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ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2020–2021

Newsround

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Abstract

'Newsround' offers a platform for new discoveries that do not appear within the specialist contributions of this year's Archaeological Reports*, but which nevertheless warrant emphasis, either as a result of their particular characteristics or for the contribution they make to broader archaeological narratives. This section is not intended to be exhaustive but rather an overview of archaeological research in Greece. It comprises largely preliminary reports (results of excavations that took place up to and including August 2021 where possible) which complement the digital content made available through* Archaeology in Greece Online *(https://chronique.efa.gr). Due to the diachronic nature of a number of the sites and for ease of reference, the material is organized geographically in the first instance and then chronologically (earliest to latest) within each section as far as possible.*

Introduction

As the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic continue, museums across Greece have found innovative ways to engage with audiences digitally, and archaeologists have adapted to new ways of working. As a result, despite the extremely challenging conditions and smaller excavation teams, the past year has been archaeologically rich. Exceptional discoveries, from large ancient settlements to sites on some of the smallest Cycladic islands, ranging from prehistoric to modern times, not only provide insight into individual funerary, religious and domestic contexts, but also deepen our understanding of the broader social history of Greece (**Map 2**).

Central Macedonia

Angeliki Kottaridi (Ephorate of Antiquities of Imathia) reports on new discoveries at **Aigai** (**ID11631**) found during maintenance work on the large building complex that was constructed by the end of the fourth century BC near the northwestern gate of the ancient city (https://www.skai.gr/news/politismos/aiges-nea-eyrimata-vasiliki-mitropoli-makedonon-ena-iero-latreias-ena-poiima-se-aggeio) (**Fig. 36**). The complex consists of large square and rectangular rooms, some of which are greater than 100m^2, arranged around a central courtyard. To the east is a temple-like space with a deep pronaos and two Doric columns overlooking the courtyard.

During the reign of Philip V, at the end of the third and beginning of the second century BC, major modifications were carried out, including the addition of mosaic floors, coloured – mainly purple – plaster on the walls and architectural relief. In the mid-second century BC, following the destruction of the complex, parts of the west wing and areas near the east wing were rebuilt. Later, in the time of Augustus (31 BC to AD 14), the complex expanded with the addition of a large, 1,000m^2, peristyle in the southeast area; this is rather incongruous with the general decline of Aigai at this time.

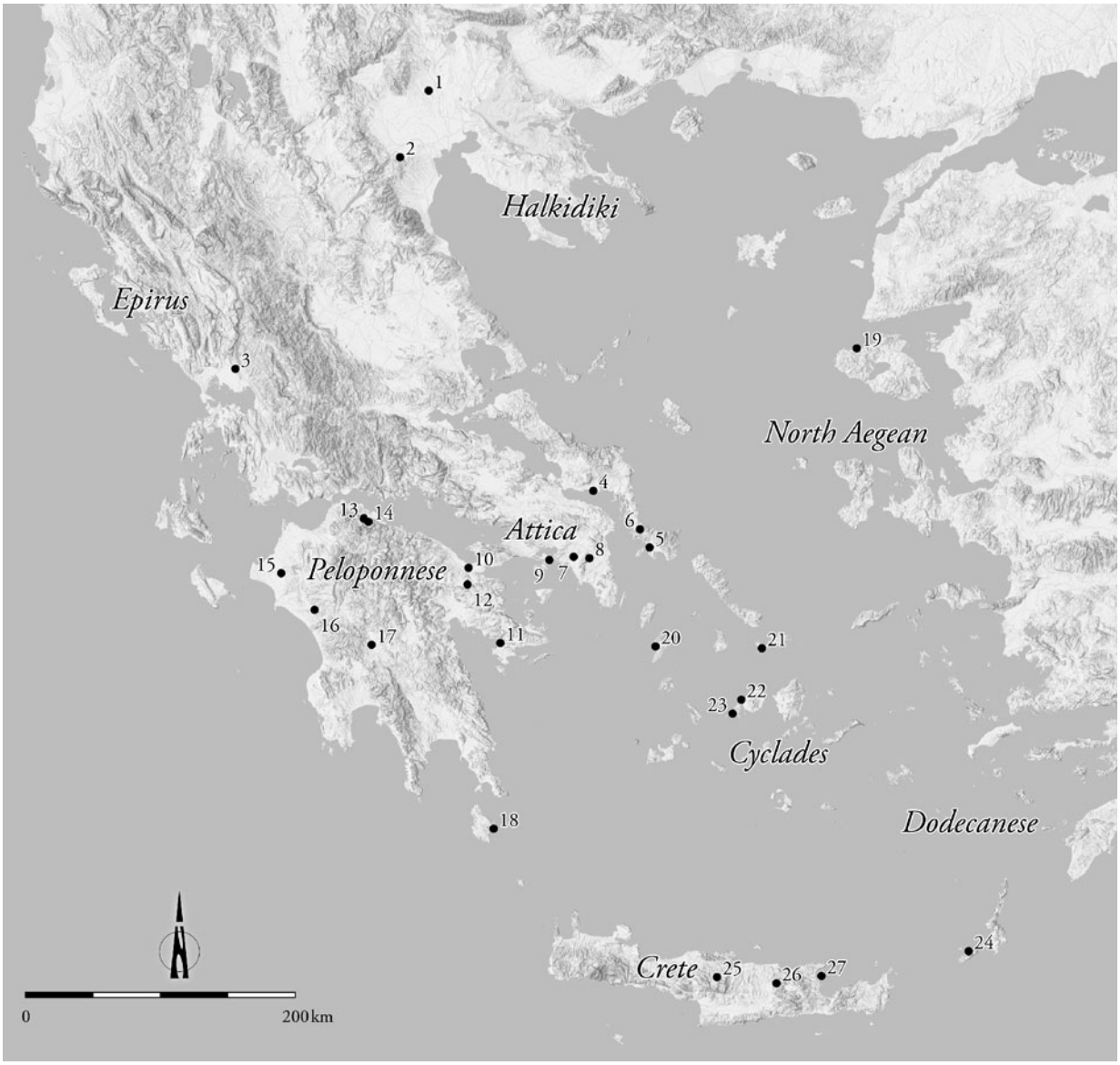
According to Kottaridi, the form and decoration of the complex identify it as a public building. Monolithic altars, fragments of a marble frieze and figurines of deities suggest its use as a sanctuary (**Fig. 37**). Seals with the Macedonian shield as well as roof tiles



36. Aigai: part of the marble frieze, fourth century BC. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports/Hellenic Organisation of Cultural Resources Development/ Ephorate of Antiquities of Imathia.

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Map 2. Sites referred to in the text: 1. Europos; 2. Aigai; 3. Arta; 4. Amarynthos; 5. Gourimadi; 6. Ilkizes; 7. Aiolou Street, Athens; 8. Palaiopanagias Street, Paiania; 9. Ambelakia, Salamis; 10. ancient Corinth; 11. Kiladha; 12. Tenea; 13. Trapeza, Aigion; 14. Mavriki; 15. Paliambela/Droubes near Avgeion; 16. Olympia; 17. Megalopolis basin; 18. Kythera; 19. Antissa, Lesbos; 20. Vryokastraki, Kythnos; 21. Rineia; 22. SCIP; 23. Despotiko; 24. Kasos; 25. Zominthos; 26. Lyttos; 27. Olous. © BSA.

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37. Aigai: figurine head, second century BC. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports/Hellenic Organisation of Cultural Resources Development/Ephorate of Antiquities of Imathia.



38. Aigai: roof tiles stamped with the name AMYNTOY. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports/Hellenic Organisation of Cultural Resources Development/ Ephorate of Antiquities of Imathia.



39. Aigai: skyphos with epigram, second century BC. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports/Hellenic Organisation of Cultural Resources Development/ Ephorate of Antiquities of Imathia.

stamped with AMYNTOY (**Fig. 38**) point to the possible hero worship of Amyntas III, father of Philip II. His cult can also be found in neighbouring Pydna.

A remarkable find dating to the second century BC is a skyphos inscribed with a poem (**Fig. 39**). This is perhaps a writing exercise of a student, who confused 'ο' with 'ω' and 'ει' with 'ι'. The poem is about the passage of time and is from the Palatine anthology: το ρόδον ακμάζει βαιόν] χρόνον· εάν δε παρέστη ζητών ευρήσεις ου ρόδον, αλλά βάτον ('the rose blooms for a period of time, and when that passes, if you look, you will find not a rose, but a thorn bush').

West of modern Mesia and 1km south of ancient **Europos** (**ID9625**), the Ephorate of Antiquities of Kilkis carried out a rescue excavation on a Hellenistic burial mound (diameter 32m; height 5m) from September to November 2020 (**Fig. 40**; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3638). Systematic documentation of the stratigraphy of the partition walls in the central section of the tumulus revealed several construction phases. A looted cist tomb, dating to the end of the fourth or third century BC, had been expertly built within a trench dug into the sandy, clayey sediments (**Fig. 41**). It consists of a single chamber (3.5m × 2.5m × 3m) made from limestone blocks and is sealed with eight slabs, seven of which are still in place (**Fig. 42**). On the inside, the walls and floor are covered in stucco. There is a bench on the western side and two niches in the north wall. There is evidence for multiple looting attempts in antiquity, which resulted in the partial destruction of the eastern side and interior of the monument as well as the removal of most objects; only a few leaves and fruit from a gilt bronze wreath remain. It is clear that this funerary mound, visible from the most important road between Europos and Pella, is associated with the burial of a person from a wealthy family of Europos.

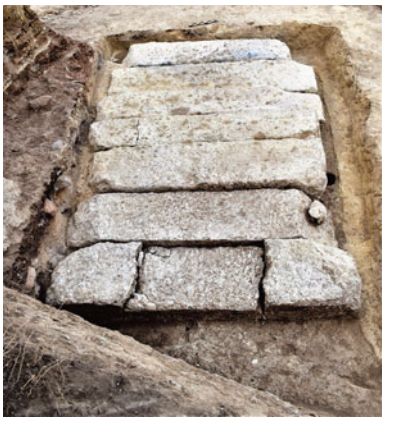


40. Europos/Mesia 1: the tumulus. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kilkis.

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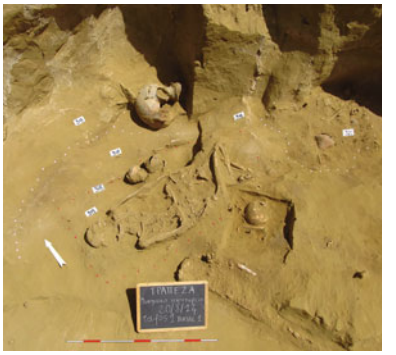
41. Europos/Mesia 1: interior of the chamber. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kilkis.



42. Europos/Mesia 1: seven of eight blocks covering the roof of the chamber. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kilkis.



43. Trapeza: aerial view of the acropolis from the southwest (with the roof over the temple). © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaea.



44. Trapeza: chamber of Tomb 1. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaea.

West Greece

Excavations at the Mycenaean necropolis of **Trapeza** at **Aigion** (**ID8621**) have revealed a number of tombs and grave offerings (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3547). The work, directed by Andreas Vordos (Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaia), aims to examine the phases of use of the tombs and to investigate the social and cultural landscape of Trapeza (**Fig. 43**; see Borgna and De Angeli 2020). In 2020, the team concentrated on the chamber tombs along the southern side of Trapeza (**Figs 44**, **45**). They are located on three terraces and arranged on a north–south axis. They are all parallel, separated by a few metres and each of a similar size: chambers are at most 3.5–4m wide and are equipped with dromoi 6–7m long and 1.5m



45. Trapeza: chamber of Tomb 2. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaea.

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46. Trapeza: vessels from the Mycenaean cemetery. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaea.



47. Trapeza: vessels from Tomb 2. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaea.



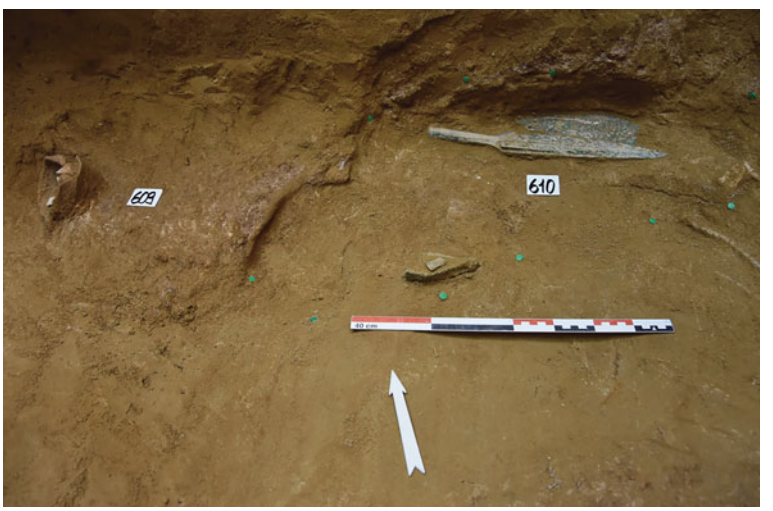
48. Trapeza: askos in the form of a bird. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaea.

wide. The shapes of the chambers vary: circular, rectangular and rounded square. Excavation revealed pits under the chambers, as well as niches in the dromos walls for the redeposition of older burials. Empty pits in the dromos floors are thought to have been for ritual equipment, while side chambers in the dromoi were for child burials.

The cemetery was founded in the Late Helladic IIIA1 period. Its use peaked in the Early Palatial period of the Mycenaean world, prospering at the same time as the great centres of Mycenae, Tiryns and Pylos. After a short break, the tombs were reopened for burial from the Post-Palatial period to the end of the Bronze Age, probably into the Sub-Mycenaean period. The cemetery therefore enjoyed long and intensive use. The chamber roofs finally collapsed sometime between the Geometric and Archaic periods.

Finds from the necropolis are of high quality. A rich assemblage of vessels (**Figs 46**–**48**) demonstrates close associations with palatial prototypes but also links between different regions, from the western Peloponnese to Crete. Other notable finds include seals, beads that once belonged to intricate pieces of jewellery (made of glass, faience, gold, cornelian and rock crystal) and gold pendants in the shape of bulls' heads that point to connections with the east Aegean and Cyprus. Similar examples have been found at Tiryns, Crete and Cyprus (Borgna 2018). High social status was also revealed by the presence of weapons and tools in some tombs (**Fig. 49**).

As in previous years of excavation, investigation of the Post-Palatial use of the cemetery (12th century BC and later) revealed striking ritual practices concerning the treatment of bones of



49. Trapeza: weapons in Tomb 6. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaea.

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earlier interments (Borgna and Vordos 2019; Borgna 2021). According to the excavators, these ancestral remains were revered with offerings, possibly in order to forge genealogical links and so highlighting the importance of past memory within the community. Finds from the fill of the dromoi also provide evidence of certain social practices and rites, including the leaving of offerings in front of sealed chamber doors during visits to the tombs. The necropolis seems to have been a place where important ceremonial traditions were passed on over the course of several centuries.

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The precise location of the Mycenaean settlement of Trapeza is as yet unknown, but it is thought that it was located on a hill about 100m south of Trapeza, at least during the early use of the cemetery. The investigation of a Middle Helladic settlement at this location has revealed some Mycenaean ceramic fragments. Work remains in progress.

In **Mavriki** (**ID8571**), a rescue excavation conducted by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaia has uncovered a pithos burial from the Geometric period containing human remains. Similar discoveries have previously been made in the area. Further archaeological work is required.

During the construction of the city hall in **Arta** (**ID12680**), the Ephorate of Antiquities of Arta, led by Varvara Papadopoulou, made a number of archaeological discoveries from ancient Amvrakia. Papadopoulou also reports the discovery of a Byzantine building and funerary remains on the western side of the Arachthos river (**ID12546**). The evidence suggests that the limits of the ancient town of Amvrakia extend further than previously thought.

Euboea

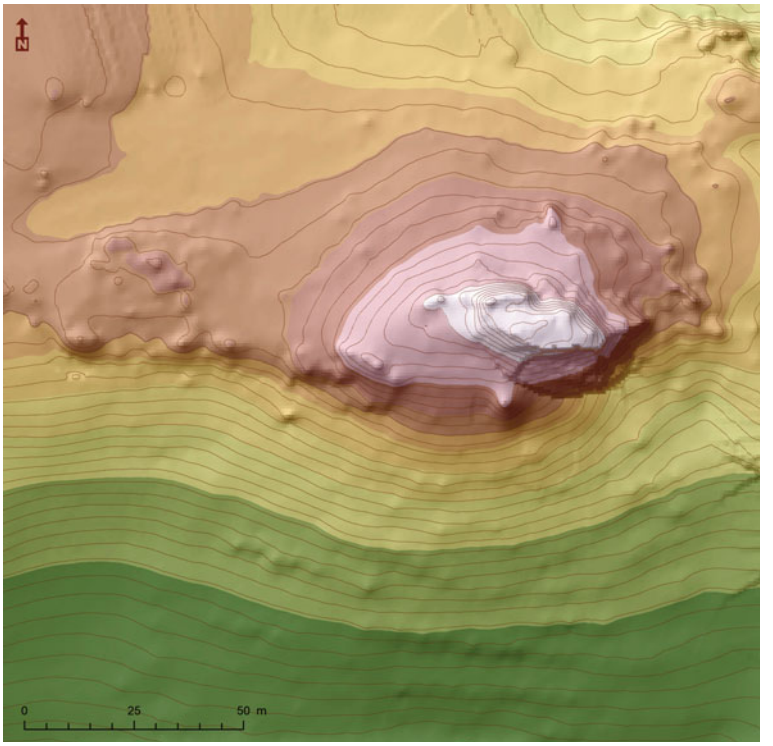
2020 and 2021 saw the third and fourth excavation seasons of the ***Gourimadi Archaeological Project*** (GAP), a collaboration between the NIA and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea, directed by Žarko Tankosić (Bergen/NIA), Fanis Mavridis (EPS) and Paschalis Zafeiriadis (New York University in Athens/NIA) (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3867). The project is investigating the history and function of the earliest-known prehistoric open-air site in southern Eubeoa (early to mid-fifth millennium BC), which is located on a naturally fortified position on the Katsaronio plain (**ID8512**; Tankosić *et al*. 2021) (**Figs 50**, **51**).

In 2020, the team expanded the excavation site, opening two new trenches (creating a total of four) to understand better the nature of the architecture of the Final Neolithic settlement (Tankosić 2020). Finds include: a rich assemblage of pottery from trenches

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50. Gourimadi: aerial view. © Gourimadi Archaeological Project.



51. Gourimadi: topographic map. © Gourimadi Archaeological Project/Denitsa Nenova.

1 and 3, mostly local and mainly from the fifth and fourth millennia BC; polished stone tools and lamps; and more than 200 arrowheads and thousands of other pieces of obsidian. This is one of the largest concentrations of obsidian arrowheads in the Aegean and provides some indication of the use of the site as a hunting site or an obsidian workshop.

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In 2021, architectural remains came to light in the settlement to the west, including, in particular, three shallow circular holes in a row, possibly for stakes to support a roof (**Fig. 52**). These will be investigated further in 2022. As in previous years, a number of obsidian finds, including tools, blades and arrowheads, have been found, providing some information about trade between the settlement and the Aegean islands, especially Melos, as the main source of obsidian in the Aegean (Tankosić *et al.* 2021). Also found were painted pottery from the Late Neolithic and quern stones for grinding wheat (**Fig. 53**).



52. Gourimadi: shallow circular holes. © Gourimadi Archaeological Project.

Impressive results have come to light following excavations at the sanctuary of Artemis at **Amarynthos** (**Fig. 54**). The Swiss-Greek excavations have been underway for the past 15 years (**ID12997**, **ID12998**, **ID6790**, **ID6176**; Reber *et al*. 2019; Verdan *et al*. 2021) and continued under the direction of Karl Reber (ESAG) and Amalia Karapaschalidou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea), supervised by Angeliki Simosi and Olga Kyriazi (also of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea) from July to August 2020 (https://www.esag.swiss/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ESAG-Public-Report-2020-gr-eng.pdf). Simosi and Sylvian Fachard (ESAG) continued the excavations in summer 2021 (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3910). Travel restrictions limited the teams to local workmen and students from Greek universities, rather than the usual cohort of students from Swiss universities.



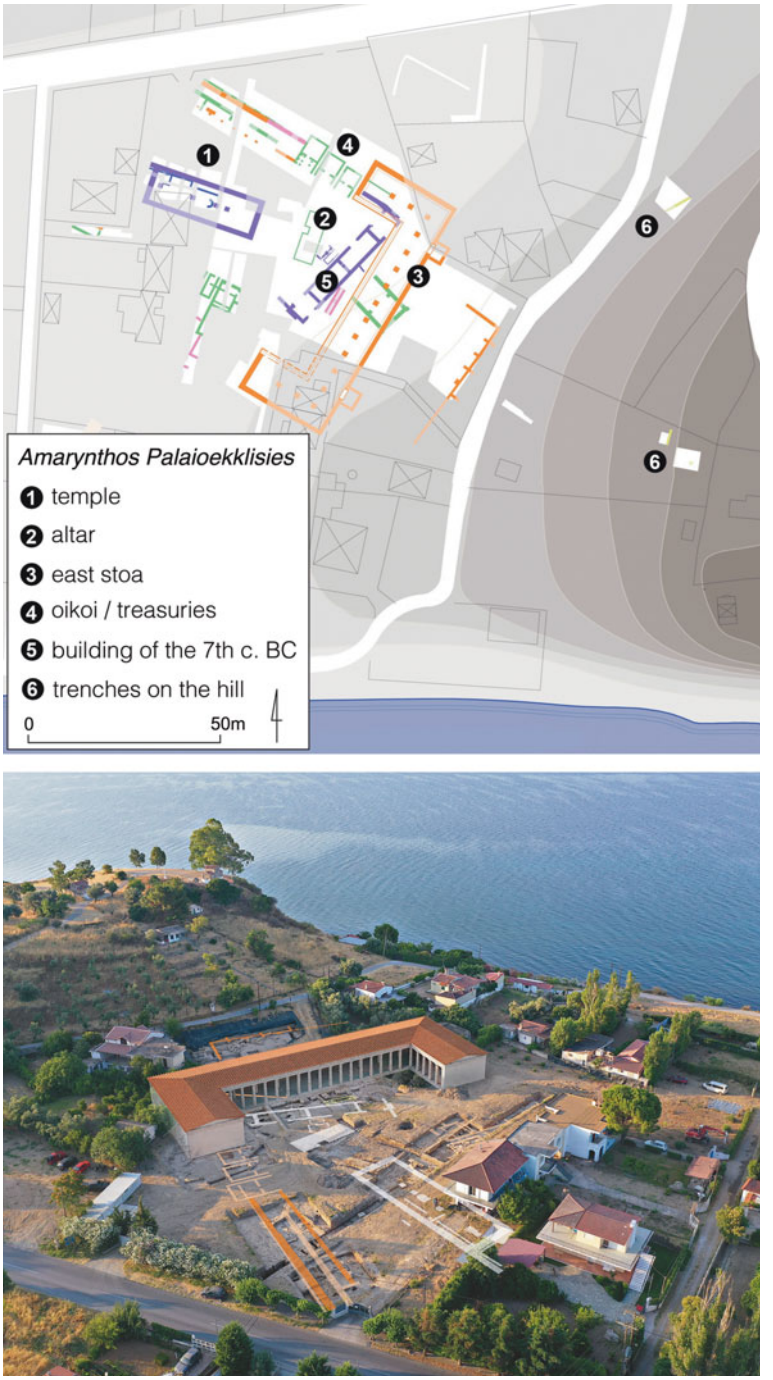
53. Gourimadi: quern stone. © Gourimadi Archaeological Project.

Excavation of the winged stoa to the east (no. 3 on **Fig. 55**), the largest structure within the sanctuary at 70m long, was completed in 2020. Pottery fragments confirm its construction in the second half of the fourth century BC. Three small oikos-shaped buildings (no. 4 on **Fig. 55**, nos 7, 12, 13 on **Fig. 56**), of which the precise chronology is unknown, were also discovered



54. Amarynthos: aerial view of the extensive excavations of the sanctuary of Artemis. © ESAG.

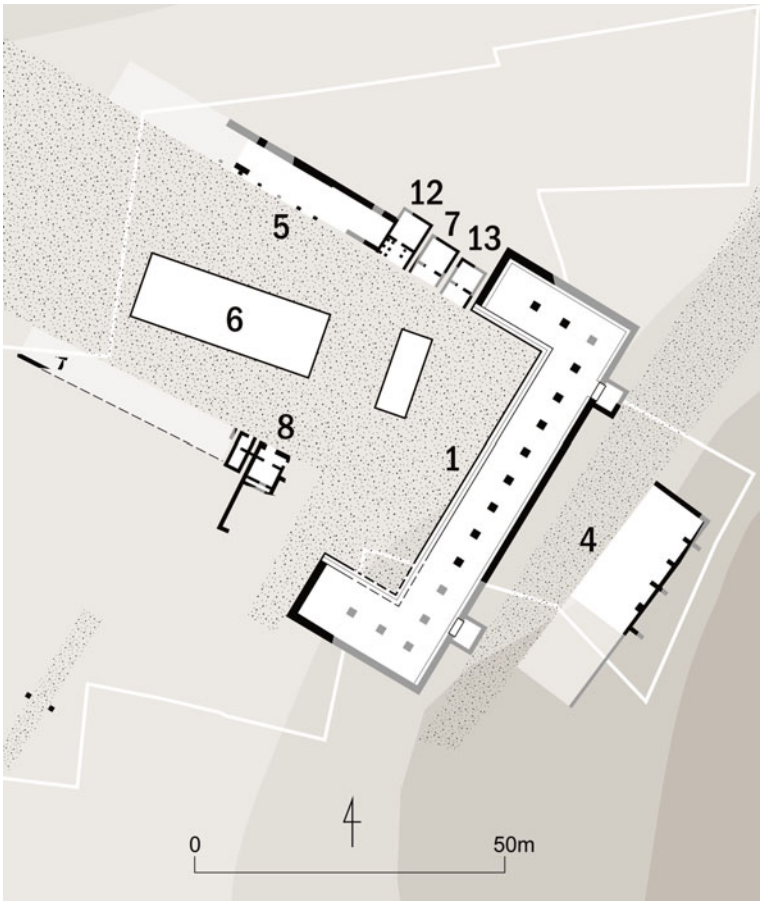
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55. Amarynthos: plan and reconstruction of the sanctuary. © O. Bruderer/ESAG.

between the east and north stoas, defining the northern limit of the sanctuary. They have similar dimensions, each consisting of a room with a vestibule. Particularly noteworthy are the eight bases that were uncovered in Oikos 12, possibly for the presentation of offerings. The sanctuary was extended to the east in the Hellenistic period, and the full extent of this area, bordered by a retaining wall against the hill (behind east stoa 3), was revealed.

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56. Amarynthos: aerial view of Oikoi 7, 12 and 13. © ESAG.

The team also completed excavation of the monumental seventh-century building (no. 5 on **Fig. 55**) first excavated in 2012. It is 38m in length, has large entrances at each end providing access to the sanctuary and two rooms of unknown function, which open out onto the sacred space. The building went through several repairs in the Archaic period, but its unique floor plan corresponds in some ways to the winged stoa (3) built on the same site some three centuries later, demonstrating that the spatial configuration remained more or less unchanged for a remarkably long period. A shallow tile basin discovered in front of the western façade indicates water-related activities in the area.

The excavations also clarified the date, size and religious function of the Late Archaic building (no. 1 on **Fig. 55**). It is thought that the building had an inner colonnade, probably in its second construction phase. The team investigated the area under the foundation of the north wall, which is made of large conglomerate blocks, and revealed a mud-brick and stone wall. The superpositioning of the two walls suggests two separate construction phases. The earlier building (*ca*. 650 BC) seems to have been destroyed at the end of the sixth century, with a second more monumental building constructed around 500 BC.

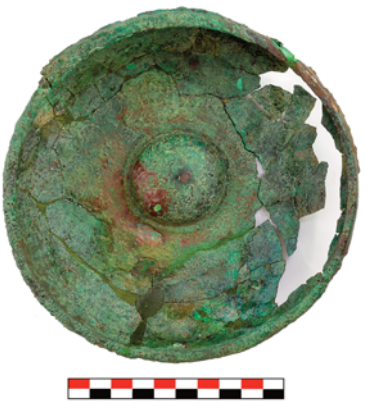
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57. Amarynthos: Late Archaic votive assemblage from the temple of Artemis. © ESAG.



58. Amarynthos: black-figure vase. © ESAG.



59. Amarynthos: bronze phiale. © ESAG.

Near the wall, on the interior side of the building, a rich deposit of votives (**Fig. 57**) containing Attic black-figure pottery (**Fig. 58**), miniature hydriae, bronze vessels (**Fig. 59**), scarab seals, jewellery and other small finds was found. A rare find was a well-preserved terracotta figurine (**Fig. 60**). More votive offerings from the Archaic period, totalling over 600, were revealed in 2021, including a bronze shield and an iron helmet. Most vessels are well preserved and date to the end of the sixth century. The deposit, possibly the result of a single depositional event made before the reconstruction of the Late Archaic building, reveals the variety of objects that would have been dedicated to Artemis during the Archaic period.

The 2020 excavation also revealed a circular or semicircular hearth in the centre of the building, associated with the first building phase. Traces of burning and ash were taken for testing. The large size of the Archaic building (30.5m × 10.8m), its central location and relationship with a Hellenistic altar, as well as the discoveries of the Archaic deposit and hearth have led excavators to identify this building as the long-sought-after temple of Artemis. At the northern end of the temenos, tiles, a very well-preserved terracotta gutter with a lion's head (**Fig. 61**) and an Archaic or Classical wall were also brought to light.

Though evidence has shown that the site was inhabited from Mycenaean times and flourished in the Hellenistic period, with the sanctuary destroyed in the first century BC, it is not yet known to what extent the cult had roots dating back to the Mycenaean period, in what way the sanctuary was connected to the Mycenaean settlement or when the first strictly defined sacred space came into existence. These are questions that will

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guide the research over the next few years. In 2021, for example, excavation began on the outskirts of the adjacent hill, Paleoekklisies, to understand the shift of activity from the hill to the plain below.

Though the planned excavation of a *drakospito* (dragon house) at **Ilkizes** (**Fig. 62**) was postponed to 2021, in 2020 a team (from ESAG and Lausanne) cleaned and surveyed the site using photogrammetry (https://www.esag.swiss/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ESAG-Public-Report-2020-gr-eng.pdf). Researchers have deliberated over the function of these megalithic buildings located in the mountains of south Euboea as potential cult sites, defensive structures, quarry houses or sheepfolds. It is hoped that further work will elucidate their origin, date and use.

Attica

Fieldwork continued from September to October 2020 on Salamis for a fifth year as a collaborative project between the EUA and the Institute of Marine Archaeology exploring the Classical city (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3731; ID11493). Due to uncertainties caused by the



60. Amarynthos: terracotta female figurine. © ESAG.



61. Amarynthos: terracotta drain with lion's head. © ESAG.



62. Ilkizes: the drakospito. *© ESAG.*

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63. Salamis: the area investigated in 2020. © Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/Institute of Marine Archaeological Research/E. Kroustalis.



64. Salamis: view of the wall from the north. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/Institute of Marine Archaeological Research/C. Marabea.



65. Salamis: west face of the wall. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/Institute of Marine Archaeological Research/C. Marabea.



66. Salamis: pithos rim inscribed NAN. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/Institute of Marine Archaeological Research/C. Marabea.

pandemic, the investigation, led by Angeliki Simosi (Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea) and Yannos G. Lolos (Ioannina), was limited to a small area on the north side of Ambelakia Bay (**Fig. 63**). Through a combination of land and marine archaeology, large sections of the sea walls of the Classical city were revealed running alongside the ancient harbour.

Thanks to the discovery of a significant north–south stretch of sea wall (**Figs 64**, **65**) to the north of the pier, as well as other survey data from the Ambelaki-Pounta region, almost the entire course of the fortification of the ancient city can now be reconstructed. The excavated section of the wall measures 16m long and 2–2.2m wide in its first construction phase; it was reinforced to 3m wide in the second construction phase, possibly to deal with sieges or other threats. Both phases are Classical, the first dated to the early fourth century BC or earlier based on Attic ware found in the foundation of the inner western front. In general, the wall is built of ashlars and other large, worked stones on the eastern and western fronts, with a fill of gravel and small and medium unworked stones in between. The excavators have concluded that the remains of the western side of the wall were used for the construction of the existing pier, which largely protrudes above the surface of the sea.

A large volume of fragmentary pottery, from Classical to modern, was also unearthed. Of particular note are a large number of undecorated and black-painted sherds, the lower half of an Attic krater, stamped amphora handles, a pithos rim inscribed NAN (**Fig. 66**) and a fragment of a perirrhanterion, all from the fifth and fourth centuries. Also recovered were other clay objects, a marble architectural fragment belonging to a base or altar and a bronze coin. The current three-year project is scheduled to come to an end in 2022.

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67. Paiania: funerary monument preserved in two pieces. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica.

In Athens, the past year has seen a reasonable number of discoveries and developments. Of note is the rescue excavation on **Palaiopanagias Street, Paiania**, which revealed a marble tombstone (**Fig. 67**) during the construction of a new town hall (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3639). The monument in high relief dates to the fourth century BC, sometime before 317 BC, when Demetrius of Phaleron's sumptuary laws outlawed such funerary monuments. It was found in two pieces and depicts two life-size female figures: a seated woman on the right, wearing a chiton and himation, and a standing woman, identified as a maid, facing her to the left (**ID9429**). It would once have stood in the ancient cemetery of Paiania, southwest of Katsoulerthi Hill. Comparable reliefs include the stele of Hegeso (*ca*. 400 BC) and of Mnesarete (*ca*. 380 BC).

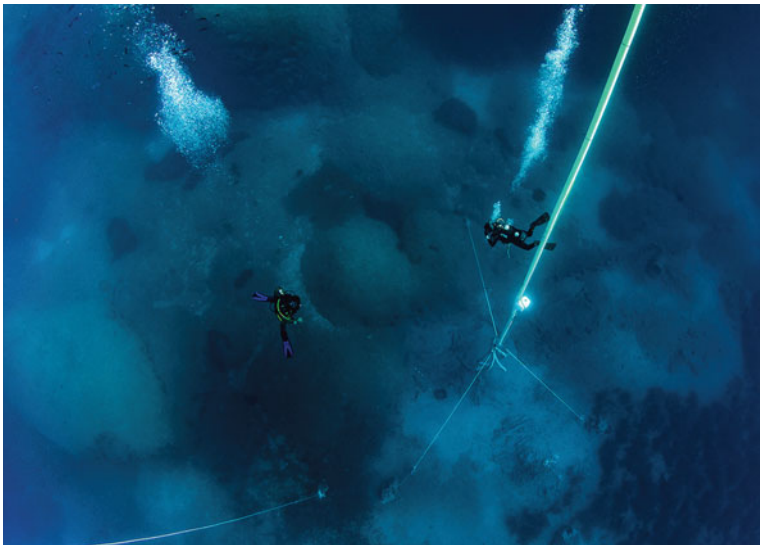
Elsewhere in Athens, the head of a herm (**Fig. 68**), probably dating to the end of the fourth or the beginning of the third century BC, was found by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Athens in the city centre, at **25 Aiolou Street** (**ID8712**), during sewer construction work (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3570). The head would once have sat atop a column but was found within one of the walls of the modern sewer at a depth of only 1.3m. Its style is typical of the Hermes Propylaeus of Alcamenes.



68. Athens: head of a herm. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Athens City.

In September 2020, excavations of the **Mentor shipwreck, Kythera** (**ID9615**), continued under the direction of Dimitris Kourkoumelis (EUA). The team investigated the western end of the hull (**Fig. 69**), continuing work begun in 2019 (**ID7315**), where parts of the hull had been found. These were fragmented and scattered, suggesting intense destruction of the ship as it collided with rocks in 1802. Some parts were lodged under rocks, suggesting strong currents at seabed level. Wooden rollers, bollards and pulleys of different sizes – single and double – some with

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69. Kythera: excavation area. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/Y. Issaris.



70. Kythera: wooden pulley with part of its rope preserved. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/P. Vezyrtzis.



71. Kythera: leather from a shoe. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/P. Vezyrtzis.



72. Kythera: coin or counter from a game. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/P. Vezyrtzis.



73. Kythera: chess piece. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/P. Vezyrtzis.

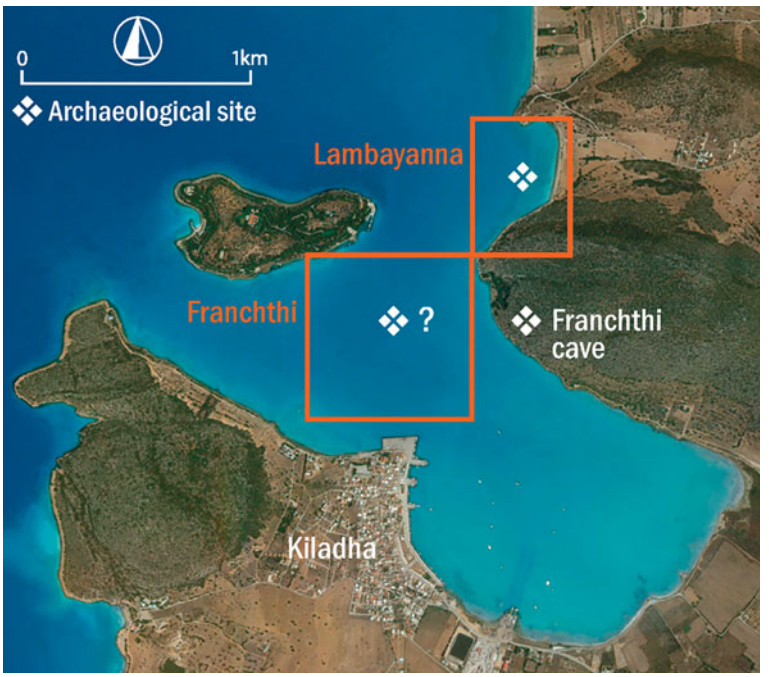
surviving pieces of rope (**Fig. 70**), were also found. Thirty five of these have been brought to the surface so far, though it is estimated that a large ship like the Mentor might have originally had about 120 pulleys in total. The locations of one of the ship's two masts and its stern are thought to be within this excavation area. The 2020 investigation also revealed a number of smaller finds: leather from a shoe (**Fig. 71**), belt buckles, a coin or counter from a game (**Fig. 72**), two chess pieces (**Fig. 73**) and fragments from cooking vessels (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3646).

Peloponnese

Survey and geoarchaeological investigation were carried out in the **Megalopolis basin** (**ID13474**) as part of a five-year research cycle (2018–2022) in 2020, with impressive Palaeolithic data coming to light (for previous work see **ID8117**; for further detail, see Tourloukis, this volume).

Julien Beck (Geneva) and Andreas Sotiriou (EUA) report on the underwater project in the bay of **Kiladha** (**Fig. 74**; **ID13074**; https://www.esag.swiss/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ESAG-Public-Report-2020-gr-eng.pdf). In 2020, survey work continued in the area of the Early Bronze Age settlement at Lambayanna to verify measurements taken in previous years and to complete topographical mapping over *ca*. 1.2ha. Pottery fragments and stone tools from the area were also studied to understand better the chronology of the settlement, the activities that took place there and the relationship of the site with other contemporary regional centres. New finds provide strong evidence for habitation in the area earlier than the Early Bronze Age.

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74. Bay of Kiladha: map. © ESAG.



75. Olympia: steps. © R. Senff/DAI.

Reinhard Senff (DAI) reports that thirty one steps came to light during the removal of alluvial soil in the area of the south hall at ancient **Olympia** (**Fig. 75**; **ID13175**). Also at Olympia, at the temple of Zeus (**ID10903**), the Ephorate of Antiquities of Elis made a chance discovery of a bronze bull figurine (**Fig. 76**) during routine inspection of the site. The bull dates to the Geometric period, when many dedications of this kind were offered at the sanctuary. Evidence of burning from a soil sample taken from the find-spot suggests the figurine was offered to Zeus as part of a sacrifice (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3703).



76. Olympia: bronze bull. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Elis.

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The current known area of the bath complex is an impressive 875m²

In October 2020, systematic excavations continued in ancient **Tenea** (**ID8591**) at the extensive bath complex (**Fig. 77**; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3551). Elena Korka (Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports) reports new evidence that suggests continual use of the area from the sixth century BC to the sixth century AD. To the west, the team uncovered areas used for supplying water to the baths. To the south, excavation of an area identified as the changing rooms (62m²) was completed. The entire floor of the area is covered with clay slabs and there are benches around the perimeter of the room. To the east of the changing rooms, two new rooms, identified with the tepidarium, were discovered: a pool measuring 20m² and a room with bath-like structures. Further east of the tepidarium, part of an apsidal structure and an extensive clay floor were uncovered. The frigidarium has not yet been located. The current known area of the bath complex is an impressive 875m².



77. Tenea: bath complex. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports/E. Korka.

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The northern part of the baths seems to have been founded on an Archaic wall associated with the well investigated in 2019. An Archaic deposit in this area north of the well yielded pottery, a bronze ring, bone and an animal figurine. Another pool measuring 8.5m^2 was found to the north and retaining walls built with Archaic spolia (**Fig. 78**) to the northwest. A remarkable number of Archaic architectural elements have been identified, such as triglyphs, architraves and columns, providing evidence for the presence of large public buildings in the Archaic period in the same area. Two inscriptions were found in secondary use, one dating to the fifth century BC, found with a silver obol from Argos, the other a fourth-century BC statue base inscribed ΠΕΙΣΑΝΔΡΙΔΑΣ (**Fig. 79**). According to archaeologists, this is the first piece of archaeological evidence connecting Tenea with Tenedos; in literary sources, Pindar identifies Peisandros as the ancestor of the hegemonic family of Tenedos (*Nemean* 11).



78. Tenea: architectural pieces in secondary use. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports/E. Korka.



79. Tenea: fourth-century statue base with inscription. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports/E. Korka.

During the same campaign, an area connected to the baths by a cobbled road to the east was identified as a place of commercial activity. Foundations of a large building (282m^2) were found here as well as objects of a commercial nature: bronze scales, millstones, glass and ceramic vessels, bronze and iron tools, as well as jewellery (including a gold ring), a spear, inscriptions and more than 300 coins, including 72 bronze coins of the fifth century AD and 29 gold coins from AD 450–565 of the emperors Marcian, Justin I and Justinian (**Fig. 80**). An iron-processing workshop was also found south of the baths. The space between the baths and the area of commercial activity, where remains of walls have been found, requires further investigation.



80. Tenea: hoard of coins. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports/E. Korka.

Eight graves dating from the fourth to the second century BC were found on privately owned land in **Paliambela/Droubes near Avgeion** during rescue excavations by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Elis in 2020 (**Fig. 81**; **ID8839**;



81. Paliambela/Droubes near Avgeion: view of tombs 1, 2, 3 and 5. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Elis.

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82. Paliambela/Droubes near Avgeion: bronze hydria from Pithos Grave 1. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Elis.



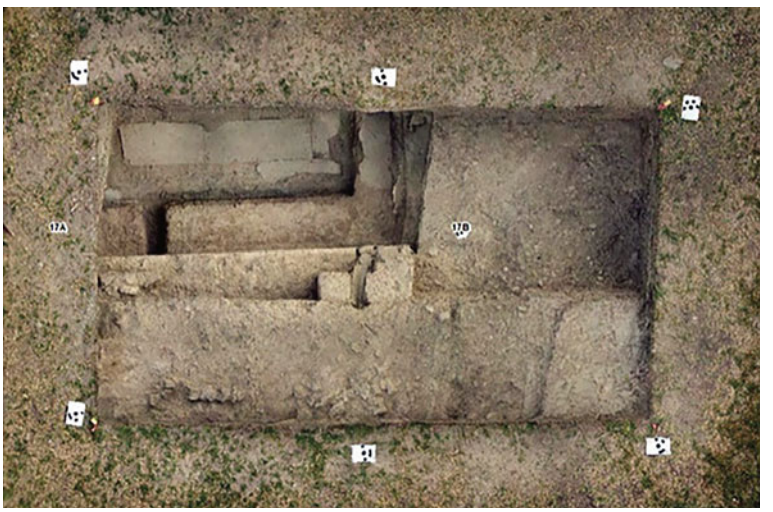
83. Paliambela/Droubes near Avgeion: marble stele. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Elis.

https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3586). Of these, three are pithos burials, four are cist graves and one is a tile grave. They all belong to the west necropolis of Elis, where more than 200 graves have been found. Particularly significant finds come from Pithos Grave 1, including a bronze hydria (**Fig. 82**) decorated with floral motifs and lion heads and a bronze mirror. These finds have been dated to the end of the fourth or the beginning of the third century BC. Another impressive find from another grave is a marble stele with a pediment (**Fig. 83**). A large number of Hellenistic vessels have also been found.

Elsewhere in the Peloponnese, fieldwork continued in the northeast of the theatre area of **ancient Corinth** (**ID13473**), under the auspices of the ASCSA. Christopher Pfaff reports on the work carried out in 2020, which was limited to one 4m × 7m test trench in grid squares 17A and 17B (**Fig. 84**). The aim was to obtain a clearer idea of the nature of this area as well as the road that approaches the theatre from the east revealed by earlier excavations (**ID8118**; Pfaff 2020).

Finds from the test trench revealed three main chronological phases: Late Byzantine, Late Antique and Middle Roman. Part of a north–south road was revealed and identified as the continuation of the northern section of a road found in 2019. The latest pottery within the excavated road layers dates to the 12th century and includes Byzantine sgraffito, green- and brown-painted ware and 'measles' ware.

The southeastern corner of a rectangular room also came to light to the west of the road, probably dating to the same period as the road. Here, too, the latest finds in the robbing trench of the east wall of the room date to the 12th century. Though a floor was not uncovered within this room, a possible floor represented by compact earth was found south of the south wall.



84. Corinth: trench in the area northeast of the theatre. © ASCSA.

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A Roman room (**Fig. 85**) was identified below the Byzantine room, the south wall of which had in fact been built on the remains of a substantial Roman wall. At the east end of this wall is another Roman wall, oriented north–south. A bench (*ca*. 0.37m high and 0.58m wide) was revealed along the exposed faces of both walls. It preserves traces of thin white marble on its face, indicating that it was originally covered in revetment. White marble slabs also cover the floor. The room's initial construction date remains to be established, but finds from the fill over the floor, such as an African red-slip bowl with stamped decoration (**Fig. 86**), suggest it was destroyed in the seventh century. As for its function, a working hypothesis is that it is part of an extension to the Roman bath complex, which is located some 30m northwest.



85. Corinth: southeastern corner of Roman room with bench. © ASCSA.



86. Corinth: African red-slip bowl. © ASCSA.

North Aegean

It was reported in 2020 that three buildings – one apsidal of the seventh century BC and two rectangular of the eighth and tenth centuries BC – were brought to light during excavations of the medieval castle of Agios Theodoros, which sits on the peninsula of ancient Antissa in western **Lesbos** (**Fig. 87**; https://www.archaiologia.gr/blog/2020/11/27/σημαντικά-ευρήματα-στην-αρχαία-άντισ/). Work was carried out under the direction of Pavlos Triantaphyllides (Ephorate of Antiquities of Lesbos). This new evidence confirms uninterrupted habitation of the site from the Late Bronze Age to the Archaic period, as first suggested by Winifred Lamb in 1931/1932.

During annual maintenance of the area, *ca*. 6ha, a number of stone piles were discovered, and these are thought to be associated with the destruction of the site by the Ottomans in 1462. Test excavations were carried out in the area of the sea wall, which stretches along the length of the Medieval moat, on the wall with five towers and at Ano Kastro. Research on the second and third



87. Lesbos: fortification of Antissa. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Lesbos.

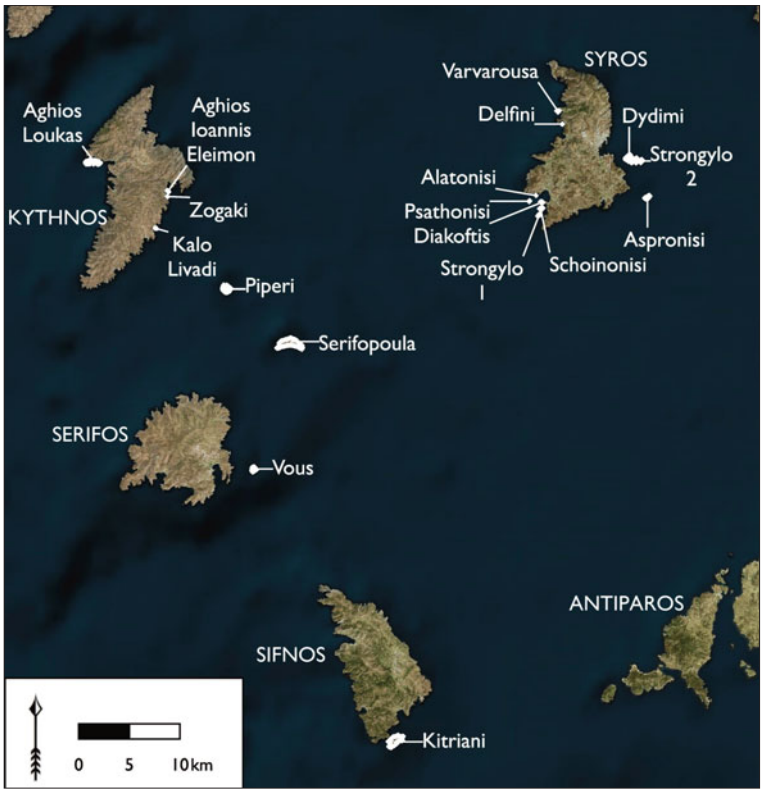
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towers confirmed the construction of the wall in the 13th–14th century AD. Excavation of the third tower also revealed a monumental gate, built with some architectural elements in secondary use. Ceramic, metal and glass objects, as well as coins confirm its repair in the 14th century, its abandonment by force and possible destruction through a siege of the castle by the Ottomans. In Ano Kastro, a domed tower for the storage of grain in jars was revealed, and east of this, preserved to a height of around 2m, rectangular rooms possibly for pithoi storage, dated to the 14th century from coins. Excavations of the older buildings are ongoing.

Ceramic, metal and glass objects, as well as coins confirm its repair in the 14th century, its abandonment by force and possible destruction through a siege of the castle by the Ottomans

South Aegean

The ***Small Cycladic Islands Project*** (SCIP), a diachronic survey of some of the smallest Aegean islands that began in 2019 as a Norwegian-American synergasia, continued in 2020 and 2021 (**Fig. 88**; https://smallcycladicislandsproject.org/the-project/). Though often uninhabited, small islands sometimes served as cemeteries, sanctuaries and maritime strongholds. In 2020, a comprehensive survey, including surface investigation photogrammetry and aerial photography, of 21 islets in the vicinity of Paros and Antiparos was continued (Knodell *et al*. 2020; Athanasoulis *et al*. 2021; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_01oK5X_-A). A wealth of new information came to light. Investigation of the islets inside the bay of Naoussa, Paros, was completed. Surface pottery from Oikonomou, which is sometimes connected to Paros



88. SCIP: target islands (2019–2020). © SCIP; map by A. Knodell.

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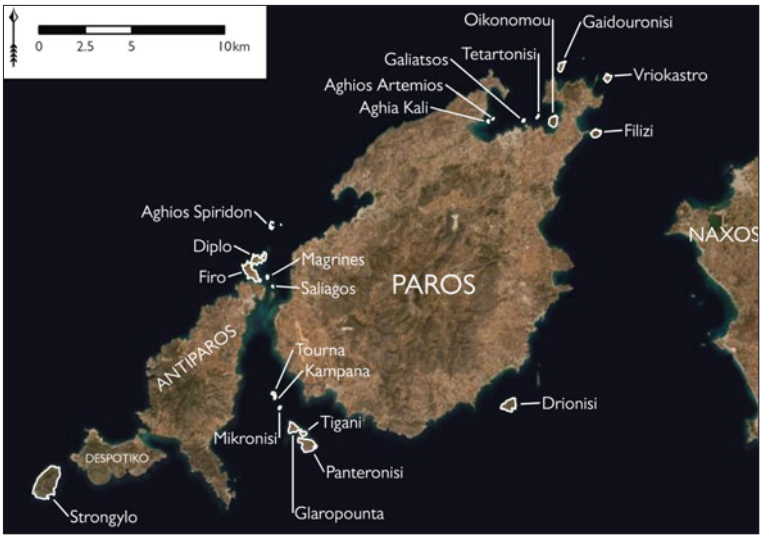
by a sandbar depending on the tide, was dated mainly to the Archaic and Classical periods, the same time frame as the architectural remains. Roman and Byzantine material was also prevalent. Late Roman settlements are known in the area thanks to the Late Roman kilns found by the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades at Zoodochos Pigi on Paros, just opposite Oikonomou. The apsidal building on the island is now believed to be an Early Christian church built from spolia.

The islets of Firo and Diplo (**Fig. 89**), once attached to Antiparos and Paros, produced a large amount of material from a variety of periods; Firo, in fact, has produced the largest concentration of ceramic and lithic material of the islands investigated to date. Early Bronze Age pottery and lithics attest to prehistoric activity here, but the finds demonstrate that the main period of occupation was the Archaic to Hellenistic period. Archaic to Classical architectural remains were found in the northern part of the island, while in the southern part Hellenistic and Roman remains came to light, which, along with the pottery, point to a Hellenistic to Roman settlement.

Periods of occupation are not consistent across the small Cycladic islands and patterns correlate rather with available resources

Strongylo produced a large amount of Early Bronze Age pottery and lithics, with the northeastern part of the island being the main area of activity throughout its history until the post-Byzantine period. Preliminary conclusions have been drawn: primarily that periods of occupation are not consistent across the small Cycladic islands and patterns of use correlate rather with available resources.

In 2021, the team focused on the area around Kythnos and Serifos. The more remote islets of Serifopoula and Piperi (**Fig. 90**) produced several finds, demonstrating their importance as naviga-



89. SCIP: map of 2019–2020 survey area, including Firo, Diplo and Strongylo. © SCIP; map by A. Knodell.

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90. SCIP: Piperi with Serifopoula, Sifnos, Vous and Serifos in the background. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/SCIP/ E. Levine and H. Öztürk.



91. Vryokastraki: aerial view of the excavation. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/University of Thessaly, Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology/K. Xenikakis.

tional points within the Aegean. Surveys of Kitriani/Kypriani, Didimi, Strongylo and Aspro, as well as many small islets on the western side of Syros, were also carried out.

In 2020, a small team of archaeologists made important discoveries at **Vryokastraki**, another rocky islet near Kythnos (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3561). The work, a collaboration between the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades and the University of Thessaly, led by Alexandros Mazarakis-Ainian and Dimitris Athanasoulis, investigated three areas that have been the focus of work since 2018 (**Fig. 91**; **ID8158**, **ID8515**): the Geometric to Classical sanctuary, the Late Antique building complex 2 and the three-aisled Early Byzantine basilica.

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92. Vryokastraki: the Geometric to Classical sanctuary. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/ University of Thessaly, Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology/ K. Xenikakis.

In the sanctuary area (**Fig. 92**), excavation (of the undisturbed layers) revealed Geometric and Archaic vessels, primarily small, closed shapes (hydriae, oinochae and jugs) and miniatures, clay figurines (primarily female figures) and a few bronze votive objects, such as fibulae and jewellery (**Fig. 93**). According to archaeologists, the finds point to a female deity and provide evidence for the construction of the monumental retaining wall in the Classical period.

The full extent of building complex 2 was revealed. It consists of a fortification-like wall, 76m in length and 1.2–1.5m wide, which obstructs the only access on this side of the islet to the ancient port. There are 15 rectangular rooms in a row on the interior side, each with an entrance from the centre of the islet. Further research is required to clarify the chronology of the building complex, but initial analysis suggests that the first phase dates back to at least the Archaic period. In Room H, an entrance was uncovered, immediately next to which is a small room with a pithos sunk into the ground and an area for food preparation (**Fig. 94**). Nearby, and inside the walled area, was a cistern similar to those found on Vryokastro.

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93. Vryokastraki: ceramic finds from the Geometric and Archaic periods. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/University of Thessaly, Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology.

94. Vryokastraki: Room H. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/University of Thessaly, Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology.





95. Vryokastraki: inscription from Room B. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/University of Thessaly, Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology.

The northernmost room of the complex, Room B, is thought to have had a fortification function due to its robust construction. A particularly exceptional find from this space is an honorary inscription concerning Kleineto from Aetolia (**Fig. 95**). The inscription confirms an earlier hypothesis that the pirate Glauketes, who captured Kythnos at the end of the fourth century BC and is also mentioned in earlier inscriptions from Athens (*IG* II^2 682, 549), had the support of the Macedonians and was eventually

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96. Vryokastraki: three-aisled basilica and marble column on external northeastern side. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/ University of Thessaly, Department of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology/K. Xenikakis.

forced out of power by the Athenians. This and other inscriptions from the complex provide important information about the history of the island. In Room ΙΓ, a further two inscriptions were found in secondary use: one is a resolution detailing building regulations and a list of fines; the other is an honorary inscription for a resident whose name, unfortunately, is not preserved. Also in secondary use was part of a marble statue leg on the wall of adjoining Room Γ. A pair of marble shins was also found in Room ΙΓ. In Room D, a marble statue base was located, with preserved cavities in a circular pattern likely for affixing two wreaths.

Finally, excavation in the area where the north aisle meets the arch of the three-aisled basilica revealed part of a marble ionic column (**Fig. 96**). On the southern side, a narrow passage parallel to the south wall and a small horseshoe-shaped area to the west were revealed. Further west, walls came to light outside the southwest corner of the narthex. Marble elements were used as spolia in the building.

Excavation and restoration work also took place this year at the Sanctuary of Apollo on **Despotiko** under the direction of Yannos Kourayos (Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades), Ilia Daifa (Thessaly) and Alexandra Alexandridou (Ioannina) (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3915). The team focused on the area south of the temenos where a cistern had been located in 2020 and discovered an extensive system for water collection and treatment (**Fig. 97**).

The team focused on the area south of the temenos where a cistern had been located in 2020 and discovered an extensive system for water collection and treatment

The internal dimensions of the main tank are 7.5m × 5.5m, with a depth of 3.8m. It is thought to have been used primarily in the Archaic and Classical periods. However, Late Antique and Byzantine renovations also survive. One metre south of this cistern, the team uncovered a rectangular structure (6m × 4m)

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97. Despotiko: excavation area with reservoir system to the right. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

98. Despotiko: northern filtration tank with triangular openings. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.





99. Despotiko: north–south pipeline from its southern end. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

consisting of two small filtration tanks. These are separated by a wall with five triangular holes, through which water would have been channelled (**Fig. 98**). A 25m-long north–south channel (**Fig. 99**) connects the southern filtration tank to another circular tank (diameter 11m), on the southern side of which a structure, possibly for channelling water from an ancient spring, was also identified (**Fig. 100**). Besides some fragments of unpainted pottery, there were limited finds, making it difficult to establish a firm chronology. Similar reservoir systems are rare in the Archaic period in Greece, but the nature of the construction of the large cistern and water channel bears resemblances to the Archaic structures of the sanctuary of Apollo. The site, moreover, flourished in the Archaic period, which would have necessitated a high volume of water (for worshippers, crops and ships) at this time.

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100. Despotiko: aerial view of the excavation area of and around the reservoir system. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

Work also continued on a paved open space within the Eastern Complex. Another paved area was discovered to the south, where pieces of inscribed sixth-century pottery, including skyphoi and lekanes, were retrieved. A 14m-long wall, built using Archaic architectural elements such as the base of a marble votive column, was discovered in the eastern part of the site. Restoration work on the Archaic temple and ritual dining area was successfully completed this year (**Fig. 101**).

The Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades returned to the island of **Rineia**, 120 years after the first excavations there, to complete documentation from previous work and carry out new research (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3535). The new five-year programme of study on Rineia



101. Despotiko: restoration work on the Archaic temple. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

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102. Rineia: Hellenistic necropolis of Delos; pyramidal Homasovouni Hill; ancient farmhouse on left. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.



103. Rineia: small stele. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.



104. Rineia: part of a wing of a statue of a bird from Homasovouni. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

began in 2019 (**ID8595**) and continued in 2020 under the direction of Dimitris Athanasoulis, Zozi Papadopoulou and Maria Sigala (all from the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades). The hope is to identify and document the archaeological sites through surface survey, to carry out geological analysis and to excavate the southern part of the site. Rineia enjoyed strong ties with neighbouring Delos, with the southern part of the island serving as the necropolis of Delos (**Fig. 102**). Long periods as an uninhabited island, as well as information from Delian inscriptions about the history of Rineia, make it an attractive place for study.

In the necropolis area, the team cleared the section where the sizeable Lion of Rineia can be found in order to document visible burial structures and the numerous marble architectural parts of altars and sarcophagi. All finds were documented using photogrammetry, while smaller finds, such as relief stelae (**Fig. 103**), were transported to the museum for security reasons. In the same area, the remains of ancient farmhouses belonging to the sanctuary of the Delian Apollo and a previously unknown ancient road were identified and documented.

Excavation also began on Homasovouni Hill, an important area on the edge of the necropolis with impressive marble remains. Intensive surface survey was carried out across the hill, and near the top, a large foundation – probably an altar – was identified. Fragments of large bird statues (**Fig. 104**) and other remarkable sculptures were collected and taken to Delos. According to accounts of the priests of Delos, the Artemision was located uphill, but it has not yet been identified firmly.

Byzantine, post-Byzantine and modern buildings, such as farmhouses, chapels and a possible quarantine site (**Fig. 105**), were also identified. From the middle of the 19th century, ships would bring those suffering from cholera or the plague to the

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105. Rineia: ruins of possible quarantine site. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

beach, aptly named 'Quarantine' or Lazareto for a mandatory stay. Cavafy, himself, stayed there for two days in 1901 during his first trip to Greece. Excavations have so far revealed the continued importance of the island and its use throughout history.

Off **Kasos** (**ID9435**), four shipwrecks have been found, dating to the Classical, Hellenistic, Roman and modern periods, as part of the *Kasos Maritime Archaeological Project*, run by the NHRF and the EUA that began in 2019 (**ID8161**; https://kasosproject.com; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3633). The work, carried out under the direction of Georgios Koutsouflakis and Xanthie Argiris in September to October 2020, has recovered a number of amphorae (**Fig. 106**). Particularly remarkable results emerged from the Roman wreck, which carried oil amphorae of the 'Dressel 20' variety produced in the area of the Guadalquivir in Spain (first to third century AD), as well as 'Africana I' amphorae from Tunisian workshops (second to third century AD). Another ship carried Hellenistic amphorae from the north Aegean (first century BC) and a Classical amphora from ancient Mende in Chalkidiki (fifth century BC). As an important cultural and navigational crossroad, it is hoped that the study of Kasos' underwater archaeology will provide a better understanding of trading activity in the area as well as the continuity of its maritime history.



106. Kasos: a large amphora being brought to the surface. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA.

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107. Zominthos: aerial view. © ASA.

Crete

Excavations continued at the large, multilevel building complex at **Zominthos** (**ID8579**, **ID8566**, **ID6897**, **ID6537**, **ID6536**) under the direction of Efi Sapouna Sakellaraki (ASA) (**Fig. 107**; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3523; for previous work on palatial Crete, see Christakis 2020). Recently recovered evidence has revealed that the building was up to three storeys high and had a use phase earlier than previously thought, dating back to 2000 BC.

In 2020, the aim was to verify what had been discovered through geophysical research by Apostolos Sarris (Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas) north of the building and to investigate the approach to the north entrance (one of the main entrances) of



108. Zominthos: stone ramp leading to the north entrance. © ASA.

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the central building. Here, evidence of a stone ramp (**Fig. 108**), which ended in a retaining wall, was found, dating to as early as 1900 BC. The area was paved with stones twice more in 1700–1600 BC. A ceremonial corridor leading to the north entrance was also uncovered on the retaining wall. Cups of the Middle Minoan period (*ca*. 1800 BC) confirm the use of this corridor from the period of the first palace. Three drainage openings from the Late Minoan IA period (*ca*. 1650 BC) have been identified in the walls of the central building complex and room to the west.

During this fieldwork season, the team excavated two other complexes. In the area of the Northern Sanctuary in Complex I, partly excavated in 2019, ritual vessels were found, notably rhyta, on top of the stone altar (**Fig. 109**). By chance, a rainstorm brought to light a small piece of gold leaf in the area. This led to further excavation underneath the altar where the gold leaf was found, which revealed a piece of burnt wood and another 90 or so gold-leaf pieces. The excavator has hypothesized that the gold leaf once covered a wooden statue. This new evidence has led the excavator to suggest that after the palace was destroyed the remains of the wooden statue were preserved, and a new stone altar was built on top. An older sanctuary, dating to *ca*. 1900 BC, was discovered at a lower level to the north of the altar, where human and animal figurines have been found. One of these represents a female figure, named 'The Lady of Zominthos' (**Fig. 110**).

Complex II was uncovered north of Complex I. The rooms here are paved and fitted with an impressive network of drainage channels. As well as ceramic finds, one room yielded a seal in the shape of a flower, which has been dated to the Old Palace period. Many of the ceramics provide compelling evidence for the use of the area even before the first palaces (before 2000 BC). A late coin of Doge Pietro Gradenigo (1289–1311), from the period of Venetian rule in Crete, provides evidence for later use of this area (**Fig. 111**). Further investigation is required on the northern slope of the hill, but the work so far has revealed the political, economic and religious significance of the site.

This year saw the fourth year of underwater investigations of the ancient city of **Olous** (**ID10568**) in the gulf of Elounda by the EUA and geophysicists from the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas) (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3685). Work continued at Poros, where the team cleared vegetation to reveal the upper surface of a long structure, possibly a city or jetty wall (**Fig. 112**); this was measured and documented using photogrammetry in order to obtain a clearer picture of the ancient city. Further excavation is required of this submerged structure to determine its shape and function. Underwater and aerial survey of other submerged features also continued (**Fig. 113**). It is



109. Zominthos: vessels on top of altar in Complex 1. © ASA.



110. Zominthos: clay figurine, 'The Lady of Zominthos'. © ASA.



111. Zominthos: coin of the Venetian Doge Pietro Gradenigo. © ASA.

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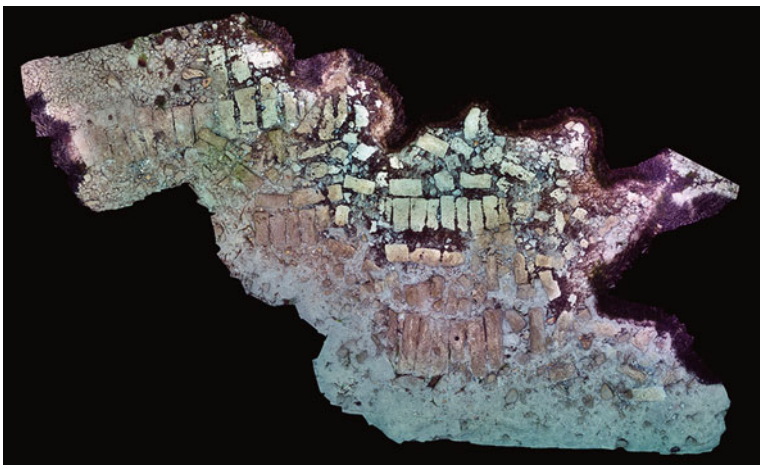


112. Olous: submerged structure, possible wall or jetty. © Laboratory of Geophysical-Satellite Remote Sensing and Archaeoenvironment, IMS-FORTH.

hoped that plans and three-dimensional models will allow better understanding of how the structures relate to each other. In the areas north and south of Poros, geophysical survey of the seabed substrate identified ancient structures up to 1.5m below the surface.

In the bay of Krios, meanwhile, pottery was found, suggesting that the bay was used as an anchorage. The area from the cape (opposite the islet of Spinalonga) to the bay of Vathi (on the west side of the Kolokytha peninsula) was surveyed. Investigation revealed a submerged building complex in the bay, as well as a breakwater and Minoan sherds mixed with murex shells. The remains of other submerged buildings and a long structure – a possible road (there are similarities between this and traditional roads at Kolokytha) – were identified using aerial photography on the opposite side of the bay in the Tsifliki area.

Finally, Angelos Chaniotis reports that a Roman statue of Hadrian has been brought to light during excavations of ancient **Lyttos** (**ID13600**), a new project between the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study and New York University.



113. Olous: view of area at Poros. © Laboratory of Geophysical-Satellite Remote Sensing and Archaeoenvironment, IMS-FORTH.

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