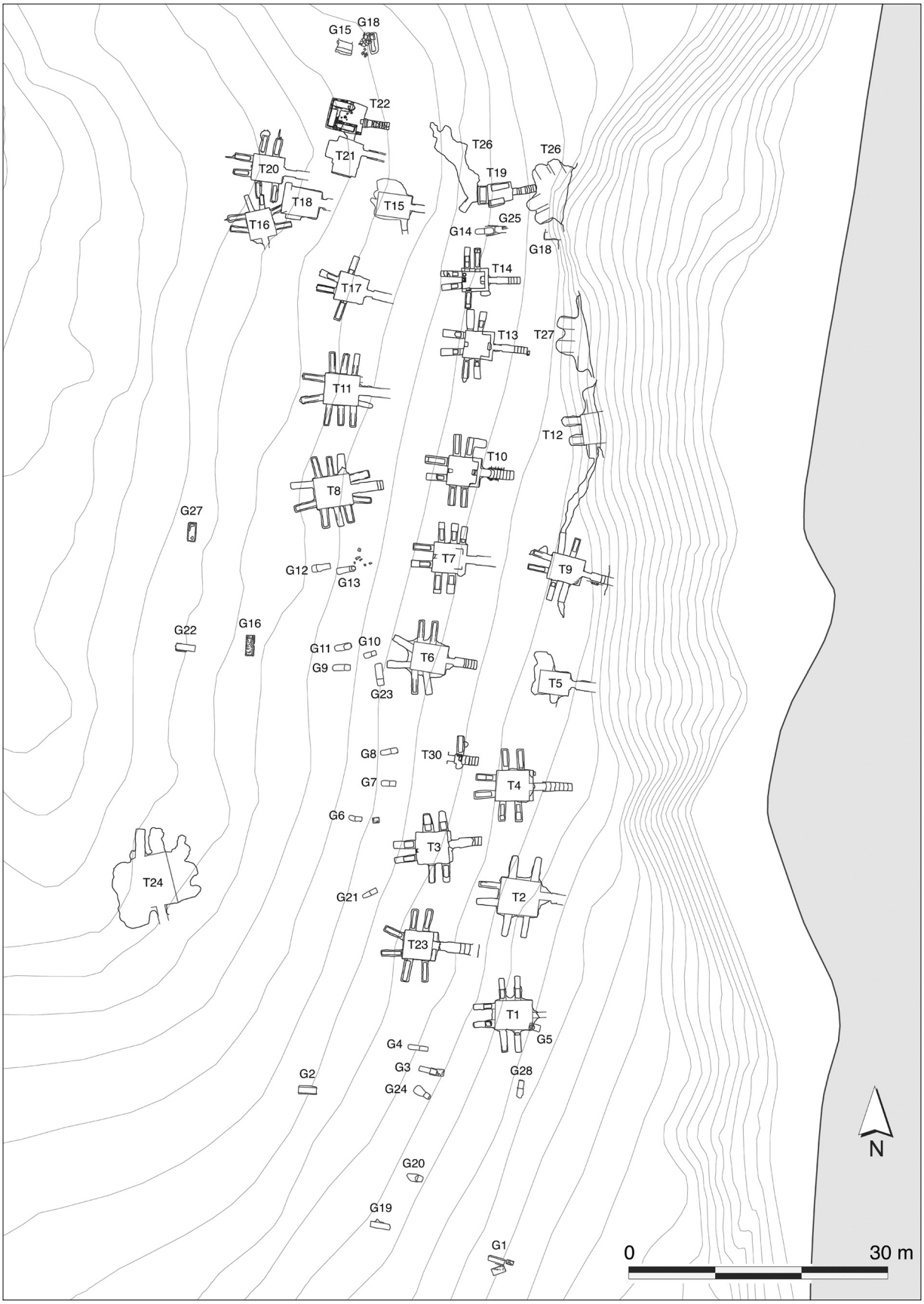


8. Kythera Island Project, Kastri: collection grid EBA II



9. Kythera Island Project, Kastri: collection grid 2nd Palace

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10. Kenchreai: plan of Rom cemetery

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first identified through geophysical survey in 2004. Professor Dunn also began examining the environmental history of the tombs. He found that, in many cases, large amounts of water had repeatedly entered chambers over the centuries, sometimes pooling to a considerable depth. During further exploration of the chamber tombs we discovered that a rectangular tomb building completely covered the dromos of tomb 6. We also developed a better understanding of the collapses of the structures over tombs 10, 14 and 22, which apparently were catastrophic events followed by long periods of gradual sedimentation. The investigation of the interior of tomb 10 revealed the presence of several discrete funerary deposits containing cuisine-related vessels. The loculi of tomb 10 contained well-preserved skeletons buried one over the other in distinct phases, sometimes identifiable by diagnostic artifacts. Our study of the new tomb 30 revealed the loculus in the dromos, the only example of this configuration among the known tombs on Koutsongila. Apart from these advances in understanding tomb design and use, Florence Monier continued the study of wall-painting. She identified highly fragmentary painted plaster in tombs 1, 2, 3 and 23.

Douglas H. Ubelaker continued his study of the human bones. He examined fragmentary skeletal remains from six tombs (nos 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 22), including several discrete deposits of cremated bone. His observations shed light on the obscure process of cremation in Rom Greece: corpses were subjected to extremely intense, sustained heat (well over 800 degrees Celsius), after which point mourners extracted a selection of cremated bone from the pyre for deposition in urns. His conclusions on the number, age and sex of individuals have shown that numerous individuals were buried in the tombs over time – in one case at least 52 – and that men, women and children were deposited in both loculi and niches. These discoveries support our interpretation of the chamber tombs as burial sites for both families and generations of their household dependents. Because of the fragmentary condition of the bone asssemblage, we do not yet have a clear picture of skeletal morphology or paleopathology in the local population.

The most important component of the 2006 campaign was the study of finds from activities at the site in 1956, 1976, 1988–1990 and 2002–2006. Professor Morison completed her examination of *ca* 25,000 artefacts from funerary contexts, of which *ca* 500 have been inventoried. This study has generated numerous important results, such as dating of the initial use of the cemetery to the M–L1st Ct BC, recognizing that most imported wares are of E rather than W origin, and interpreting many vessels as elements in commemorative ritual, particularly food-offerings or funerary banquets.

Josephine Shaya completed the documentation of hundreds of small finds, including iron nails from tomb structures, hobnailed footwear, and coffins or biers and a substantial collection of glass vessels from burials. Christopher A. Faraone began the study of four fragmentary inscribed lead tablets found in the cemetery. His examination of one from tomb 22 (KM043) determined that the text was a Gr prayer for justice against a clothing-thief called the 'son of Caecilius', first invoking chthonic deities for assistance and finally cursing the culprit with the force of a supernatural agent, Lord Abrasax. Professor Rife studied the epigraphic corpus from the site, which includes *ca* 60 discrete texts of Rom and Byz date from the area of Kenchreai, from American excavations at the anc. harbour in the 1960s and from our recent work on Koutsongila. The most significant texts pertain to religion, civic life and the ECh churches.

Alongside this research on the Koutsongila ridge, Professor Rife explored the larger context of burial in the Rom Korinthia through the investigation of other cemeteries at Kenchreai and in the region. He located two sites excavated in 1976 by the Archaeological Service E of the Kenchrean harbour (an ERom chamber tomb and a series of LRom cist graves) and the ERom cemetery *ca* 500m S of the harbour, which had been excavated by Demetrios Pallas in the 1950s and by Henry Robinson in 1962.

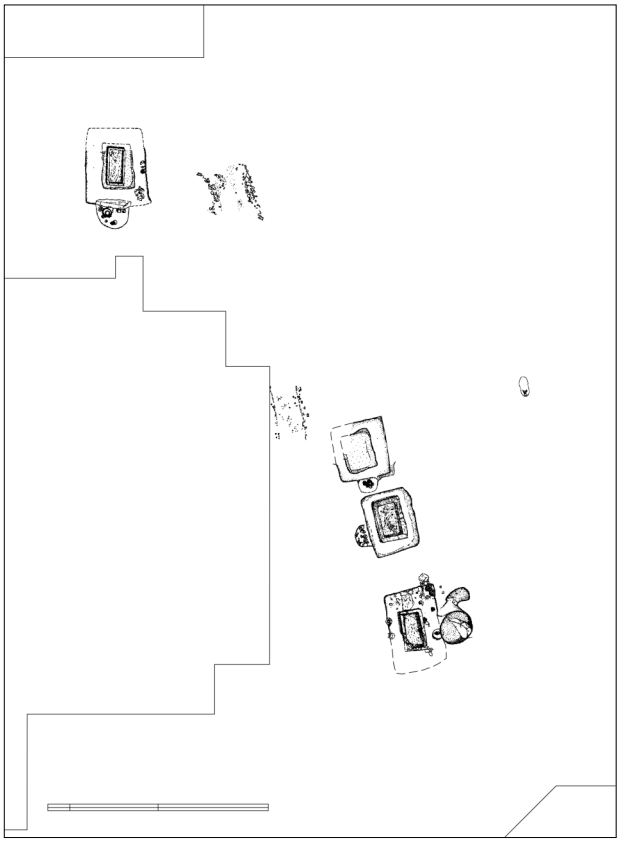
East Korinthia Archaeological Survey. Tim Gregory and Dan Pullen (ASCSA) continued study of finds from earlier seasons.

Corinth, museum. *Eleftherotypia*, *To Vima* and *Kathimerini* (31/10/2006) all note a recent exhibition of finds from the Argolid at the museum. Exhibits included the famous Myc corselet and boars' tusk helmet from **Dendra.**

Anc. **Corinth**. Guy Sanders (ASCSA) reports on the 2006 season of excavations.

Excavation at Corinth concentrated on Geo to Hel contexts to the N of the long concrete pool of the LRom domus in the **Panagia Field**.

A fifth Geo grave (grave 2006-04, **Fig. 11**) was excavated. It was found cut into colluvium about 17m NW of the line of three graves excavated in previous seasons. Architecturally, the new grave is the most sophisticated of the group. It consists of a rectangular pit with an apsidal niche cut on the S side. The niche was completely blocked off with a large slab of limestone. In the middle of the pit a smaller cutting contained



11. Corinth, Panagia Field: Geo graves

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12. Corinth, Panagia Field: pottery from MGeo I grave

a large, rectangular, monolithic oolitic limestone sarcophagus. This was closed with a single slab of limestone. No trace of the body survived. The burial assemblage was deposited within the niche and along the E side of the sarcophagus (**Fig. 12**). It consisted of nineteen vessels, including seven oinochoai, four skyphoi, three amphorae, two kraters, two plates and an aryballos, which date the grave to MGeo I. Since both the EGeo I sarcophagi are sandstone, the new find represents the earliest oolitic limestone example at Corinth. A faceted columnar block embedded in a Rom wall that cut the N end of the grave is of a type noticed elsewhere at Corinth in loose association with Geo graves and is reminiscent of architectural fragments found in the LGeo fill of a well. It may have been used as a grave marker.

It appears as if the graves originally flanked a path which remained in use down into the Hel period. The track in its latest phase has been found in two patches and consists of a hard packed cobbled surface and flanked the W end of the ashlar foundations of a long building (**Fig. 13**). Six rooms of this structure have so far been revealed. It probably dates to the 4th Ct BC and it continued in use well into the Hel period, to judge from an amphora stamp in the latest fill, probably down to 146 BC. A cistern in the NW room, buried beneath the latest Hel fills, was partly excavated. It has a step ladder cut into a leaning ashlar in its NE corner. The cistern was filled in the M3rd Ct. A well on the S side remained in use during the Rom period when it was filled and sealed off sometime in the 3rd Ct. How it relates to a large cistern partly excavated in 2005 is unclear. The cistern had a stair descending from the W and appears originally to have been quite deep. A cantilevered horizontal beam supported at one end by a pillar is reminiscent of the system used to support the roof of the double apsidal cistern at Perachora. This cistern was closed in the L3rd or E2nd Ct BC. A complete sample of the fill was wet-sieved to recover a substantial quantity of carbonized grape pips. These will help to establish a stage in the domestication of the grape.

After the long building went out of use and had been abandoned for some time, a later Hel structure was built on a different orientation over the W end. One room of this structure had a destruction deposit covering the earth floor. Among the finds were an almost complete mould for a Hel mouldmade bowl (**Fig. 14**) and an amphora stamp. Although the form of the bowl mould and the stamp traditionally have been dated to before Mummius, a mendable E Sigillata A plate dates the horizon no earlier than the L2nd Ct but before the re-foundation of Corinth as a Rom colony.

Elsewhere fills produced a range of Ar and Cl material. This material indicates cult activity, probably relating to the Geo burials in the area. 'Cult' material comprises a stone altar fragment, miniature vessels, a fragment of a perirrhanterion base with a painted palmette and banded lekythoi. Signs of industrial production include bronze and iron slag, and ceramic 'oven mitts'.

Corinth publications. a new volume has appeared: Merker, G.S., *The Greek Tile Works at Corinth: The Site and the Finds*. Hesp. Suppl. 35 (Princeton, N.J., ASCSA 2006).

Dorati. J. Marchand (ASCSA/Wright State) reports on the second study season of the **Dorati Survey Project**.

This season the database documenting all the pottery recorded in survey was completed and updated, with date ranges provided for all of the material. Statistical searches required for the survey report are now in order. Additionally, 64 representative items were chosen and researched for full publication in catalogue form with the survey report, prior to the publication of the individual pottery groups.

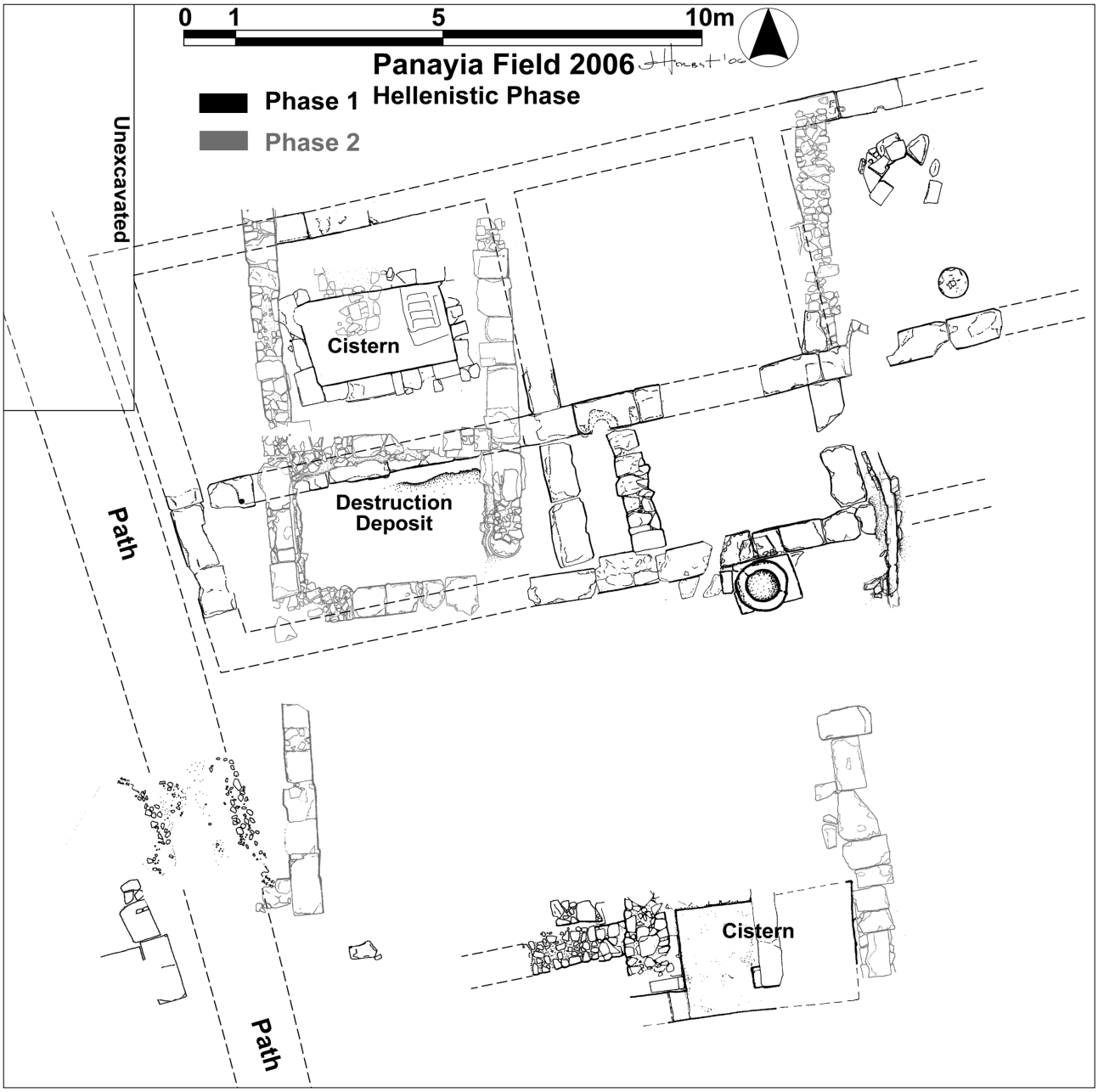
Kleonai. T. Mattern (DAI Athens/Marburg) reports on further investigation undertaken in 2006 in collaboration with the 36th EPCA (represented by A. Mantis).

Two research campaigns were conducted in 2006 on the lower acropolis of Kleonai. Architectural remains had already been noticed by 'early travellers' on the lower acropolis, a saddle on the E side of the city, below the acropolis. In recent years, an Ar sanctuary (S1) with an EByz basilica was excavated in this topographically well-defined area. The N of the lower acropolis is defined by the so-called *Terrassenbau* (terrace building).

In spring, a geophysical survey took place, with the aim to clarify in what architectural context the Ar sanctuary on the lower acropolis stands with the area of the *Terrassenbau*. Since excavation took place in both areas, this provided an opportunity to verify the survey results, and furthermore to compare the suitability of different techniques. The week-long survey was concluded with good results. It located a courtyard area with structures, some useful information for interpreting the anc. access to the acropolis, as well as two roads, but was especially useful in allowing us to recognize and follow the architecture of the *Terrassenbau* S of the area excavated in 2005/2006.

In the summer, an excavation campaign uncovered the *Terrassenbau*. The remains, partially visible above the surface, were thus named because the terrain slopes steeply here and had to be retained by a terrace wall, the lower courses of which survive. The preliminary exploration in 2005 had already revealed a Hel wall and the geophysical survey had suggested a sizeable complex. A Hel propylon was indeed uncovered, abutted in the S by a somewhat later wall (possibly the posterior wall of a stoa with wooden supports?; see *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 24–25) (**Fig. 15**). The terrace wall could also be dated as Hel(?), certainly anc. A surprise find in the same area is the entrance to a spring (*h.* 1.7m, interior measurement), witnessing the lack of water in this urban area located high above the water table, and the constructional efforts it led to. The area of the propylon and the hall also contained three cisterns. In the N of the sounding, a Byz structure built of anc. spolia was revealed; as it is severely damaged, its function remains unclear. In any case, it underlines the continuing importance of Kleonai, already indicated by the aforementioned basilica, and will certainly help to improve our understanding of the N Peloponnese's population densities in L antiquity.

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13. Corinth, Panagia Field: Hel architecture

The Hel propylon gave access to an area located below the acropolis slope, now covered with much sediment. The character and function of the overall complex (sanctuary?) remain unclear. Nonetheless, the urban context of the lower acropolis with its main architectural features is now mostly understood and will be prepared for publication.

Nemea, **Sanctuary of Zeus**. Kim Shelton (ASCSA/UC Berkeley) reports on the 2006 season of study and conservation at this panhellenic sanctuary.

Activities at Nemea in 2006 consisted of maintenance and research both on site and in the museum, restoration in the Temple of Zeus and an archaeological field school during the month of June.

Study was begun on the ceramic material from past seasons of excavation in the Sanctuary of Zeus for publication in *Nemea X: Chronology*. Examined and analysed in detail were sherds from deposits in association with the Temple of Zeus, the Sacred Square, the 4th Ct BC Xenon and the ECH Basilica, and an area further to the E with reported concentrations of PH material.

Additional studies were conducted in the museum by Robert Knapp on the coins excavated since 1996 and by Shelly Wiles on site and in the museum on the so-called Nu structure (*Hesperia* 47 [1978], 59–64). Knapp identified issues of mints until now unattested at Nemea, such as Heraclea Trachinia and Phalanna in Thessaly. There are also four more coins from Asia Minor, adding to the significant presence of coins from that

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14. Corinth, Panagia Field: Hel bowl mould

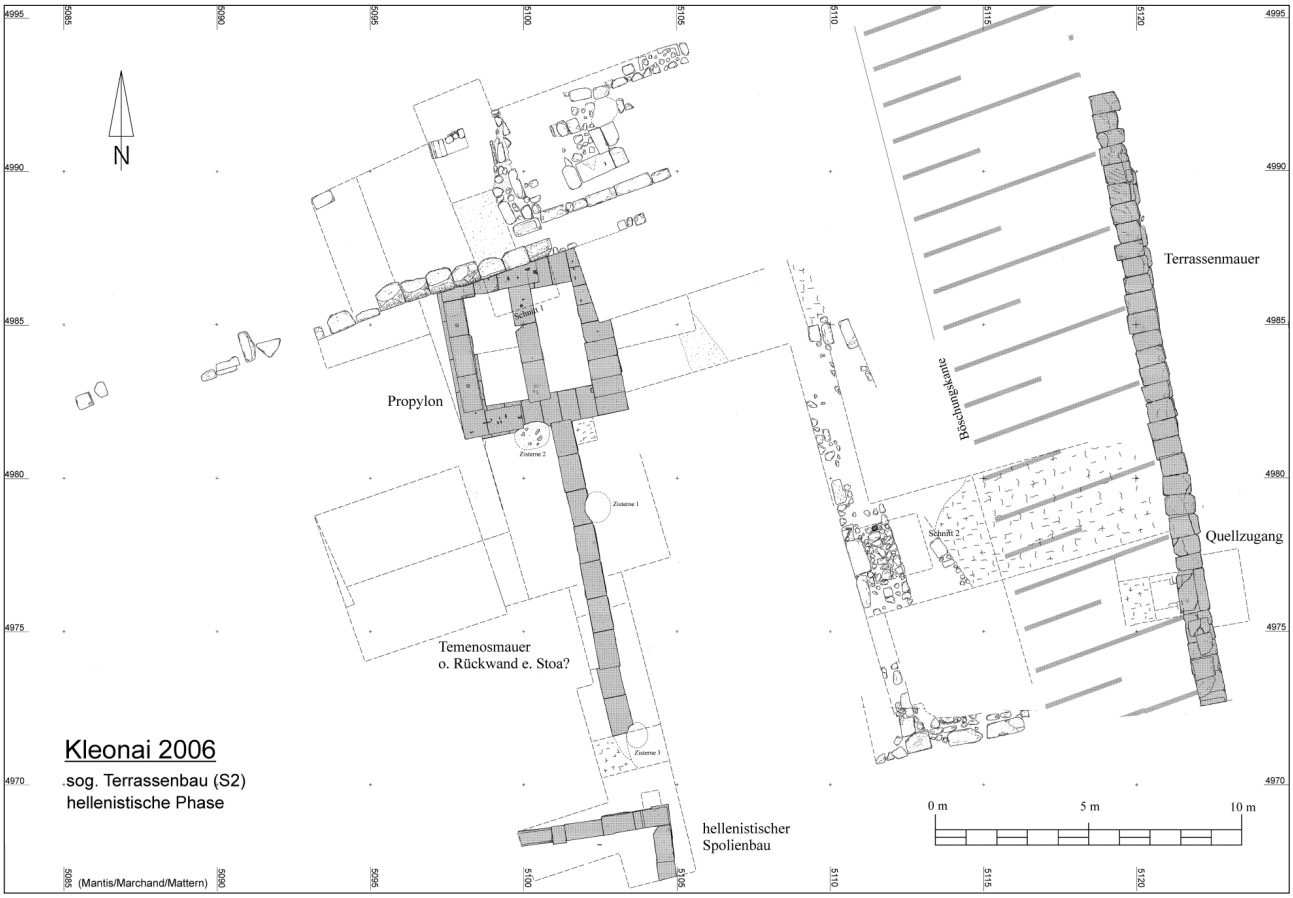
distant area. The Nu structure is a statue base just off the SE corner of the temple and related marble and limestone blocks, presently collected near the Basilica/Xenon foundations for study. The blocks can be reconstructed as two tiers of a monumental statue base set on the poros limestone euthynteria, still *in situ*. A partial inscription on one face of the top marble course suggests that the sculptor may be connected to the 4th Ct BC sculptor Kleon of Sikyon. Two fragments newly connected to this piece may help to clarify the identification further.

Chance surface finds were made during the weeding of the site, including three coins and a circular bronze fragment.

Significant work has been completed in the reconstruction project of the Temple of Zeus (**Fig. 16**), on the foundations and krepidoma of the E end and pronaos. Two columns, K-30 and K-29, in the centre of the E side colonnade have been almost completed. All of the drums are in place and the final carving of the exterior surfaces is nearing completion. The epistyle will be positioned only after the next two columns to the N are finished.

Nemea, Agia Sotira cemetery. Jim Wright (Bryn Mawr/Canadian Institute) reports on the 2006 season of excavation of the LBA chamber tomb cemetery on the hillside of Agia Sotira, outside the village of Koutsomadi near anc. Nemea.

Several of the tombs in this cemetery have been looted in the past and there is continuing danger of further looting. The cemetery was discovered in 2002 and E. Pappi, on behalf of the 4th (now 36th) EPCA, salvaged a looted LH IIIB1 tomb (tomb 1). The location and alignment of the tombs discovered in 2006 suggest that there are others yet to be discovered.



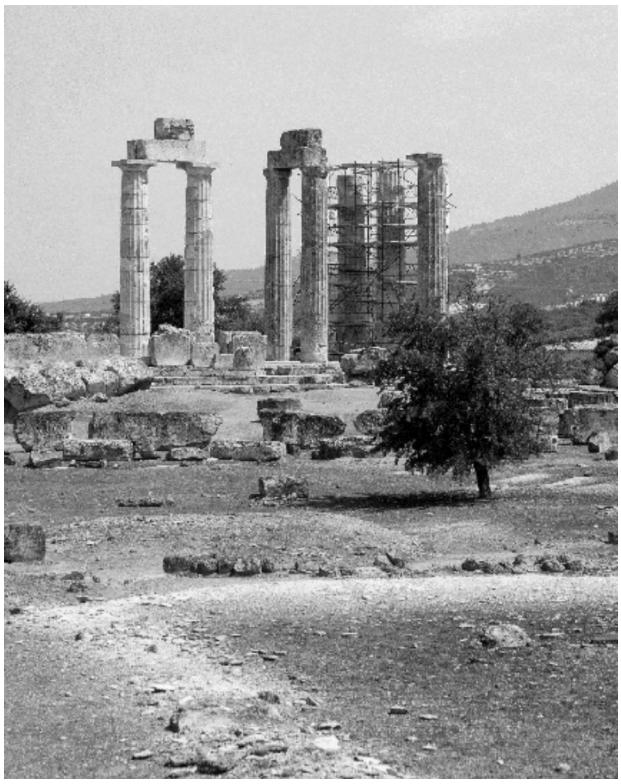
15. Kleonai: plan of Hel structures

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We believe these tombs are those of the inhabitants of the nearby settlement on Tsoungiza hill, excavated between 1981 and 1986 by the Nemea Valley Archaeological Project. We are undertaking a systematic recovery and analysis of the human skeletal remains in order to make an assessment of the social make-up of the tombs and the diet, health and occupational activities of the occupants. Comparison of this mortuary information with the domestic evidence from Tsoungiza, as recorded in habitation structures, artefacts, and food remains, will provide an unprecedented picture of life and death in a Myc settlement. Additionally, because of the proximity of Tsoungiza and Agia Sotira to the much larger cemetery to the W at Aidonia and its unexcavated settlement, we think the evidence from our excavation of these tombs will enable us to assess the relationship between Myc settlements in these two adjacent valleys. The team this summer conducted a survey of the area with ground penetrating radar, carried out extensive test trenching and excavated three more tombs. Two of these (tombs 2 and 3) were found to have been disturbed. One (tomb 2) had been thoroughly looted, although careful excavation of the chamber, dromos and robber's dump revealed at least three episodes of opening and refilling as well as fragments of LH IIIA2–B1 unpainted carinated kylikes and a LH IIIB1 unpainted shallow angular bowl. The other (tomb 3) was also devoid of human remains, save two adult teeth found in a slab covered pit in the dromos. Other finds included a single complete vessel from the chamber provisionally dated to the end of the 8th Ct BC, as well as sherd material from the dromos dating from LH IIIA1 to LH IIIB1. Among these were fragments of a LH IIIA1 goblet with painted ivy decoration, and a LH IIIA2 pattern painted conical rhyton. Preliminary analysis of the dromos revealed at least five episodes of opening and refilling.

The final tomb (tomb 4) was undisturbed, and contained at least eight individuals in the chamber and a probable neonate in a side niche of the dromos, with material ranging in date from LH IIIA2 to LH IIIB2. The dromos revealed at least six episodes of opening and refilling, and the stomion was entirely preserved and blocked by dry wall. The side niche in the dromos was blocked by large upright stone slabs. It contained a LH IIIB feeding bottle and over 90 miniscule drilled stone beads, each about 1.5mm in *di*. The main chamber had collapsed, but was otherwise undisturbed. Burials took place in two primary strata. The uppermost stratum contained two pairs of burials which included three adult males and one female with pottery that dated from LH IIIB1 to IIIB2, including a LH IIIB1 stirrup jar decorated with dot rosettes, a LH IIIB2 pattern-painted hydria and LH IIIB2 rosette deep bowl. Beneath these burials three pits were cut into the chamber floor and contained a lower level of earlier burials, including a young female aged sixteen to seventeen, a male in his late 30s and secondary burials of two adult males. Very few grave goods were associated with these lower burials.

The date of the burials excavated so far corresponds to the major period of occupation at the nearby settlement on Tsoungiza. Although only preliminary analysis of the skeletal remains from the cemetery has been conducted by S. Triandaphyllou, it is clear that the two tombs with skeletal remains contained infants, children and adults interred over several generations and that tomb 3, though robbed in antiquity, originally contained at least one adult burial. The discovery of additional tombs should provide a good demographic sample of the people who lived and died in the area of Tsoungiza during as many as two centuries of its habitation. This would be invaluable for comparison not only with the habitation remains from the settlement but also with the remains from the much larger cemetery at nearby Aidonia. This research will improve the picture of human settlement in the Nemea valley and the wider region comprising the Asopus (Phliasian) valley to the W, all of which can be assessed in relation to its powerful neighbour at Mycenae.



16. Nemea: Temple of Zeus under reconstruction

Sikyon. *Kathimerini*, *To Vima*, *Ta Nea* and *Eleftherotypia* (08/08/2006) all report on plans by the local demos to construct a museum of the works of the anc. Cl sculptor **Lysippos**, who was from Sikyon. It is not yet clear whether any 'original copies' of such works will grace the museum, or whether the museum will be filled with 'copies of copies'.

Titane. Christiane Tytgat (Belgian School), Alain De Wulf, Rudi Goossens, Marc Hennau and Daniel Van Damme (Ghent) report on the 2006 survey season.

The survey concentrated on the slopes of the acropolis hill and of the adjacent NW plateau. Due to heavy surface vegetation present on most of the area, finds were rare and predominantly limited to the rocky parts. Terrace walls were located on the higher levels of the NE and the SW slopes of the NW plateau; all vegetation was removed from these walls. Rows of anc. stone blocks similar to those used for the construction of the acropolis wall and for part of the NE section of the town wall provide possible evidence for the location and direction of the town wall. Two gaps, one in the NE town wall, the other in the SW wall, may represent access to the NW plateau. Soundings will supply more information on this hypothesis. Wheel-tracks indicating an anc. road to the SE of the acropolis can be traced over a distance of 56m. They are part of a path that, after following the NW slope of the NW plateau, then bends around the SE edge of the acropolis and continues along the SW side of the hill. A probably mod.

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enclosure wall built of anc. stone blocks was located on the SW slope. Fragments of tiles and bricks, and sherds of domestic Rom pottery were located as well as a concentration of LGeo sherds on one single spot, SW of the acropolis.

The building situated on the plateau to the SE of the acropolis and its surrounding area was cleared from vegetation. Meyer called this structure a 'temple' and presumed it to be the Altar of the Winds mentioned by Pausanias. This identification is not accepted by all scholars and is still not authenticated today. The construction proved to be longer and larger than it was first perceived during the 2004 campaign. The long S wall runs further towards the E, with a downward inclination into a trapezoidal platform. The smaller E wall continues to the S. The identification, function and use of the building remain obscure. It is hoped that the soundings planned for 2007 may help to solve the problem. Anc. stone blocks were used for the construction of the terrace walls located to the S of Meyer's 'temple'. They separate two plots of land, but it is yet uncertain whether they rest on anc. foundations. At the W end of the field, they border the small path located in 2004 that was still in use half a century ago.

Mapping was extended in 2006. New measurements were carried out on the SE plateau and in the sector of the survey which regroups the upper W areas of the site. These data were added to the results of the previous campaigns. A spatial photogrammetry study, using satellite imagery, was used to produce digital elevation models, a viewshed analysis, two land use maps (1962 and 2003) and a map showing the changes in the land use.

Consolidation of the acropolis wall continued after all vegetation was removed from its exterior side in 2005 and certain areas showed to urgently need such work. The proposal was accepted by the Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments of the Ministry of Culture and by the 37th EPCA, in collaboration with which it was carried out.

ARGOLIS (4th EPCA; 5th EBA)

Topography. The following conference volume has appeared: Πρακτικά Γ' Τοπικού Συνεδρίου Αργολικών Σπουδών, Ναύπλιο 18–20 Φεβρουαρίου 2005 (Athens 2006).

Lerna. Martha Heath Wiencke (ASCSA) reports on the 2006 study season.

Volume VI of the Lerna series, *Architecture and Settlement of Lerna IV* by E.C. Banks (Kansas) is about to go to press. Professor Banks was in Athens and Argos in the autumn to do final checking. The volumes on the *Small Objects of Lerna III–V* and the *Neolithic Settlement and Small Objects* are in preparation.

B. Erickson (UC Santa Barbara) completed the first stage of research on the Geo through Hel material.

M. Lindblom and his team arranged for NAA, petrographic and chemical analyses of Lerna VI (MH and LH I) sherds. The catalogue entries and drawings of the pottery were completed in Argos in March, and study continues on the analysis of shapes and preparation of plans and sections of relevant graves.

David Reese (Yale) has continued his restudy of Lerna animal bones stored in Stockholm and in Argos.

K.D. Vitelli's volume (V) on *Neolithic Pottery* is in press.

C. Zerner's study of Lerna V (MH) settlement and pottery is nearly completed. S. Voutsaki (Gronigen) and her team (S. Triandaphyllou *et al*.) have had good results from their re-examination of the Lerna V human bones, especially with the DNA analysis. They have had '80% success rate in reconstructing nuclear DNA'.

C. Shriner (Indiana) and her team continue their study of clay sources (integrated petrologic approach) in the Aegean area, a study which developed out of earlier work on Lerna EH clay sources.

The Lerna Excavation Archives are now stored at the ASCSA in Athens, where they can be accessed (thanks to the work of archivist Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan) at www.ascsa.edu.gr.

Argos, Aspis. Gilles Touchais (Paris 1/EFA) reports on the 2006 season of excavation, cleaning and study.

The season had several aims, amongst which was the completion the topographic plan of Aspis (a project begun in 2005; see *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 31–33). A second was to carry out complementary excavations in the SE part of the site. Our object was, on the one hand, to collect a sufficient quantity of well-stratified material in order to get reliable data on several ceramic categories and, on the other hand, to improve the presentation of the site, rendering the succession of several building phases more visible or legible. The excavation allowed us to make clearly visible the level of the last MH occupation phase (sector 1), revealing with a greater degree of clarity the series of structures of the 3rd phase of the apsidal house (whose walls, at least in the main room, were covered with a white coating) and the neighbouring tomb (sector 2).

This year we also conducted a systematic cleaning of former excavations, within the context of the production of a global architectural survey of the MH settlement of Aspis. Cleaning activities were concentrated on the E sector of the hill where the constructions were very dense and where their traces are still visible. In the S half of the sector we cleaned three buildings: the only preserved segment of the 'interior surrounding wall', house N (this one being the largest) and house O. At the end of this first cleaning campaign, we may affirm that the MH remains (previously investigated by Vollgraff) were in a much better state of preservation than expected.

Finally, we continued our study of the ceramic material. We focused on the Minyan pottery, present in number during all phases of the MH settlement of the Aspis. Minyan pottery is remarkably similar to the corresponding classes of Boiotia (Eutresis, Thebes, Orchomenos) and Attica (Agora of Athens, Eleusis). Having said this, the material from Aspis shows some very specific peculiarities which betray the existence of a local Minyan shop, with a range of products exceeding the widely known small group known as Argive Minyan.

Argos, Nannopoulos plot. Anne Pariente (Lyon/EFA) and Christos Piteros (4th EPCA, Nauplion) report on the 2006 season of excavation and cleaning (**Fig. 17**).

After the demolition of the series of nine vats left in place during previous campaigns on the W part of the plot, the focus of this campaign, which was conducted in collaboration with the Ephoria of Nauplion, was on the N sector, i.e. the area of the krepis and the central basis of the orchestra (including immediate surrounding areas). At the junction of the krepis and the central basis, we unearthed a series of layers which yielded pottery of the 3rd–6th Ct AD and which covered a layer which was extremely rich in ceramic material of the 1st–4th Ct AD. To the S of the krepis, in the N sector of the orchestra, we unearthed a series of five blocks of poros (reused) which complete the E part of the central basis of the orchestra. To the E of the central basis, we recovered a type of material previously common in this sector of the agora. The fragmentary, and diverse, condition of this material suggests that it is rubbish, discarded in an abandoned area of the former agora. We carried out extensive cleaning operations on the

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