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ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2018–2019

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 2019 where possible) that 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 within each section geographically in the first instance and then chronologically (earliest to latest), as far as possible.*

Introduction

The past year (2018–2019) has been an important and exciting period for archaeology in Greece. Several long-term field projects have drawn to a close and study seasons are due to follow. Rescue excavations have brought to light a number of interesting discoveries, while new projects have begun. Ongoing study seasons continue to reveal exciting new interpretations of excavated material. By providing a summary of some of the key developments of the past 12 months, this section highlights the significance of archaeological research in Greece and presents a wealth of diverse material to enhance understanding of different periods and regions.

Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (also Dimova, this volume)

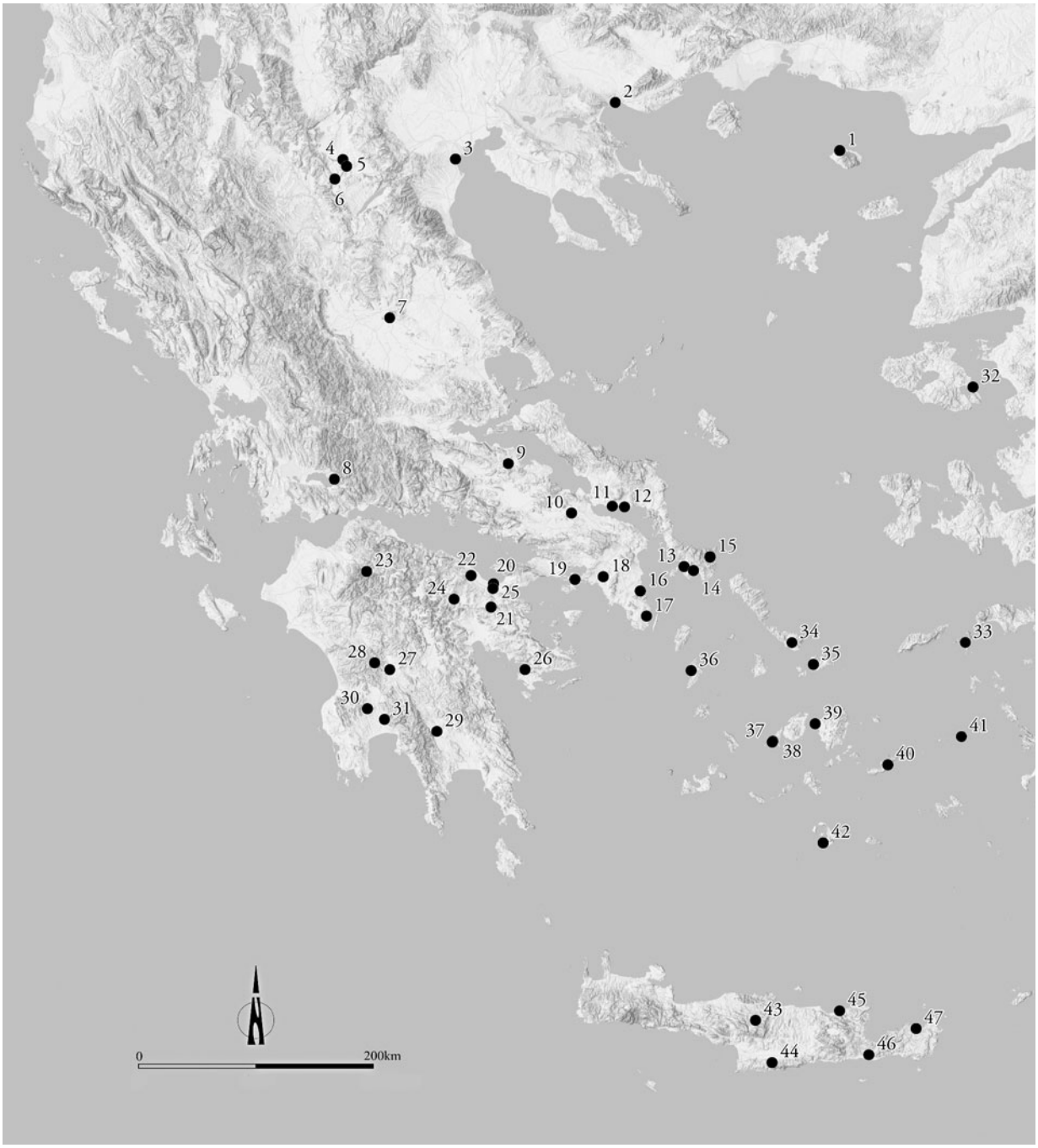
The excavations at **Argilos** are part of a joint research programme conducted by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Kavala and the University of Montréal, which focused this year on the Archaic to Classical structures (Bonias and Perreault 2018). The city of Argilos is located on Palaiokastro hill, 4km west of the Strymona Delta, and the project aims to investigate the historical and architectural developments of the ancient city and to learn more about Greek-Thracian relations on the northwestern coast of the Aegean Sea. The main focus in 2018 was the investigation of Complex L and Buildings H, P and Q; in 2019 the focus was primarily on Complex L (**Figs 32**, **33**). A small area southeast of these buildings was also partly excavated in order to confirm the presence of a main road that had previously been uncovered in the area.



32. Argilos: excavation areas. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kavala/CIG.

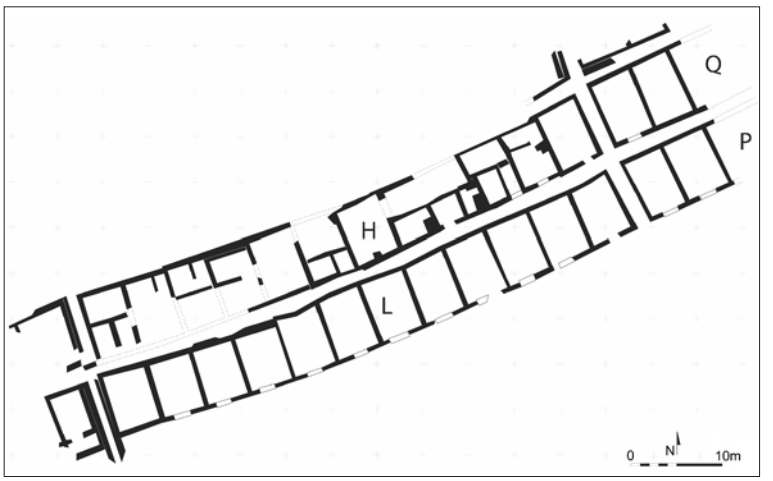
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Map 3. Sites referred to in the text: 1. Samothrace; 2. Argilos; 3. Methone; 4. Mavropigi; 5. Pontokomi; 6. Anthotopos; 7. Vlochos; 8. Thermos; 9. Atalanti; 10. Eleon; 11. Eretria; 12. Amarynthos; 13. Gourimadi; 14. Karystos; 15. Kapsouri; 16. Porto Raphti; 17. Thorikos; 18. Athenian Agora; 19. Salamis; 20. Lechaion; 21. Corinth; 22. Sikyon; 23. Leontion; 24. Aidonia; 25. Tenea; 26. Koilada; 27. Marathousa; 28. Mount Lykaion; 29. Amyklai; 30. Messene; 31. Thouria; 32. Mytilene; 33. Fourni; 34. Xobourgo; 35. Mykonos; 36. Vryokastro; 37. Tsimintiri; 38. Despotiko; 39. Stelida; 40. Amorgos; 41. Levitha; 42. Akrotiri; 43. Zominthos; 44. Koumasa; 45. Sissi; 46. Kentri; 47. Petras. Not shown: Western Argolid Regional Project. © BSA.

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33. Argilos: buildings excavated. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kavala/CIG.

In Building H, seven rooms (out of a dozen) were investigated (**Fig. 34**). Rooms H4 to H9 yielded little due to their poor state of preservation and a lack of moveable finds. Ancient layers, which were shallow in this area, had been disturbed by the stationing of Bulgarian soldiers on the site during the Second World War and agricultural activities in the late 1970s. Some preserved floors, however, were found, dating to the first half of the fourth century, and it is possible to reconstruct the shapes of the rooms, which were divided into two or three spaces. Room H11 is in a much better state of preservation. Its front part, with a fifth-century floor and a small, rectangular hearth, had already been uncovered in 2016. In 2018, the base of a metallurgical kiln, in use until the second half of the fourth century BC, was uncovered along the eastern wall of the room. It has a semicircular chamber and a well-preserved base. It is thought that a rectangular stone structure, which is located at the back of the room along the eastern wall, is associated with the kiln.

The base of a metallurgical kiln, in use until the second half of the fourth century BC, was uncovered.



34. Argilos: Building H. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kavala/CIG.

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2018 also saw the completion of the excavation of the floor, dating to the first half of the fourth century BC, in Q1 (**Fig. 35**) and of the two rear rooms of Building Q. The western rear room contained a semicircular base; this has been interpreted as a support for a millstone, fragments of which were also found. A number of other items were recovered, including coins, amphorae and other pots, pieces of metal and pieces of bone.



35. Argilos: Room Q1. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kavala/CIG.

Excavations commenced in Room 2 of Building P, which revealed a number of interesting high-quality architectural features. Lead was found still in place in the door rotation. The eastern intermediate wall was also found to be well preserved, with a lower part made of stone. The floor is dated by ten coins to the first half of the fourth century, as are the latest floors in Buildings H and Q. There was also a group of lead sling shots, all of which bear the inscription 'IT' (**Fig. 36**).

In 2018 and 2019, the team worked towards completion of the excavation of the large commercial Building L (**Fig. 37**; http://www.cig-icg.gr/content/argilos-2019?fbclid=IwAR0N6ohP1m30dEbzVRya_6TvavJKpXEVoHzy4aBKD4dKzKw1VWUqjDpCrgg). It has been established that the complex was constructed in the middle of the sixth century BC, and it is, therefore, the oldest known commercial building of Iron Age Greece. Analysis of fish bones found in the building indicates that the inhabitants of Argilos enjoyed consuming freshwater as well as marine species.



36. Argilos: a group of lead sling shots. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kavala/CIG.

Particularly impressive results have come to light in the eastern area of the site, most notably the discovery of the continuation of the central road R1; 70m were cleaned without reaching the end. The road, rather than leading to Buildings H, L, P and Q, heads southeast away from the coast. It has been interpreted as the main route of communication between the commercial complex and the southeastern sector. It is therefore of particular significance for the study of the site's urban organization.



37. Argilos: Building L. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kavala/CIG.

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38. Samothrace: aerial view of the south-western area of the sanctuary, with the central watercourse, stoa, Nike precinct and the theatre prior to excavation. © ASCSA.

Excavations were carried out at the sanctuary of the Great Gods at **Samothrace** during summer 2018 under the auspices of the ASCSA and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Evros (Wescoat 2018). Work focused on the Hellenistic monuments, including the stoa, the Nike precinct and the theatre, in the western region of the sanctuary (**Fig. 38**). Parts of the theatre that had been uncovered in 1923 during the French-Czech excavation, the locations of which had subsequently been lost, were relocated. The establishment of the position and structure of the orchestra and *diazoma* helped to provide evidence for the reconstruction of the terrain and other monuments in this area, particularly the Nike monument and the Altar Court. Small plaster fragments from the Nike monument were found in the theatre area. Work on the stoa revealed that the inclination of the krepis, sloping at a ratio of 1:100 from south to north, was intentional, with modifications made to the colonnade, northern anta and northern entablature to accommodate the inclination.

Work focused on the Hellenistic monuments, including the stoa, the Nike precinct and the theatre, in the western region of the sanctuary.

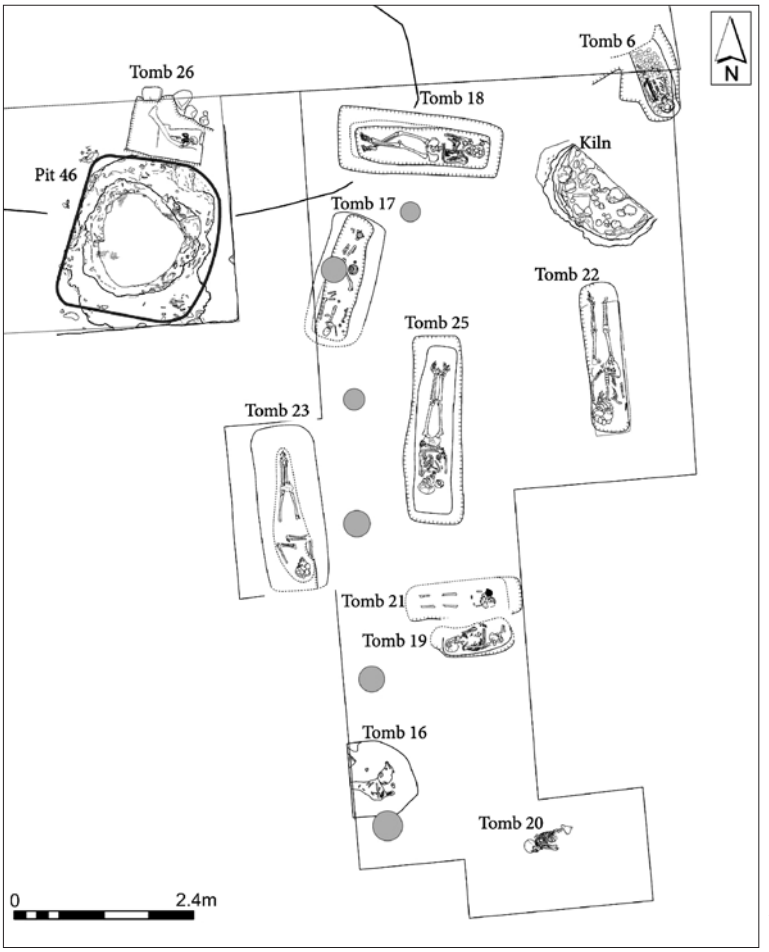
In 2018 the team also produced a full inventory of the foundations of the monuments. This includes not only the Nike monument and the Doric column of Philip V, but also more fragmentary marble remains such as an Ionic column, several orthostate monuments and many smaller monuments made from a variety of imported marbles. New photogrammetric models were produced of the channel of the main watercourse that runs through the centre of the sanctuary following a large storm in 2017 that destroyed huge sections of the walls. The models will be used to investigate the channel in 2019 and work will be conducted to reduce further damage from storm water. Analysis has shown that rock types used for the construction of the sanctuary come from ancient quarries on the island, especially those at Akrotiri and on the northern coast. Work towards publication and the display of objects is ongoing.

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Central Macedonia

At **Methone** (**ID2701**, **ID5058**, **ID5233**, **ID5451**, **ID6183**), the Ephorate of Antiquities of Pieria has been involved since 2014 in a collaborative project with a team from UCLA led by Sarah Morris and John Papadopoulos. Manthos Bessios and colleagues have produced an unpublished report on the 2018 study season (**Fig. 39**; Bessios *et al.* 2018). The primary aim was to elucidate the Prehistoric to Classical periods. Ceramic and stratigraphic analyses of Pit 46 revealed a shallow fill, dated to *ca.* 354 BC, when Methone was destroyed. Ceramic analysis also clarified the chronology of the Bronze Age burials, now dated from the Early Bronze Age to the Postpalatial period. At least one burial (Tomb 24) took place in the Early Iron Age. Phases of occupation date from the Bronze Age to the period of Eretrian colonization. Furthermore, archaeobotanical remains indicate a striking continuity of plant food sources from Prehistoric through to Archaic times. Finally, human skeletons and infant bones found in looser fill have been identified as separate, intramural inhumations, probably dating to the Early Iron Age.

Ceramic and stratigraphic analyses of Pit 46 revealed a shallow fill, dated to ca. 354 BC, when Methone was destroyed.



39. Methone: Trenches 1, 2 and 5, Prehistoric burials, Archaic kiln and Pit 46. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Pieria/UCLA (drawing by Myles Chykerda).

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Western Macedonia

At **Pontokomi**, Kozani, discoveries were made during the installation of cables as part of a wind-farm project in East and West Askio; these include a Late Bronze Age (1600–1100 BC) building, 30m^2. Next to this structure, the grave of a woman with two figure-of-eight-shaped buckles was found.



40. Mavropigi: Hellenistic female burial. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kozani.

An undisturbed Hellenistic tomb recently came to light at **Mavropigi**, Kozani. During excavation at a Public Power Corporation lignite mine, the Ephorate of Antiquities of Kozani reports the discovery of a tomb that contained the remains of a female placed on an elaborate bronze bed with a gold leaf in her mouth and surrounded by numerous offerings (**Fig. 40**; https://www.kathimerini.gr/1037234/gallery/epikairothta/ellada/kozanh--h-ploysia-nekrh-ths-mayrophghs---spania-ston-elladiko-xwro-h-xalkinh-nekrikh-klinh-poy-apokalyye-h-arxaiologikh-skapanh). The finds suggest she was of high status (for an earlier report on Mavropigi, see **ID6500**).



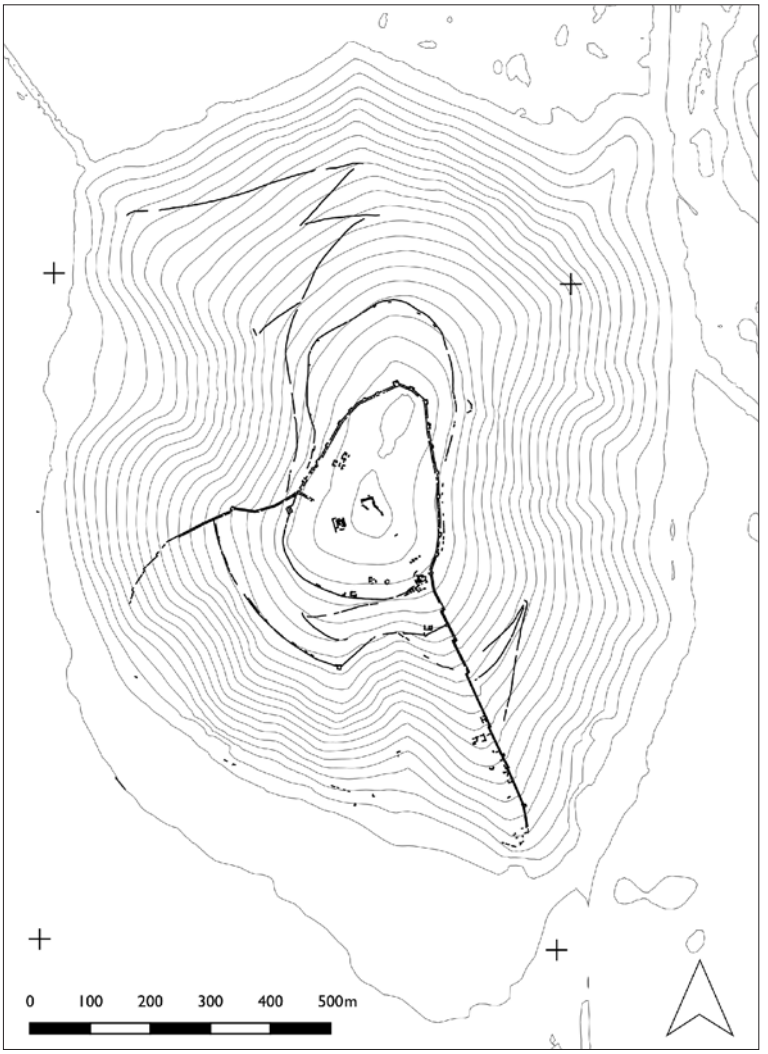
41. Anthotopos: kiln with a firing rack. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kozani.

In **Anthotopos**, two Byzantine kilns and storage areas have been located in the Gratsani region during the construction of the wind-farm substation in East and West Askio (https://www.kathimerini.gr/1030047/gallery/epikairothta/ellada/kozanh-sto-fws-vyzantino-ergasthrio-keramopoiias). It is suggested that the kilns belong to a Byzantine ceramic workshop. One is particularly well preserved (**Fig. 41**). It covers an area of 10m^2, rests on ten arched columns and has a firing rack pierced with around 200 holes, a rarely preserved feature. All of the kiln's openings and its two entrances had been sealed, which indicates that the workshop was abandoned with the intention of returning to it at a later date. The kilns are the first of their kind to be found in Kozani, and there is, to date, no evidence for the settlement to which they presumably belonged.

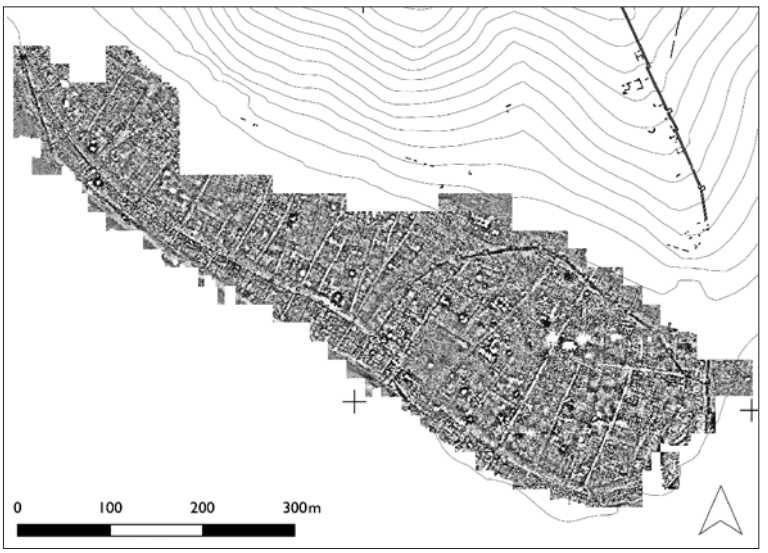
Thessaly

The third field season of the ***Vlochos Archaeological Project***, co-directed by Maria Vaïopoulou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Karditsa) and Helène Whittaker (Gothenburg), took place in 2018. A digital drawing of the visible remains was completed (**Fig. 42**) and a three-aisled church with a single apse was identified in the southeastern corner of the hilltop. A rooftile dates the church to Late Antiquity/Early Byzantine period. A wall crossing the area of the acropolis was also found, suggesting that this area was smaller than originally thought. Geophysical survey was carried out in Patoma, in the area of the Classical and Hellenistic site (**Fig. 43**). A building, tentatively identified as a sanctuary, was noted on the southern slopes of the hill. Possible buried structures were also identified on the western slopes outside the city walls. Results from the excavation are due to be published in *Opuscula*.

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42. Vlochos: digital drawing of the visible remains. © Vlochos Archaeological Project.



43. Patoma: geophysical survey. © Vlochos Archaeological Project.

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44. Thermos: view of the south stoa from the east. © ASA.

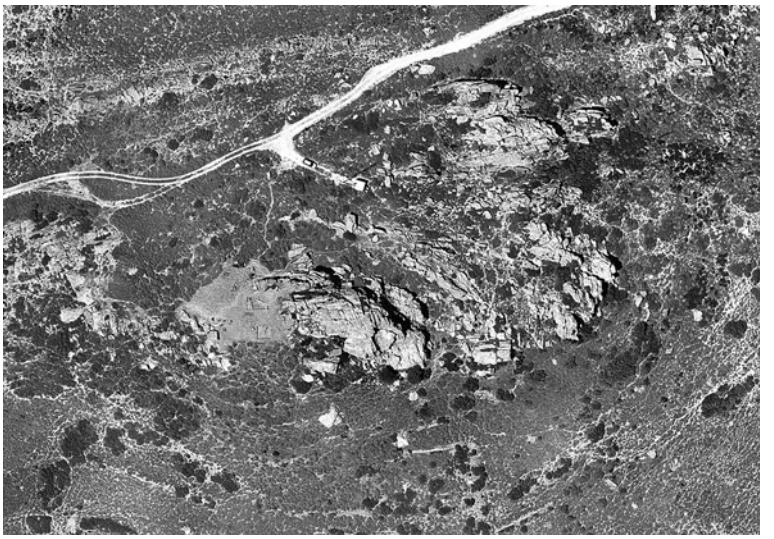
Western Greece

Excavation of the sanctuary of Apollo at **Thermos** in Aetolia has brought to light the remains of a 180m-long Hellenistic stoa running from the southwestern gate and almost reaching the eastern stoa (**ID6896**; *Ergon* 2018: 32–35). The foundations of ten columns of the internal colonnade and parts of walls were found in the eastern part of the stoa (**Fig. 44**). On the upper step of the façade were found another four column drums, placed on a more recent level. The excavator, Ioannis Papapostolou (ASA), suggests that these drums also belonged to the stoa. The western narrow side of the stoa was composed of stone blocks resembling those used for contemporary fortified buildings.

Central Greece

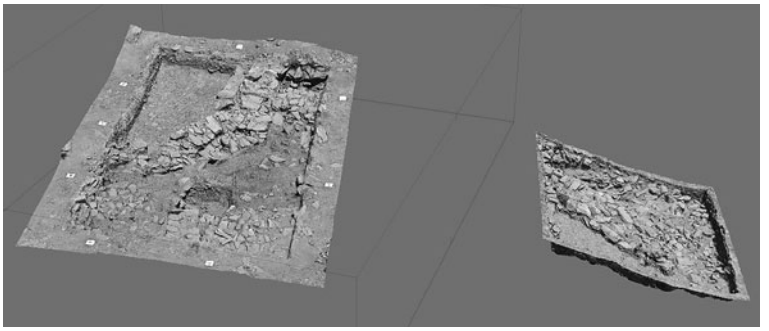
The *Gourimadi Archaeological Project*, supported by the Norwegian Institute at Athens, is excavating the Prehistoric settlement of **Gourimadi**, southern Euboea (https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2904). The site is located on the border of the Katsaronio plain and occupies a naturally fortified position with views in all directions (**Fig. 45**). Evidence of its use dates from the Late Neolithic period to the beginning of the Early Bronze Age, and, as such, it is hoped that material from the site will provide important information on the transition between the two periods (for recent research on Prehistoric southern Euboea, see Tankosić and Psoma 2016; Tankosić and Katsianis 2017; several articles on the broader context of southern Euboea can be found in Tankosić *et al.* 2017). In 2018 and 2019, work focused on two main areas: the plateau on top of the summit and the southern side of the summit (**Fig. 46**). On the summit plateau, the team uncovered various architectural features, such as straight and curved stone walls, which can be attributed to different architectural phases and confirm the long-term

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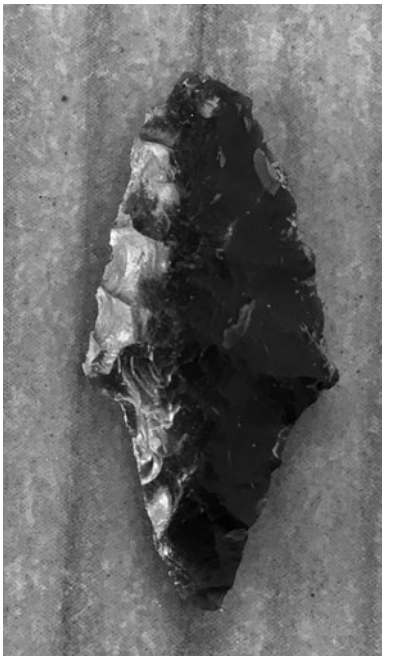
45. Gourimadi: aerial view of the Prehistoric settlement. © Gourimadi Archaeological Project.

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46. Gourimadi: remains on the plateau and the southern side of the summit. © Gourimadi Archaeological Project.

occupation of the site. Two stone benches and a possible oven have also been discovered. Portable finds include pottery, two anthropomorphic clay figurines, clay loomweights, cut-stone and polished tools, and other stone artefacts, as well as some bone and other organic remains. No architectural remains have so far been found on the southern side of the hilltop, although four pieces of metal slag have been discovered there. The majority of the excavated pottery dates to the end of the fifth and the fourth millennia BC, and parallels can be drawn with material from the Hagia Triada Cave in southern Euboea and elsewhere in the Aegean. Particularly impressive is the large quantity of carved stone tools made of obsidian from Melos. More than 5,000 fragments have been found, including over 130 projectile points – one of the largest assemblages of its kind known in Greece (**Fig. 47**). This discovery highlights the important position of the Gourimadi settlement within obsidian trade networks and the importance of this activity for the economy of the area.



47. Gourimadi: obsidian spearhead. © Gourimadi Archaeological Project.

July 2018 saw the final season of a three-year excavation permit extension at the site of ancient **Eleon**, in the village of Arma, when more evidence from the Mycenaean, Archaic to Classical and Medieval periods was revealed. Research at the site is part of the *Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project*, a synergasia between the CIG and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Boeotia. The team excavated Mycenaean burials within and around the Blue Stone Structure (BSS), continuing work undertaken in previous years (**Fig. 48**; for recent work, see **ID6179**; Charami *et al*. 2017; for preliminary results of the 2015–2018 phase, see Burns and Burke 2019). Excavation also extended to areas surrounding the BSS. All the tombs are positioned at different levels with each covered by at least one capping stone (Burns and Burke 2019: 271). Those excavated during 2018 include: the grave of a young adult buried with a single murex shell, with a second adult burial found in a lower pit (Tomb 9); a large chamber containing one 12-year-old and two young male adults, with jewellery, a Minyan cup, fragments of wood and woven textiles, etc. (Tomb 10); and a tomb with a minimum of 27 individuals, including three children (Tomb 11). Tomb 11

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48. Eleon: the locations of individual tombs within and adjacent to the Blue Stone Structure. © Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project.



49. Eleon: sealstone from Tomb 11. © Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project.



50. Eleon: pottery from Tomb 11. © Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project.

also contained the greatest number of grave goods of all the tombs excavated at Eleon so far, including pins, spindle-whorls, 58 stone beads, sealstones of semi-precious stones and eight complete pots – mostly cups and jugs, and some Minyan ware (**Figs 49**, **50**). Tomb 12, outside and west of the BSS tumulus, was disturbed but yielded evidence of multiple individuals. Tomb 13 contained an articulated skeleton as well as two pits of commingled bones of around ten individuals. Two to three individuals were accounted for in Tomb 14, but no artefacts were found. Excavation also began in Tomb 15, where at least three individuals have been accounted for. Trenches were reopened in the northeastern room of the northwestern complex, where floor levels were reached in various sections around the central hearth. A new trench was initiated in the southwest, where a flat stone slab with Mycenaean and Medieval pottery and bronze pin fragments, possibly related to Archaic and Classical votive deposits, were found. Questions relating to the long timespan between the use of the BSS as a Mycenaean burial site and the activity at Eleon in Archaic/Classical times require further consideration.

A settlement in use from the seventh to third century BC was located at **Kapsouri**, Euboea, during work on a wind farm (https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2565). The site was subsequently excavated under the supervision of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea (August to December 2018). The settlement occupies a naturally fortified site on three man-made terraces. A particularly prominent structure within the settlement is a monumental apsidal building

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(A), 11.67m × 7.2m, which is divided into two spaces and accessible via stone stairs. Its walls, which are preserved to a height of 0.6–0.8m, are made of local schist stone. The construction of the building seems to be particularly elaborate. To the east of building A, three later additions in the form of rectangular spaces were identified. These structures are smaller and their construction of lower quality than that of building A. Another apsidal building (B) was partially revealed less than 5m south of building A.

Pottery makes up the majority of the portable finds, and of particular note is the remarkable quantity of pithos fragments with relief decoration, including mythological scenes, such as riders on winged horses, battle scenes and floral and geometric patterns (**Fig. 51**). Importantly, these fragments date the foundation of the settlement to the seventh century BC. Parallels with relief pottery from Naxos, Tenos and elsewhere in Euboea may suggest the presence of a relief-pottery workshop in southern Euboea. Other finds from building A include clay whorls, an iron dagger, a whetstone, metal spits, ceramic oil lamps, stone tools and parts of four wine-presses. The building was erected in the seventh century at the latest, was continually occupied and then eventually abandoned in the middle of the third century BC, based on a bronze coin of Karystos found in the upper layers. According to the excavators, the location of artificial pits around building A, the depictions on the relief pithoi and the nature of other portable finds provide compelling evidence for the use of the site as a place of worship. Worship of Poseidon has already been archaeologically linked to Geraistos bay, but it is possible that he was worshipped at Kapsouri first.



51. Kapsouri: pithos fragment with relief decoration of a battle scene. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea.

In October 2018, archaeological work was conducted in **Atalanti**, Phthiotis, by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Phthiotida and Evrytania, after a local farmer found the torso of a Late Archaic/Early Classical male statue (0.86m in height) while ploughing his field (**Fig. 52**; https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2448 and https://www.kathimerini.gr/993482/gallery/epikairothta/ellada/arxaiologos-e3hgei-pws-apokalyf8hkan-oi-koyroi-ths-atalanths). Lead archaeologist Maria I. Papageorgiou opened the first trench on the northern side of the field, where three other statues were uncovered (**Fig. 53**). All the statues are life-size, limestone, nude males of the kouros type and date from the Early Archaic to the Late Archaic/Early Classical period. One is preserved from the head to the thigh and measures 1.22m in height. The face is bearded and the left leg extended. On the back of another statue, of which the lower body is preserved (0.82m), part of a plinth also remains partly preserved. The third statue is preserved from the neck to the thighs (0.95m). A triangular base was found next to this statue, and the two may once have belonged together.



52. Atalanti: torso of a statue. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Phthiotida and Evrytania.

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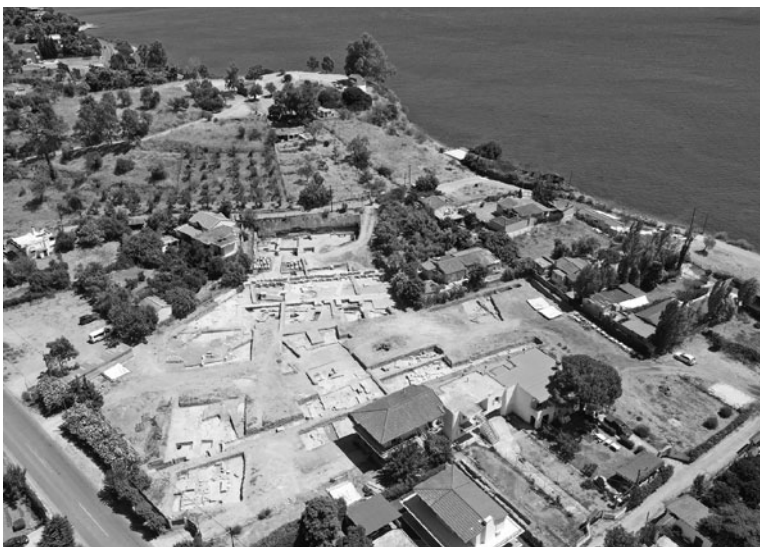


53. Atalanti: four statues and a triangular base. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Phthiotida and Evrytania.

Further excavations in this section of the field have led to the significant discovery of a number of graves, of which 13 have been investigated, and also the recovery of a large number of finds (bronze mirrors and vessels, terracotta figurines, kantharoi, etc.) dating from the fifth to the second century BC. The graves are thought to be part of a larger organized cemetery, likely belonging to the ancient city of Opus.

The large-scale exploration of the Late Archaic to Hellenistic sanctuary of Artemis Amarysia at **Amarynthos** (**ID6176**; Fachard *et al.* 2017; Reber *et al*. 2018) was continued in 2019 by a Greek-Swiss team led by Karl Reber (ESAG) and Amalia Karapaschalidou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea) (**Fig. 54**; https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2911). Tiles and seals bearing the inscription 'APTEMIΔOΣ' had already been discovered in previous years. This year, the toponym 'Amarynthos', dating to the Classical period, came to light for the first time: 'APTEMIΔOΣ EN AMAPYNΘΩI'. The inscription was found in Paleochoria, 2km east of modern-day Amarynthos, in secondary use in a Roman fountain. This inscription appears to provide additional confirmation that the building remains at Paleochoria belong to the sanctuary of Artemis Amarysia. Furthermore, the evidence of the remains of the Prehistoric settlement, which was excavated in the same area in the 1970s and 1980s (and which can presumably be identified with the Mycenaean toponym *a-ma-ru-to* mentioned in Linear B texts from the Mycenaean palace of Thebes), confirms that the Amarynthos toponym and location have remained the same for more than 3,000 years. The southern wing of the eastern stoa was also excavated, confirming the boundaries of the sanctuary on three of its sides. The 2019 excavations focused in particular on the central area of the sanctuary, where the foundations of a monumental Classical

The Amarynthos toponym and location have remained the same for more than 3,000 years.



54. Amarynthos: aerial view of the excavation site at Paleochoria. © ESAG.

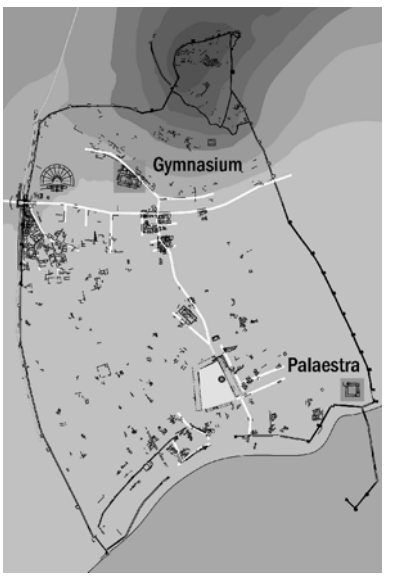
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building with an east-west orientation, suggesting its identification as a possible temple, were found. Although the state of preservation is poor, thus making the function of the building uncertain, the presence of a *ca*. 4.8m × 12m foundation of a possible altar to the east, supports the hypothesis that the building was a temple (**Fig. 55**).

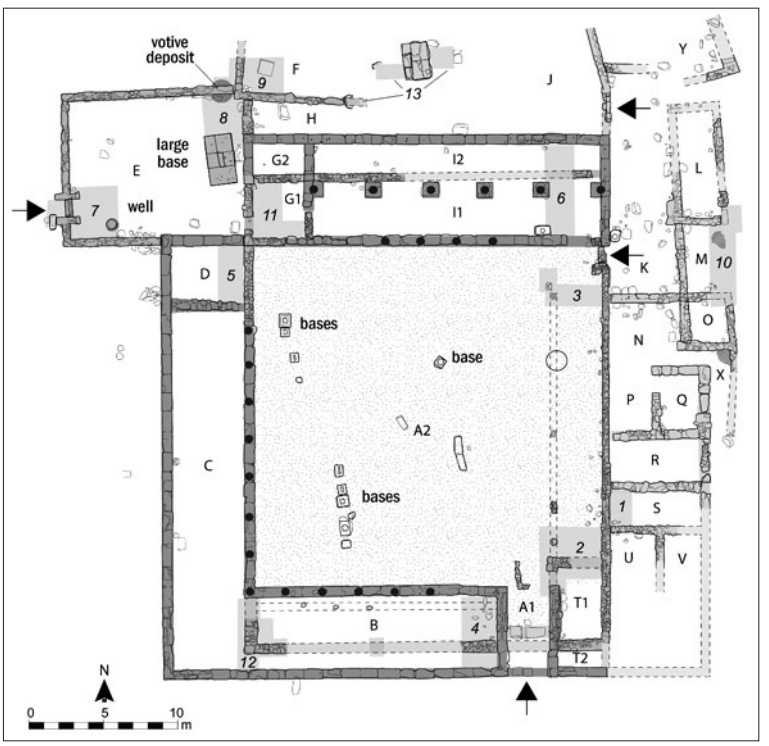


55. Amarynthos: monumental foundation, possibly of the altar of the sanctuary. © ESAG.

Elsewhere in Euboea, fieldwork was undertaken in the Classical southern palaestra of **Eretria** by Reber, Geoffreoy Luisoni and Guy Ackermann of ESAG, supervised by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea (Theurillat *et al.* 2018). The building lies close to the sanctuary of Isis and the city walls, and, although it was first uncovered in 1917, a detailed publication is still lacking. In 2018, the aim was to learn more about the history and layout of the building and to define the relationship between the southern palaestra and the gymnasium (**Fig. 56**; Ackermann and Reber 2018). Within the complex, excavations revealed a rectangular space measuring 23m × 31m and possibly surrounded by stoas. The data collected from 13 trial trenches have helped to refine the chronology of the building and its various phases, the first of which dates to the fifth century BC. This date is unusual, as palaestras are rarely attested at this time (**Fig. 57**). The building was in use until at least the fourth century BC. The eastern area of the complex contains a number of rooms with unknown functions. In the northwestern part of the complex, a small cult of Eileithyia was explored through two trial trenches, where a well and a votive deposit with *ca.* 100 miniature kotylai



56. Eretria: situation plan. © ESAG.



57. Eretria: plan of the palaestra. © ESAG.

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58. Eretria: miniature kotylai from a votive deposit. © ESAG.

were found (**Fig. 58**). The date of the sanctuary's foundation was confirmed as being in the last quarter of the fourth century or the beginning of the third century BC. The ongoing excavations are important for understanding the development and use of Classical structures associated with athletics.

The Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports has announced that three marble quarries, in use during the Roman period, were discovered during the construction of wind farms in **Karystos**, Euboea, in January 2019 (https://www.tornosnews.gr/en/greek-news/culture/34271-three-ancient-quarries-discovered-in-karystos-south-evia-during-installation-of-wind-parks.html). The first quarry was uncovered in Anatoli in the Kafireas region during construction work on the new main road leading to the Anatoli wind farm. Archaeologists discovered two main mining fronts carved at different heights into the side of the mountain and a number of large carved rectangular blocks scattered over the area southeast of the smaller of the two mining fronts. Two incomplete columns were also found within a layer of quarrying chips. The other two marble quarries were discovered in Trikorfo, just above the main road. One of these has two small mining faces and long, box-shaped carvings on the floor. The second is northwest of the first and much larger, with three large Π-shaped mining fronts. Another three incomplete columns were found here, next to one another. A nearby circular structure is thought to have been used for water collection and washing tools.

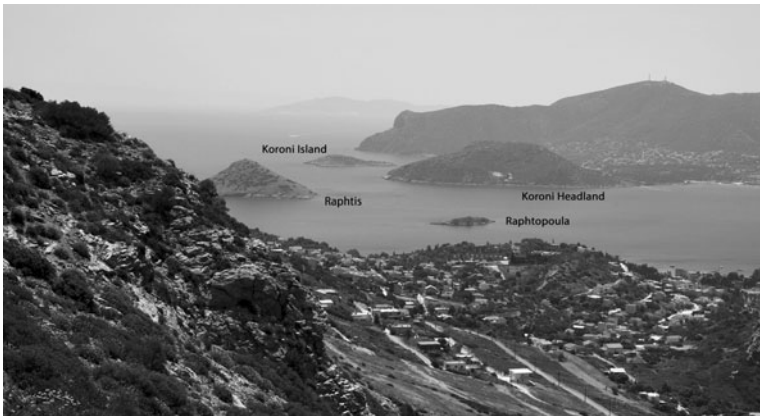
This was an area well known for its marble, particularly during the Roman period when the local stone was used for pillars and other architectural features in Rome.

The discovery of these quarries confirms the extent of quarrying activity within the region and its significance for the economic status of Karystos. This was an area well known for its marble, particularly during the Roman period when the local stone was used for pillars and other architectural features in Rome (Chidiroglou 2010; Russell 2017). There is also evidence for ancient quarries in Kylindri, at the top of the Moloi valley. It is believed that mining activities ceased following the withdrawal of the Romans from the area in the third century AD.

Attica

A number of archaeological projects have taken place in Attica over the past year, including the inaugural season of archaeological survey at the bay of **Porto Raphti**, in eastern Attica, which was carried out in the summer of 2019 by the CIG as part of the *Bays of Eastern Attica Regional Survey* (http://www.cig-icg.gr/content/inaugural-season-bears-project-archaeological-survey-porto-raphti?fbclid=IwAR0ZkLByhES48uVzRG57TGZwSUUMMEplJQc4GwVZ0hOJFHB0hE_CG7wBu0E). New data are expected to contribute to understanding habitation in the area from Mycenaean to Roman times, as well as the role of the bay and its place within communication networks with surrounding areas. To this end, this year the team

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59. Porto Raphti: view south towards the mouth of the bay of Porto Raphti from the Perati massif to its north, showing the islands of Koroni, Raphtis and Raphtopoula, and the Koroni headland. © Bays of Eastern Attica Regional Survey.

carried out gridded collection, mapped features and took aerial photographs on the Pounta peninsula, Raphtis island and Koroni, and also investigated the areas connecting Porto Raphti with neighbouring regions (**Fig. 59**).

The fragments collected were surprisingly well preserved for surface finds. On Raphtis, a number of small finds, such as weights, figurines and Roman lamps, were found along with thousands of painted Mycenaean sherds, which provide evidence for Late Helladic IIIC activity on the island. It is possible too that the settlement on Raphtis was associated with the Perati cemetery, but this requires further investigation. At Pounta, over 7,500 lithics were collected from a few dozen 20m × 20m grid squares. The significant amount of obsidian demonstrates that obsidian cores were being processed at Pounta, as predicted; researchers have also proposed that other processing activities took place in the area. The only finished tools that were found were those used for perforation, and, according to co-director Sarah Murray, ground-out circular features along the peninsula suggest activity involving the pounding of material. At Koroni, the team found the first evidence of Classical and Archaic activity at the site, as well as some Late Helladic IIIC pottery.

On Raphtis, a number of small finds, such as weights, figurines and Roman lamps, were found along with thousands of painted Mycenaean sherds, which provide evidence for Late Helladic IIIC activity on the island.

John Camp has reported on the 2018 field season at the **Athenian Agora**, which provided interesting results on the Mycenaean to Byzantine periods of the Agora's history (**ID6982**; Camp 2019). Exploration continued of the Bronze and Iron Age cemetery, located along the ancient road (Section BZ). So far, ten tombs (chamber, pit and cist), ranging in date from the 14th to the ninth century BC, have been found. A small stone-lined cist, containing two infant burials (of babies aged one month and nine to 11 months), was uncovered. Two small pots date the tomb to *ca.* 1000 BC. A second burial, possibly of the eighth century BC, was also found. Excavation of the fill of Mycenaean chamber tomb J 1:10 (**Fig. 60**) was completed and produced a number of pots (**Fig. 61**), including a rare hybrid piriform stirrup jar.



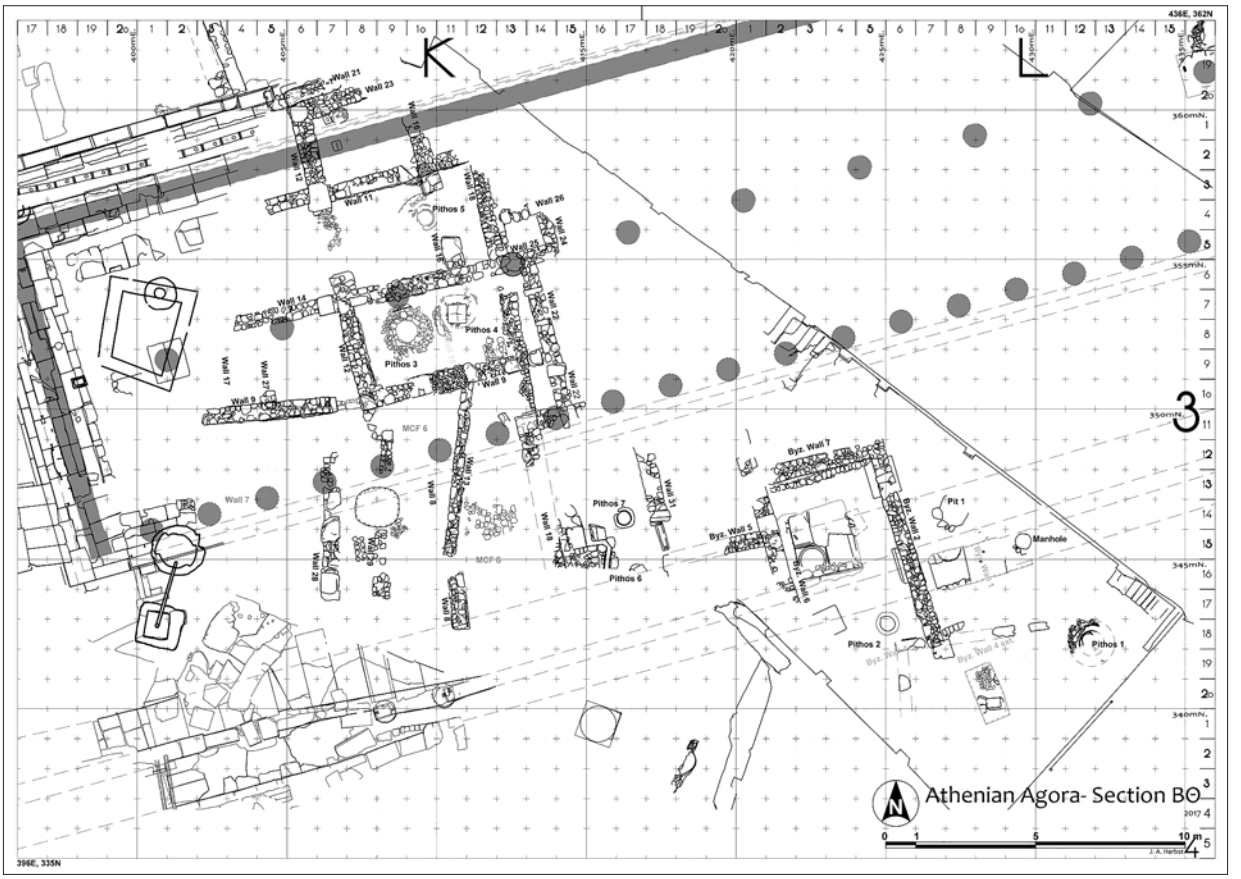
60. Athenian Agora: Mycenaean chamber tomb J 1:10. © *ASCSA.*

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61. Athenian Agora: pottery from Mycenaean chamber tomb J 1:10. © ASCSA.

East of the road, excavation has helped to clarify the layout of the Archaic/Early Classical buildings, with the Late Archaic levels yielding a number of inscribed ostraca. A marble dedication made by a group of *epimeletai* to Leos, one of the ten eponymous heroes of Athens, was found in Section BΘ just south of the Eridanos river (**Fig. 62**). It had been reused and built into a much later structure, a possible hydraulic system.



62. Athenian Agora: Section BΘ site plan. © ASCSA.

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Three lines of the inscription on the block are well preserved and read: [O]I ΕΠΙΜΕΛΗΤΑΙ ΤΩΙ ΛΕΩΙ ΑΝΕΘΗΣΑΝ / ΣΤΕΦΑΝΩΘΕΝΤΕΣ ΥΠΟ ΤΗΣ ΦΥΛΗΣ / ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣΥΝΗΣ ΕΝΕΚΑ ('The *epimeletes* dedicated [this] to Leos / having been crowned by the phyle / on account of [their] justice'). The inscription, dating to around the fourth century BC based on the letter forms, is especially significant for its reference to Leos, as it joins a growing body of material associated with the tribe of Leontis uncovered on the northern side of the Agora (for example *IG* I^3 244; Agora inv. nos I3068, I7475, I7167, I7650). This inscription is under study for final publication by John Camp.

An inscribed fragment was also found in the Byzantine fill in Section ΒΘ west; the words ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤ[ΩΡ] and ΚΑΙΣΑΡ[ΟΣ] were preserved. This has been described by the excavator as one of the most crudely inscribed texts referring to a Roman emperor (**ID6982**). An exceptionally well-preserved bronze coin depicting Themistokles standing on a warship and accompanied by an owl and a snake was also found. Excavation continued in several rooms of the Byzantine settlement and the southwestern corner of the Painted Stoa was exposed. Finally, Section Ω (**Fig. 63**), the area of the large Roman house of the fourth century AD, was cleared. A pit was found containing a layer of ash, a rosette lamp signed by 'Sekoundos' and a bowl; the ceramics date to the second century AD. Perhaps of the same period is an Athenian Imperial bronze coin with Athena

An exceptionally well-preserved bronze coin depicting Themistokles standing on a warship and accompanied by an owl and a snake was also found.



63. Athenian Agora: Section Ω, large Roman house. © ASCSA.

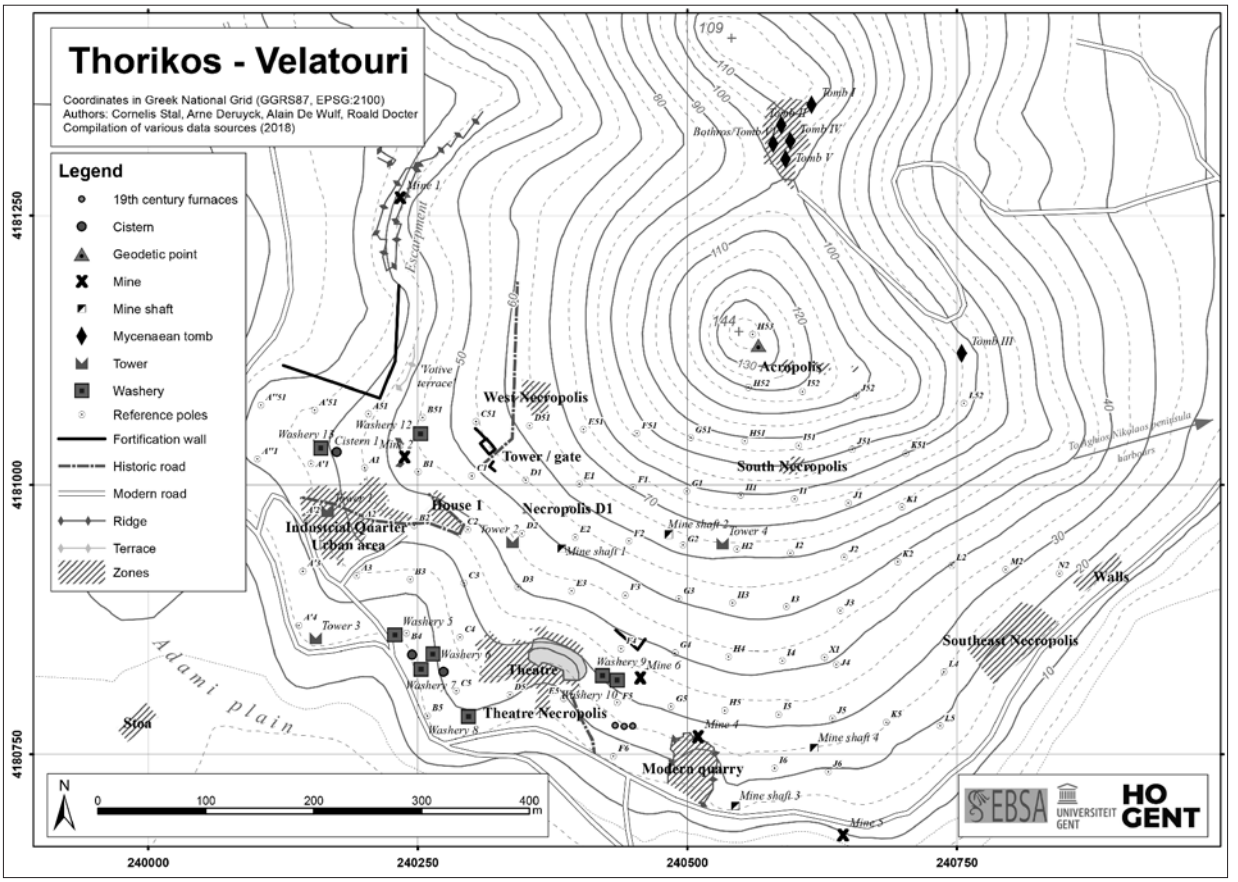


64. Athenian Agora: Athenian Imperial bronze coin from Section Ω. © ASCSA.

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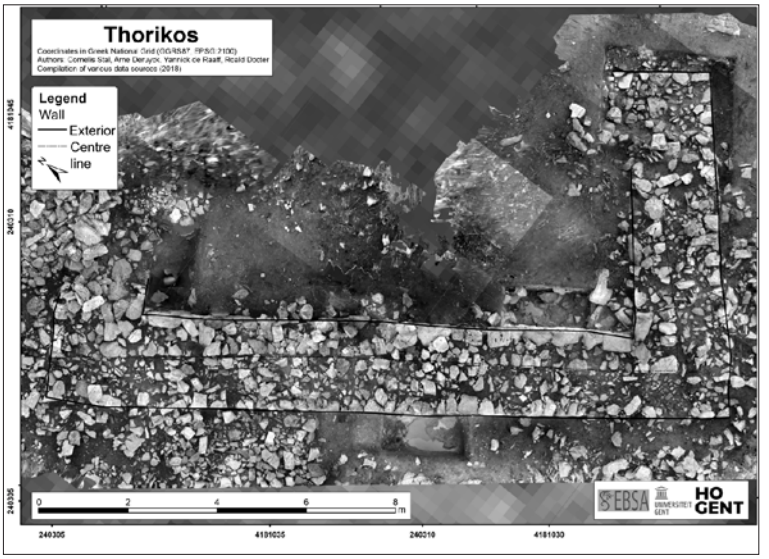
on the obverse and a bull's head on the reverse (**Fig. 64**). Several bone styluses were also found, one with an inscription partially preserved.

A new five-year project is currently underway at **Thorikos** (2018–2022, under the auspices of the EBSA), and Roald Docter (Ghent) and Sylviane Déderix (Heidelberg/Louvain) report on the results. In 2018, there were two principal points of focus, the first on remains from the fifth century BC. A large rectangular structure, located between the West Necropolis and the Industrial Quarter was explored, and interpreted as part of the city walls (**Fig. 65**). The structure was documented using photogrammetry (**Fig. 66**). It had at least two phases of construction, the latter in the fifth century BC when its walls were reinforced, increasing them from 0.8m to 2m thick. The second point of focus was on the Velatouri acropolis and the eastern slope of the hill. These areas were surveyed and geophysical and geochemical analyses were carried out on the plateau to the east of the Great Velatouri. On the summit, the Prehistoric buildings were cleaned and documented using photogrammetry. The team also studied finds from previous excavations and released a publication on ongoing research that highlights the important work and future aims of the project (Docter and Webster 2018).



65. Thorikos: site plan. © EBSA.

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66. Thorikos: photogrammetric model of the large rectangular structure. © EBSA.

2018 also saw the third consecutive year of underwater archaeology in the area of the Kynosoura peninsula and Ampelakia bay on **Salamis**, where the Greek fleet famously met on the eve of the naval battle of 480 BC (https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2799). In order to investigate a large submerged public building, in use from Late Classical/Early Hellenistic times to the third century AD, on the northwestern side of the bay of modern-day Ampelakia, a new 'amphibian' technique was successfully employed by the Institute of Marine Archaeological Research and the EUA. A barrier, like a flexible cofferdam, was installed by K&P Engineering in order to drain sea water; this allowed for both underwater and land-based excavation techniques to be used (**Fig. 67**).



67. Salamis, Ampelakia bay: view of the drained site and foundations of the public building. © K. Katris/Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/Institute of Marine Archaeological Research.

New sections of the large stone plinth foundations of the building (possibly a temple or a stoa) were unearthed. It is oriented on a north-south axis and measures 15m in length at present, but likely extends further north and south. The eastern side of the foundation makes up the base of a pier constructed at least 200 years ago from the building's materials. Although the precise function of the ancient structure remains uncertain, it appears to have been one of the main public buildings in the district.

The team also uncovered a significant amount of pottery, including amphora fragments and jar handles; the assemblage is primarily Hellenistic, but includes Late Classical and Roman examples. Several fragments of architectural features, columns, pedestals and marble statues, including a complete male head belonging to an athlete or a god, were also found. The head is of high-quality Greek manufacture and dates to the fourth century BC (**Fig. 68**).

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68. Salamis, Ampelakia bay: head of a Classical marble statue. © C. Marabea/ Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/Institute of Marine Archaeological Research.

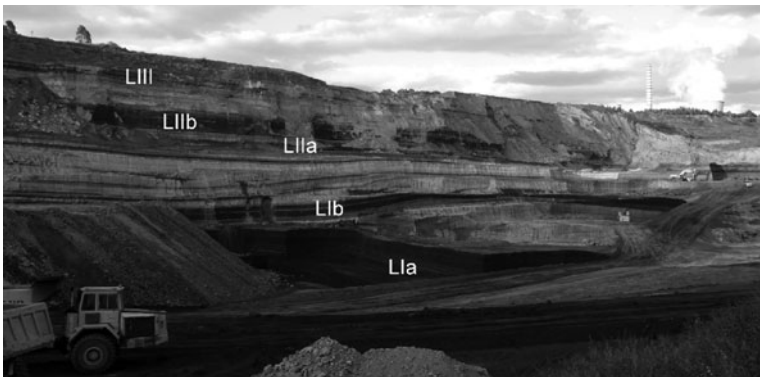
Marathousa 1 ... is dated to ca. *400–500 ka BP, and is therefore the oldest known archaeological site in Greece and the only known open-air Lower Palaeolithic butchering site in the southern Balkans.*

During the 2018 field season, marine sediment data were acquired, and these will be used along with other geophysical and archaeological evidence to reconstruct the area's geography, especially the shapes of the bay and the straits at the time of the Battle of Salamis.

Peloponnese

Excavations have continued at the recently discovered Lower Palaeolithic site of **Marathousa 1**, Megalopolis (Karkanas *et al.* 2018; Panagopoulou *et al.* 2018a; 2018b). It is dated to *ca.* 400–500 ka BP, and is therefore the oldest known archaeological site in Greece and the only known open-air Lower Palaeolithic butchering site in the southern Balkans (for previous work and evidence of elephant remains, see Panagopoulou *et al*. 2018b). During the 2018 field season (EPS/ASCSA/Tübingen), five survey units (SU) were investigated. These were located inside the Marathousa and Choremi mines, and cover a total length of *ca.* 8.2km of tiers (**Fig. 69**).

Numerous fossils were identified. In SU7, at the northwestern part of the Marathousa mine, fossil bones were found in four locations between the top of the lowest Lignite Unit I and the base of Lignite Unit II. SU8, at the north-northwestern corner of the Marathousa mine, targeted the deepest part of the mine. Here, three bone samples were found – a vertebra and two ribs. In the Choremi mine, in SU6, a bone cluster was found in a mollusc-rich layer. Bones include beaver, deer and hippopotamus. SU7 is at a higher elevation in the Choremi mine and focuses on Lignite Unit II, where several bones were identified, including a horse bone in the area underlying Lignite Seam IIA. Stratigraphically close to the horse bone were remains of a giant deer in SU6. The identification of a number of hippopotamus remains in the lower parts of the Megalopolis basin confirms the presence of permanent freshwater bodies in the area. Finally, two cores were drilled to gather biological and environmental samples in order to create a palaeoenvironmental reconstruction of the lake system in the area and map any changes over time.



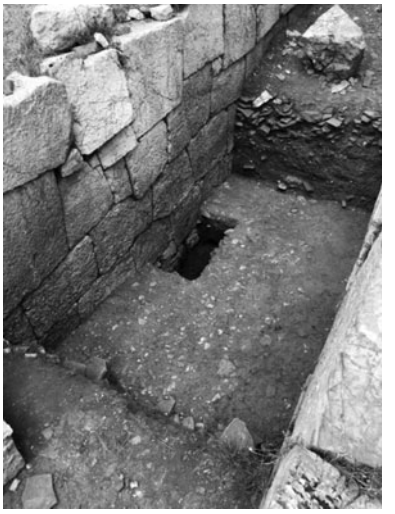
69. Marathousa: panoramic view of the northwestern part of the mine. Individual seams of the three main lignite units (LI to LIII) are also indicated. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EPS/ASCSA/University of Tübingen.

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The ***Mount Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project*** ran its third season of excavation in June to July 2018, when finds from the Neolithic to Hellenistic period were revealed at the sanctuary of Zeus. The project is directed by Anna Karapanagiotou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Arcadia) and David Gilman Romano and Mary Voyatzis (Arizona/ASCSA). Focus during 2018 was on the altar area of the sanctuary at the southern peak of Mount Lykaion and also on the area of the mountain meadow *ca.* 200m below, at the site of the lower sanctuary. Investigation of the human burial near the altar revealed a large volume of pottery, dating to the Neolithic period, Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. There were also many fragments of Mycenaean terracotta figurines. In the lower mountain meadow, a series of walls was found. Excavations were also undertaken to locate the so-called 'Hemicycle Building', first discovered by Konstantinos Kourouniotis in the early 20th century. Sections of this building were successfully identified in the area west of the stoa.

Finds from the Neolithic to Hellenistic period were revealed at the sanctuary of Zeus.

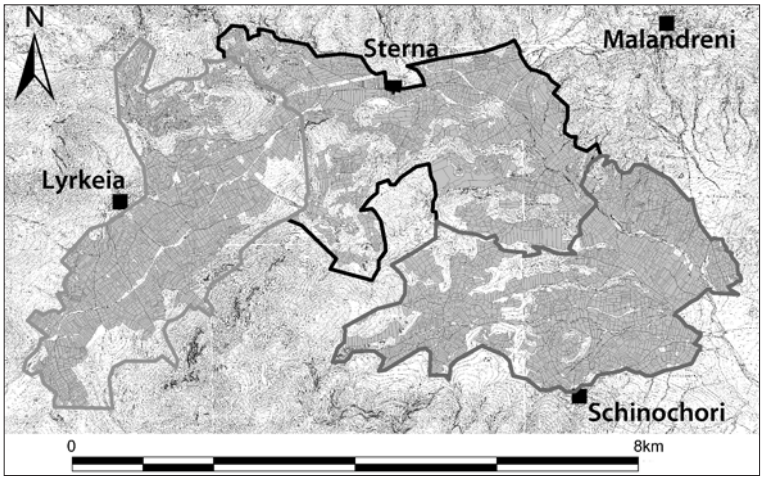
A 3m section (Trench N) of a 30m-long corridor, extending from the eastern wall of the administrative building to the north, was also investigated (**Fig. 70**). Here, the team found Hellenistic pottery, roof tiles, animal bone and, at the lowest levels, Classical pottery. Digging also exposed a chipped limestone surface, probably the pavement for the corridor. Efforts were also made to locate a sanctuary of Pan, described by Pausanias, in the area between the stoa, the fountain and the administrative building. Parts of a hydraulic system, large limestone blocks and Classical pottery were found. Within the administrative building, work began to locate the floor surface. Finally, a surface survey was undertaken in an area *ca.* 100m × 500m immediately above the Krambova spring. Excavation and conservation work will continue over the coming years.



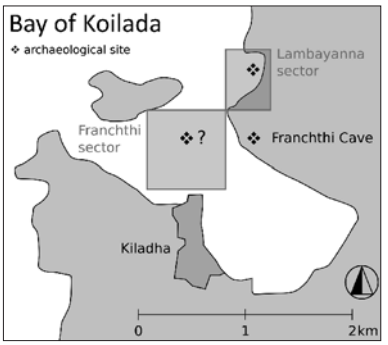
70. Mount Lykaion: corridor, Trench N. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Arcadia/ASCSA/University of Arizona.

The ***Western Argolid Regional Project*** is a diachronic archaeological survey programme under the aegis of the CIG and the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Argolid; results range in date from Prehistoric to Early Modern times. The project is investigating the upper Inachos river valley, including the modern villages of Lyrkeia, Schinochori and Sterna (**Fig. 71**), in order to understand the relationships between different communities within the region and their positions within wider interregional networks, as well as the changing nature of these relations through time (for previous work, see Gallimore *et al.* 2017; Rupp *et al.* 2017; 2018; also Tetford *et al*. 2018). In 2018, participants worked towards completion of the objects database, as well as the refinement of entries already catalogued. Ceramic material was also re-evaluated and often dated more accurately. A great deal of material was reassessed as Mycenaean, for

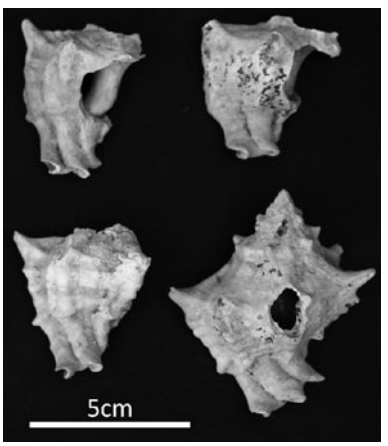
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71. Western Argolid Regional Project: *survey area.* © Western Argolid Regional Project.



72. Koilada: map of the bay. © *Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/ESAG.*



73. Koilada: murex shell discovered at the Lambayanna site. © *Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/ESAG.*

example, and much Medieval material was reassigned to the Late Ottoman and Early Modern periods. Research on the fortifications of the Argolid is also underway. This element of the project documents known archaeological sites (Prehistoric to Roman) in the western Argolid through a programme of photography, architectural drawing, topographic mapping and study of surface pottery in order ultimately to place the project's survey results into a wider context.

Underwater exploration of an Early Bronze Age settlement took place in the bay of **Koilada**, in the southern Argolid, under the supervision of the EUA and the ESAG (**Fig. 72**). This area is already well known as the location of the Franchthi Cave, a site occupied from the Palaeolithic to the end of the Neolithic (Jacobsen 1973). In recent years, however, Swiss and Greek archaeologists have focused their attention not only on the waters around the Franchthi Cave, but also on the submerged Early Bronze Age settlement that was discovered at **Lambayanna** in 2014 (**ID5045**). In 2018, topographical survey and geophysical analysis using electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) were carried out at the Lambayanna site in order to complete the work of previous years. At the same time, the first geophysical analysis was carried out near the Franchthi coast, in the hope of locating a Neolithic settlement. This use of ERT in an underwater environment and on such a large scale is a first, and researchers await the results. The underwater site of Lambayanna is particularly noteworthy for the large quantity of murex shells (*Hexaplex trunculus*) discovered in its earliest layers (**Fig. 73**). Most examples have been punctured, most likely for the extraction of purple dye. If this hypothesis is confirmed following further analysis, this might be the earliest known evidence for the extraction of dye from murex shells. Excavation continued in 2019.

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Work has also continued at the Mycenaean cemetery of **Aidonia**, Nemea, just northwest of the sanctuary of Zeus, as part of a new programme launched in 2016 by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinthia under the direction of Konstantinos Kissas and Kim Shelton (UC Berkeley) (**ID6920**; Shelton and Kvapil 2019). Two unlooted chamber tombs dating to the Late Mycenaean period, *ca.* 1400–1200 BC, have been uncovered (**Fig. 74**). One tomb has an intact roof and contained two primary burials and the bones of another 14 individuals. The other tomb contained three primary burials and has a collapsed roof. At least part of the collapse has been dated to within the Mycenaean period.



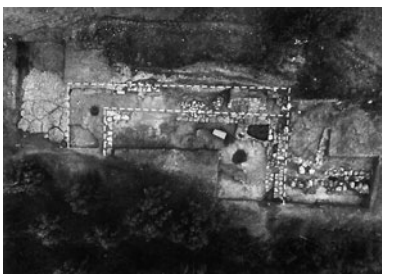
74. Aidonia: aerial view of the two unlooted chamber tombs and previously excavated tombs. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinthia/ASCSA.

Of the other 20 chamber tombs uncovered at Aidonia since 1978, 18 were found plundered, and so the discovery of two unlooted tombs is of particular importance. Both yielded a number of small finds, including clay pots (**Fig. 75**), figurines and buttons. This picture is in contrast to that from earlier burial sites of the Early Mycenaean period, *ca.* 1600–1400 BC, which have produced table and storage vessels, weapons and prestige objects. According to the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, this year's finds are important for understanding the development of the site through time and its connections to the palatial systems of neighbouring areas, especially Mycenae.



75. Aidonia: stirrup jars from the tomb with an intact roof, ca*. 1400–1300 BC. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinthia/ASCSA.*

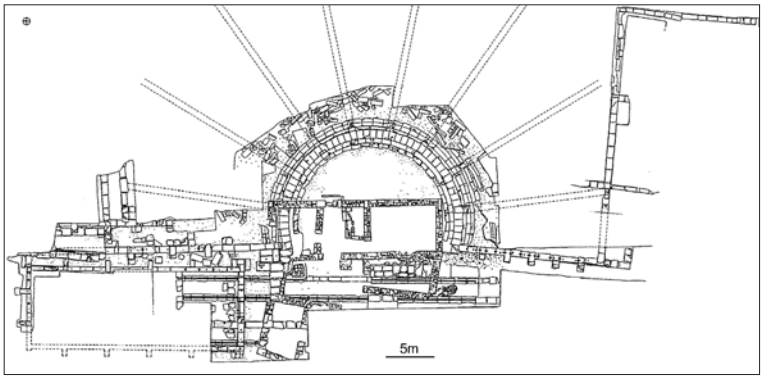
Excavation work was carried out at the sanctuary of Apollo at **Amyklai**, Sparta, in 2018 and revealed Archaic and Roman structures (**ID6895**; *Ergon* 2018: 24–26; http://www.amyklaion.gr/?page_id=3357). There was a focus on the area of the 'south building', a rectangular structure (*ca.* 22m × 8m × 6m, with its southern side unfortunately missing) that was uncovered on the southern side of the hill in 2017 (**Fig. 76**). The northern part of the building functioned as a retaining wall and the northern and western sides together formed a γ-shaped stoa, which was made of fired mudbricks and roofed. The floor was made of packed earth and pebbles. The eastern side of the building was, during a later phase, reinforced with a second wall. The centre of the building was an open space, in the eastern part of which iron tools, lumps of glass and burnt clay were found, providing evidence for kilns in the Late Roman period.



76. Amyklai: aerial view of the 'south-building'. © ASA.

On the eastern side of the south building, a 2m-wide wall that intersects the building at a right angle was uncovered. Along the southern side of this wall, numerous small finds were discovered – aryballoi and other miniature pots from the seventh and sixth centuries BC, iron spits and a fragment from a bronze helmet. These objects were excavated from a layer of black earth produced by burning, and this suggests that ritual activities were conducted in the area. The finds (7,059 sherds

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77. Thouria: sketch-plan of the theatre, including the later building in the orchestra. © ASA.

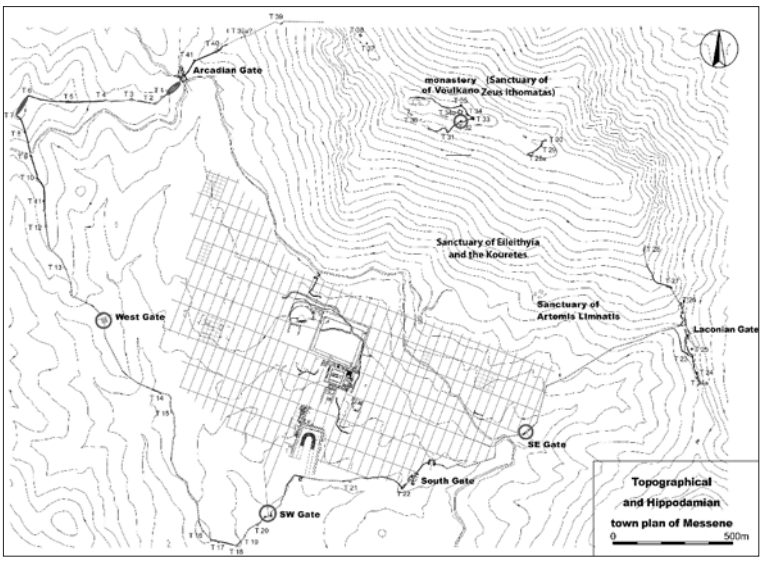
were collected in total) and stratigraphy date the intersecting wall to the early seventh century BC. The first destruction of the wall took place in the second half of the sixth century BC, when the south building was built. A second destruction phase is thought to date to the Late Roman period. The team also carried out restoration of the peribolos.

The remains of a long building (18m × 6.15m), which was constructed over the orchestra of the theatre after its abandonment, were uncovered.

Xeni Arapogianni (ASA) reports on continued excavation of the Classical (fourth-century BC) theatre at **Thouria**, Messenia (**ID6893**; *Ergon* 2018: 19–22). The remains of a long building (18m × 6.15m), which was constructed over the orchestra of the theatre after its abandonment, were uncovered (**Fig. 77**). The building was made up of three rooms and the discovery of part of a wine-press has led the excavator to propose an agricultural function for the building. Other finds include undiagnostic sherds and fragments of a statue of Athena with an aegis. The excavation also revealed rooms outside the long building; these had been built as later additions and lay over part of the channels of the skenotheke. The southern parodos was preserved to five courses with five pillars.

Maria Spathi (Society of Messenian Archaeological Studies) and Stefan Feuser (Kiel) report on excavations (undertaken in collaboration with Detlev Wannagat of the University of Rostock) at the fourth-century BC sanctuary of Artemis Limnatis in **Messene**, located on the southeastern flank of Ithome (**Fig. 78**; Spathi and Feuser 2018). The 2018 season focused on the area around Building D, on the western side of the temenos (**Figs 79**, **80**). Numerous artefacts were found, especially along the northern side of the building (Section D4). These include figurines of Artemis, notably two well-preserved heads of local clay and many examples of the same type as those common at the sanctuary of Artemis Orthia. There were also standing and seated female figures, a fragmentary marble statue of Artemis and a small bronze statuette of the goddess. The majority of the ceramic assemblage comprises tableware and drinking vessels of types popular in the fourth and early

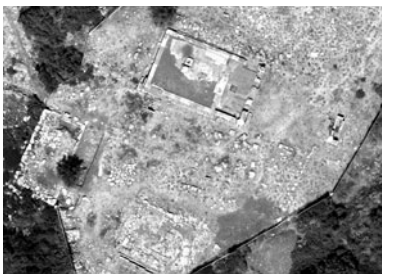
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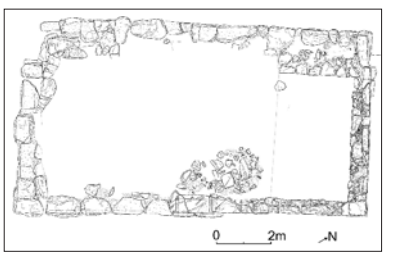
78. Messene: topographical plan. © Society of Messenian Archaeological Studies/ University of Kiel.

third centuries BC. Other finds include well-preserved bronze objects such as mirrors, miniature pots, a miniature shield, an arrowhead and rings. According to the excavators, the objects are characteristic offerings of a female cult and may be part of a dispersed deposit to the west of the temple. The finds also date the foundation of the sanctuary to shortly after the foundation of the city in 369 BC.

Along the western wall of the building (Section D5), a wall preserved to its original height was uncovered, but its precise function remains unclear. Finds from the area include Corinthian roof tiles, Early Hellenistic pots, a head of a female figurine and two Gorgon reliefs made of terracotta. The roof tiles were placed on a north-south axis directly over a layer of stone chips and other material associated with the packing of the floor, and the excavators suggest that the tiles, along with other nearby finds, were part of a foundation deposit of Late Classical or Early Hellenistic date. The eastern part of the temple outside the enclosure and the area 15m south of the plateau were cleared, revealing remains of various structures, including a possible fountain.



79. Messene, sanctuary of Artemis Limnatis: aerial view, with Building D at the west of the temenos. © Society of Messenian Archaeological Studies/ University of Kiel.



80. Messene, sanctuary of Artemis Limnatis: Building D. © Society of Messenian Archaeological Studies/ University of Kiel.

Excavation work also continued in 2018 on the Hellenistic remains in the southern part of the sanctuary of Isis at **Messene** (**ID6892**; *Ergon* 2018: 16–19). The halls of the Iseion, dating to the mid-second century BC, yielded some glass-paste tesserae and fired bricks. Several doorways in the halls were found to be blocked. This season also saw the completion of the restoration of the funerary monument K3, a type usually found on Sicily and in the East rather than in Greece, according to the excavator, Petros Themelis. The monument is three storeys high (9.25m) and contains eight chest-shaped burials (**Fig. 81**). The

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81. Messene: sanctuary of Isis: the chest-shaped burials of monument K3. © ASA.

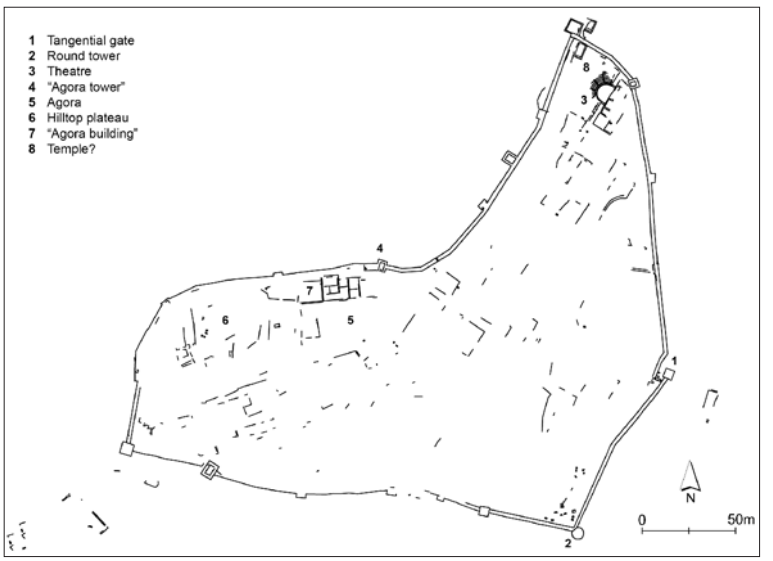


82. Messene: sanctuary of Isis: solid stone vase on the peak of monument K3. © ASA.

interior is accessed by a monolithic stone ramp and door. A Corinthian column capital, bearing the partial name ΕΥΚΛΕΙ[...] and supporting a solid stone vase, sits on the top of a concave cone roof (**Fig. 82**).

Oliver Hülden, of the Austrian Archaeological Institute, and Georgia Alexopoulou, of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaea, report on work carried out at Hellenistic **Leontion** near Kalavryta in September 2018 (Hülden and Alexopoulou 2018). Various areas, including the entire city wall, the gate in the east-southeast of the city, the so-called agora, a small plateau to the west of the agora and the theatre were cleared of all vegetation to allow for survey work, aerial photography and a 3-D laser scan of selected points (**Fig. 83**). These activities clarified the course of the wall and placed it and the theatre within the same phase of construction. The buildings are presumed to be Hellenistic (https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/oeai/research/settlement-archaeology-and-urbanism/leontionpolis/). A number of stone cist tombs between the summit plateau and the so-called agora were also noted. These are of possible Medieval date, that is, sometime after Leontion had already been abandoned as a city. Further research is planned up to 2022.

Excavations continue at **Sikyon**, with work in 2018 focused on the well in front of the western stoa; its depth was extended from 6m to 12m (**ID6894**; *Ergon* 2018: 22–23). Finds date to the Hellenistic and Roman periods, and are similar to those found in 2017: mostly fragmentary table wares and cooking wares and food remains, as well as charcoal and architectural pieces. At a depth of *ca.* 10m, the ceramics date to the third quarter of the first century BC, and the transformation of the well into a rubbish dump appears to have taken place after parts of its lining collapsed at around this time.



*83. Leontion: diagrammatic representation of the ancient fortification of the city and its urban structures. © ÖAW-ÖAI/*Leontion-Projekt.

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84. Tenea: finds from the burials. © E. Korka.

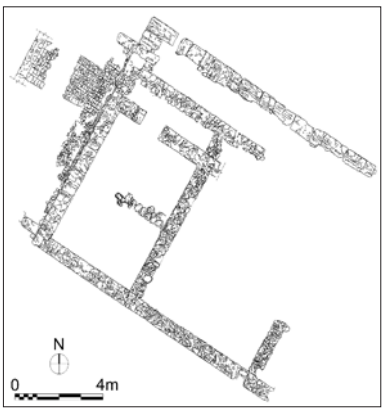
Hellenistic to Roman remains of the ancient city of **Tenea** are believed to have been identified near the modern village of Chilomodi, where excavations began in 2013 (https://www.kathimerini.gr/994978/gallery/epikairothta/ellada/giati-h-anakalyyh-ths-my8ikhs-teneas-sthn-korin8o-einai-shmantikh-fwtografies-apo-ta-eyrhmata). Work conducted in September and October 2018, directed by Elena Korka (Director General Emerita of the General Secretariat of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage at the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports), produced important new evidence for the precise location and nature of the ancient city of Tenea, known until recently through ancient texts only. Nine new burials were discovered in the area of the Hellenistic and Roman funerary sites surrounding the city. Inside the tombs, gold, copper and bone jewellery, small pots and coins were found (**Fig. 84**).

In 2018, a new area (covering 672m^2) was explored at Tenea (**Fig. 85**). Here, a series of Hellenistic to Roman buildings was revealed, including large sections of preserved wall, elements of clay and marble, and stone floors. A possible atrium with architrave columns was also identified and a 3.5m section of clay pipeline is believed to have been a sewage pipe. Portable finds include household pottery, a bone die, jewellery and a large storage jar/pithoid amphora. There are also a number of pottery shapes with eastern influences. Particularly significant is the discovery of more than 200 coins dating from the fourth century BC to the Late Roman period. Several coins date to the rule of Septimus Severus (AD 193–211). The excavator believes that the coins and other finds strongly indicate the extent of trade in Tenea, located between Corinth and Argos, and the prosperity of the city and its inhabitants. Excavations will continue over the coming years.

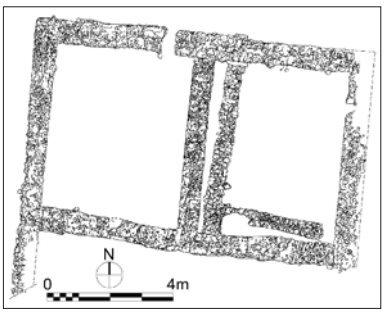


85. Tenea: the series of buildings discovered in 2018. © E. Korka.

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86. Lechaion: Area A. © Lechaion Harbour and Settlement Land Project.



87. Lechaion: Area B. © Lechaion Harbour and Settlement Land Project.

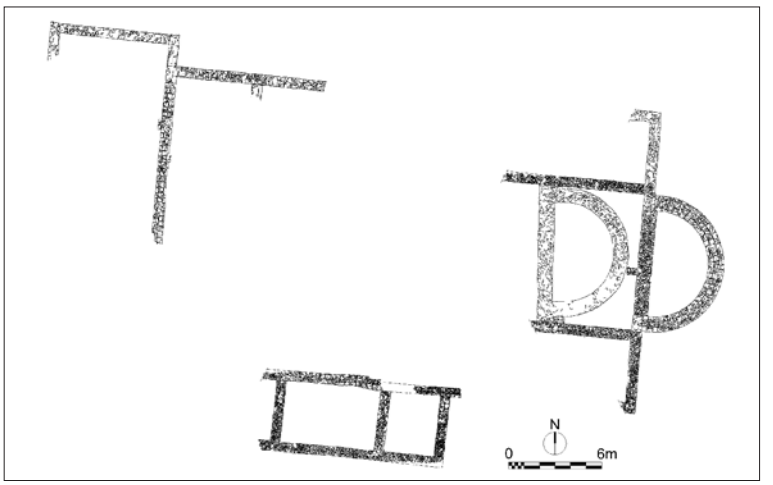


88. Lechaion: carnelian gemstone from Area B. © Lechaion Harbour and Settlement Land Project.

2018 saw the third and final field season of the ***Lechaion Harbour and Settlement Land Project***, a synergasia between the ASCSA and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinthia, directed by Konstantinos Kissas, Karl Franzens (Graz) and Paul D. Scotton (California State University, Long Beach). Excavation concentrated in three areas with remains dating from the first century BC to the sixth century AD (Scotton 2018). Area A is a stoa located next to the southeastern corner of the inner harbour and made up of at least three rooms fronted by a colonnade or corridor (**Fig. 86**). The function of the building is unclear, but it dates to the second half of the first century BC and was used by squatters in the fifth century AD. In the westernmost room, 3.15m × 4.56m, a basin possibly for an olive press and a small hearth were identified. Three fifth-century AD cooking pots were found in the fill above the upper floor, which covered the basin and hearth. A possible earlier fourth room, 4.33m × 8.26m, has a well-preserved tile floor and produced many knapped flakes of Melian obsidian. Geometric and Archaic sherds have also been found in this area.

Area B was used for food processing and manufacturing, and it has provided evidence for sixth-century AD occupation, with the earliest levels dating to the Early Roman period (**Fig. 87**). Room 2 of the building here yielded more than 100 coins (previous excavations had already produced a hoard of 117 coins from the fifth to the sixth century AD) and a carnelian gemstone representing Aphrodite (**Fig. 88**). The room adjacent has now been fully delimited and proven to be the westernmost room of Area B. Excavation and cleaning also revealed white plaster with red letters on the exterior of the western walls. The letters read ΓA or TA. A third room was noted to the east.

Area C is a large Roman civic basilica; this is the fourth to be found in Corinth so far (**Fig. 89**) and only Rome has more. The impressive structure has two primary phases – Augustan and



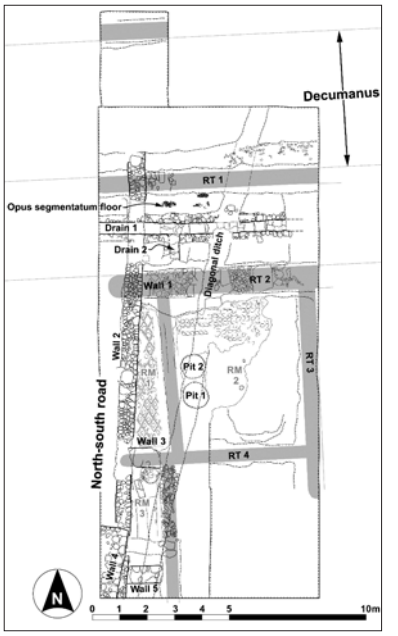
89. Lechaion: Area C. © Lechaion Harbour and Settlement Land Project.

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Neronian/Flavian. Both phases included an apse in the east. Geophysical survey and excavation also revealed a later third-century AD addition to the south of the sanctuary. The outer apse yielded a fragment of a Mycenaean cup in a Roman context. Geomorphological samples were taken from all three areas, with particular focus on the various gravels in Area C. Results have shown that the basilica was accidentally flooded some time after the construction of the inner apse and before the construction of the outer apse.

A large circular structure, with a diameter of ca. *25m, tentatively interpreted as a lighthouse, was also noted.*

The team also found evidence of two parallel walls separated by a distance of *ca.* 5m from each other and running parallel to the shoreline. A large circular structure, with a diameter of *ca.* 25m, tentatively interpreted as a lighthouse, was also noted. An unexpected quantity of North African and eastern pottery has also been found. The 2018 macrobotanical assemblage provides evidence for domestic activities associated with the area, including plant processing and cooking. Foodstuffs found include olive pits, burned wheat and barley grains, and, in smaller quantities, pulses, figs and hazelnuts. The excavators suppose that each of the crops was grown near the site. Carbonized *Abies* (fir) seeds and wood, seemingly used for fuel, were also present. This is an unusual use for a high-quality and expensive wood; it was normally used for construction. A possible explanation is that discarded debris from trimmed logs was collected as a fuel source. Also noteworthy is the lack of waterproofing mortar (containing an aggregate of crushed potsherds and/or volcanic rock) for floors and walls; this is a very common feature at other Roman sites. Further study and scientific analyses are in progress (2019–2020).



90. Corinth: plan of the excavations east of the theatre. © ASCSA/Florida State University (J. Herbst).

Christopher Pfaff (ASCSA/Florida State University) reports on the excavations in Roman **Corinth** in the area northeast of the theatre (Pfaff 2018). This is a largely unexplored part of the site, with the exception of an east-west road discovered in a test trench in 1973 (**Fig. 90**). The 2018 excavations brought to light more of this road as well as large numbers of coins and other small finds. The upper layers of the road date to the fifth and sixth centuries AD, the lowest to around a century earlier. The lowest layers of a possible sidewalk date to the Early Roman period. It is anticipated that further excavation of the road will also reveal earlier layers dating to this period. A drain was discovered running parallel to the road. This was lined with tiles and covered by a mosaic (*opus segmentatum*) floor. It is not clear when it was constructed, but lamps found within it suggest it was out of use by the sixth century AD.

The remains of a Roman building – possibly an urban house – were uncovered in the area south of the road and drain. The building was once richly decorated, as attested by the discovery

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91. Corinth: floor of Room 1. © ASCSA/ Florida State University.

of painted wall plaster in red and yellow, imported marble revetments and mouldings, and patterned floors. Room 2 has a floor of diamond-shaped tiles in a herringbone pattern and Rooms 1 and 3 have floors of diamond-shaped marble tiles and black stone chips surrounded by white stone tesserae in a trellis pattern (**Fig. 91**). Interestingly, the floor patterns are previously unattested in Corinth, but similar examples are found elsewhere in the Roman world. At some point, pithoi were inserted into pits in the mortar subfloor of Room 2 and were used until around the sixth century AD. The fill in these pits contained fragments of a Palestinian amphora and a large number of fourth- and fifth-century AD coins – 51 in the southern pit, 47 in the northern. The excavator suggests that the coins were most likely discarded rather than hoarded, as they were mixed with the fill deposited in the pits. A large four-handled cooking pot was found in Room 3. The pot had been placed upside-down sometime in or after the sixth century and used as a hearth, as indicated by the evidence of burning, ash and animal bones within.

Excavations also revealed a long rubble wall (Wall 2), dating to an undetermined time after the sixth century, over the floors of Rooms 1 and 3. A late north-south road was identified to its west and another rubble wall, the latest structure discovered so far in the excavations, was found set into the latest layer of this road. Pottery from earlier periods (Late Neolithic, Early Helladic II, Early Iron Age, Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic) suggest that the area had a long period of use. For example, fragments of moulds of Hellenistic relief bowls may point to the presence of a Hellenistic ceramic workshop in the area. Other activities during the 2018 season included conservation and protection of the Frankish area and of Room C of the South Stoa, and collections management.

Northern Aegean

Five more shipwrecks, dating from the fourth century BC to modern times, were located off the **Fourni islands** by a Greek-American team of marine archaeologists in September 2018, raising the total number found in the area to 58 (https://korseai.com/EN/2018_Expedition.html). The investigations are directed by George Koutsouflakis (EUA) and Peter Campbell (R.P.M. Nautical Foundation/British School at Rome) with the support of the KORSEAI Institute and the assistance of the local population and fishing community (**Fig. 92**). The shipwrecks show evidence of looting and damage by fishing nets, which is unsurprising given their relatively shallow depth of 10–40m. Nevertheless, the discoveries highlight the ancient role of these islands, located between Ikaria and Samos, where two main shipping routes once met, as an important part of naval networks. A fourth-century BC cargo



92. Recording finds in a shipwreck in Fourni islands. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/Vasilis Mentigiannis.

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contained Aegean and Phoenician amphorae, a second-century BC shipwreck contained a cargo of Knidian amphorae and a fifth- or sixth-century AD wreck had a cargo of Late Roman amphorae. The more recent shipwrecks date to the 18th and 19th centuries. Divers also found 18 terracotta lamps from the second century AD, which are decorated with images of ancient statues, gladiatorial scenes and geometric patterns. The bases of the lamps are inscribed with the names Lucius and Octavius, and they come from Corinthian workshops (**Fig. 93**). In addition to the ships and their cargoes, 25 anchors dating from the Roman to Byzantine period were located. The finds provide evidence of a prosperous settlement in Kamari that flourished in the Roman and Byzantine periods. The project is planned to continue over the next five years (see Viglaki-Sofianou *et al.* 2019).



93. Fourni islands: second-century AD terracotta lamp incised with the name of the maker, one of a group found on the seabed. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/George Koutsouflakis.

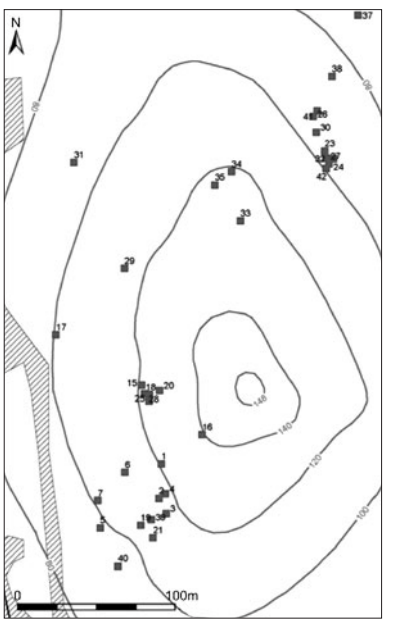
The Athenian-Macedonian News Agency reported in May 2019 the remarkable discovery of a Roman temple dedicated to Nemesis in **Mytilene**, Lesbos (https://www.kathimerini.gr/1024047/article/epikairothta/ellada/to-iero-ths-nemesews-efere-sto-fws-anaskafh-sto-arxaio-8eatro-ths-mytilhnhs). Excavations are being conducted by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Lesbos, under the supervision of Pavlos Triantafyllidis, and the School of Engineering of the University of Bari, Italy. The temple was found at the southern entrance to the ancient theatre in Mytilene following the removal of a number of large limestone blocks (**Fig. 94**). It is thought to date to the first century AD, the period of the second construction phase of the theatre (the first construction phase dates to the Hellenistic period). The temple has been identified by the presence of a stone altar and a number of dedicatory inscriptions made by priests and others, and its existence, according to Triantafyllidis, is not surprising, as the theatre was used for gladiatorial combat during the Roman period. The temple would, therefore, have been essential for the awarding of victory (https://www.plataformamedia.com/en-uk/culture/interior/remains-of-temple-found-under-ancient-theater-on-greek-island-of-lesvos-10906546.html). Excavations are ongoing.



94. Mytilene, Lesbos: temple of Nemesis. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Lesbos.

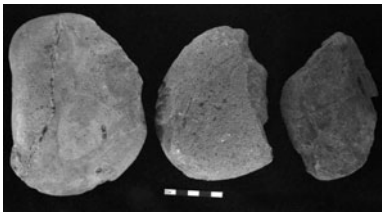
Southern Aegean

The ***Stelida Naxos Archaeological Project***, a synergasia between the CIG and the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades, is excavating an Early Prehistoric chert quarry and stone-tool workshop on the northwestern coast of the island (Carter *et al*. 2017; Carter 2018a; 2018b; https://stelida.mcmaster.ca/). Excavation of six trenches was completed in 2018 and another five were opened (**Fig. 95**). OSL, micromorphological, aDNA and phytolith samples were taken from various trenches. Of particular note was the discovery of possible Middle Pleistocene deposits in trench



95. Naxos: upper slopes of Stelida where work was conducted in 2018. © Stelida Naxos Archaeological Project.

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96. Naxos: sandstone hammerstones of likely Middle Palaeolithic date from SH/024-0368. © Stelida Naxos Archaeological Project *(A. Petrovic).*

DG-A/003, Mesolithic and Upper Palaeolithic material in DG-A/039 and Middle Palaeolithic material in DG-A/040 and SH/042; the latter is located on the eastern slopes of Stelida and also produced significant quantities of Levallois blade cores and flake cores. Six OSL dates have pushed the site's chronology back into the Middle Pleistocene. Further work on chronometric, micromorphological and stratigraphic analyses will provide clearer chronological and site-formation information. Microtopographic mapping of the site was completed using a drone, which allowed for the creation of a 0.08m-resolution digital elevation model. This year's work also included the first major analysis of the ground-stone assemblage. In total, 98 pieces were inventoried, of which sandstone hammerstones were the most common type, followed by emery, granite and quartzite tools (**Fig. 96**).

Signs of habitation from Early Cycladic times to the seventh and eighth centuries AD have been confirmed at **Vryokastro**, Kythnos and the nearby islet of Vryokastraki, which was once connected to the main island by a narrow isthmus (**Fig. 97**; http://extras.ha.uth.gr/kythnos/index.php?page=home). Excavation work was carried out under the direction of Alexandros Mazarakis Ainian (Thessaly) and Dimitris Athanasoulis (Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades) in June to August 2018 (https://www.kathimerini.gr/983056/article/epikairothta/ellada/spoydaia-arxaiologikh-anakalyyh-sthn-ky8no). Evidence of a third-millennium BC (Early Cycladic) settlement comes from the discovery of obsidian tools and sherds of pottery. It is possible too that a number of stone-carved rooms may also belong to the Early Cycladic period. A three-aisled basilica (16m × 12.5m) with a narthex and an arch was also uncovered. The building appears to have two main phases: Early Christian and a possible phase in the seventh or eighth century AD. Later architectural additions include two towers and exterior walls. Material from the site shows that it

Material from the site shows that it was abandoned and then resettled in the 12th century BC, after which it was inhabited without interruption until the seventh or eighth century AD.



97. Vryokastro, Kythnos: aerial view. © *Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/University of Thessaly.*

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was abandoned and then resettled in the 12th century BC, after which it was inhabited without interruption until the seventh or eighth century AD (for previous work on the history of Vryokastro, see Mazarakis Ainian 2019). In the Early Byzantine period, the settlement shrank before being abandoned, and inhabitants moved to the Castle of Oria. Finds at the site include statue fragments, obsidian tools and pottery from the Early Cycladic period, the end of the Bronze Age, the Roman period and the Early Byzantine period. Conservation work on the sanctuary of Apollo and Artemis was also completed.

Excavation of a Late Bronze Age public building, the so-called 'House of the Benches', at **Akrotiri**, Santorini, has yielded a number of interesting artefacts (*Ergon* 2018: 37–40). Inside, a clay urn, a set of horns, several jars and small rectangular larnakes were found. In the northwestern corner of the building, investigation of one larnax revealed a marble Early Cycladic female figurine that lay diagonally in the bottom of the chest (**Fig. 98**). A group of small larnakes was also found in the southeastern corner. These contained clay pots and stone vessels.



98. Akrotiri, Santorini: Early Cycladic figurine at the bottom of a larnax. © ASA.

This year has seen the continuation of systematic excavation and restoration work in and around the Archaic sanctuary of Apollo on **Despotiko** under the supervision of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades (https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2896). Work this year focused on the buildings surrounding the temenos and the islet of **Tsimintiri**, located between Despotiko and Antiparos. In Building H, which consists of six rooms, excavations revealed an open-air semicircular space and another room (**Fig. 99**). Excavations were completed of Buildings K, Λ and Σ, within one of which a large storage vessel was found *in situ*. In



99. Despotiko: excavation of Building H, including the semicircular space. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.



100. Tsimintiri: aerial view of the buildings on the northeastern side. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

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101. Despotiko: finds from the 2019 excavations. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

Building T, just outside the Archaic temenos, clay figurines, lekanes and metal objects dating to the mid-sixth century BC were found. Work also continued on Building A^T on Tsimintiri and on the northeastern side of the island, where a remarkable discovery of five large-scale buildings, including a circular space 15.5m in diameter, was made (**Fig. 100**). Each structure was well built of local stone with an entrance facing north towards Despotiko and the port. The size, construction and location of the buildings, moreover, point to their role as public buildings perhaps related to the port. Other finds from the 2019 excavations are just as impressive as those found in previous years: fragments of marble sculpture, clay figurines, Archaic pithoi with relief decoration, red- and black-figure pottery, inscribed ostraca, lamps, ivory beads, metal objects, etc. (**Fig. 101**). Important restoration of the temple and other areas was also carried out.



102. Levitha: cargo of amphorae. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA/Anastasis Agathos.

Underwater excavations conducted by the EUA have this year revealed five shipwrecks, with finds dating from the Archaic to the Early Christian period, near the Greek islet of **Levitha**, which sits on an important ancient trading route between the islands of Amorgos and Leros. The Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports reports details of the finds (https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2891). The ships were found with cargoes of large numbers of amphorae, most likely used for the transportation of goods (**Fig. 102**). One ship contained amphorae dating to the mid-third century BC that seem to come from the northern Aegean, Knidos, Kos, Rhodes, Phoenicia and Carthage. Amphorae from other ships date to the second and first centuries BC and the Early Christian period. An impressive granite anchor pole weighing 400kg was also discovered, at a depth of 45m. It is believed to date to the sixth

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103. Xobourgo, Tenos: Classical cemetery on the southeastern foothills. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/National and Capodistrian University of Athens.

century BC and may be the largest example from the Archaic period found in the Aegean to date. Its size suggests its use by a colossal ship. Underwater exploration is due to continue until at least 2021.

An excavation conducted by the University of Athens at a Classical cemetery at **Xobourgo** on Tenos (**Fig. 103**) has brought to light several high-quality grave stelae, some carved in high relief (**Fig. 104**; https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2902). According to the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, the discoveries are important for understanding the developments of Classical sculpture on Tenos. Stone caskets, clay and stone sarcophagi, and pots for the burial of children were also found. Funeral pyres were discovered between the graves. The latter contained few grave goods, mostly Attic ware.



104. Xobourgo, Tenos: high-relief Classical stele of a man and his slave. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/National and Capodistrian University of Athens.

In December 2018, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports announced the rediscovery of a stele inscribed with the Resolution of Nikouria on **Amorgos**. It dates to the third century BC and had been missing for nearly a century; it was found built into the outer wall of a house in the village of Tholaria. The Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades has planned for the transfer of the stele to the Amorgos archaeological collection.

Excavations during 2019 in front of the Aghios Nikolaos chapel on **Mykonos** have brought to light the foundations of the pier and the islet on which the chapel was built in the fourth century AD, as well as traces of the bridge that once connected the chapel and the pier (https://greece.greekreporter.com/2019/04/07/centuries-old-traces-of-mykonos-now-brought-to-light/). Archaeological work is also being conducted next to

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105. Petras: aerial view of the cemetery. © Petras Excavations.

Paraportiani, where traces of the Medieval settlement of Kastro have been uncovered and a Medieval tower next to the Pyrgiani church has been identified.

Crete

A number of Early to Middle Minoan graves (2800–1700 BC) have been uncovered at the ancient cemetery of **Petras** in Siteia, northeastern Crete (https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2347; https://www.petras-excavations.gr/). The cemetery is thought to have been reserved for members of the elite and is also considered the largest cemetery of this period on Crete (**Fig. 105**). Metaxia Tsipopoulou directs the excavations, which have been underway for 14 years. In the first pit (2100–2000 BC), under funerary building 2, were the remains of a man buried with a bronze dagger, the first weapon to be found in the Petras cemetery (**Fig. 106**). The grave also contained a secondary burial of a woman with a number of fine beads of gold, silver, crystal, carnelian and jasper. A second grave (2600–2300 BC) also contained a rich collection of gold and silver beads, many with impressed decorative spirals and possibly once attached to clothing. The third grave contained two secondary burials of children under the age of ten, who had been interred with two bracelets made of thin gold sheet. To date, over a number of years, 26 funerary structures and five burial pits have been investigated. At least four or five structures, noted during the 2018 field season, remain to be explored fully. The cemetery also has two ritual areas (1900–1700 BC) and two periboloi to the east and west. The skeletal evidence is currently being excavated and analysed. Research is ongoing, and the results will be important for understanding Pre- and Protopalatial Crete (Tsipopoulou 2017; Tsipopoulou and Rupp 2019).



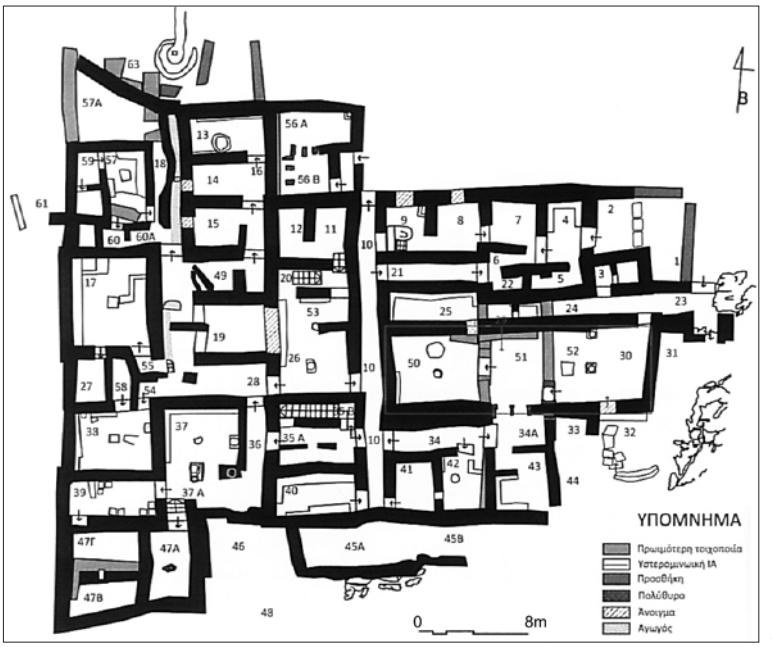
106. Petras: Middle Minoan IA pit burial of a man with a bronze dagger. © Petras Excavations.

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Excavations at **Koumasa** in 2018 focused on the Bronze Age settlement near the well-known cemetery that had been the focus of excavations in previous years (**ID6896**; *Ergon* 2018: 49–53; for earlier research, see Panagiotopoulos 2016). Within the Neopalatial building, in Rooms 5 and 6, a wild-goat horn, pottery, a stone grinder and the head of a terracotta figurine were found. Excavation also took place east of the building, where the continuations of walls and the floor of another building were revealed. Northwest of the building, remains of the collapsed upper floor were found, as well as fragments of white, red and orange plaster and a pillar base. The ground-floor fill and the upper-floor layer produced several conical cups and fragmentary coarse-ware vessels. Building remains were uncovered in Trench 16, along with an ophite sealstone in the shape of a three-sided prism, more fragments of conical cups and a two-wicked lamp. Part of a building was also exposed in the northernmost section of the excavations (Trench 17). This area produced Neopalatial ceramics, an almost complete brazier, stone tools, Middle Minoan II–III amphorae and a Middle Minoan II handleless hemispherical cup. Work in the cemetery also continued, where more small finds were discovered, including beads, bronze and stone pendants, and chert blades.

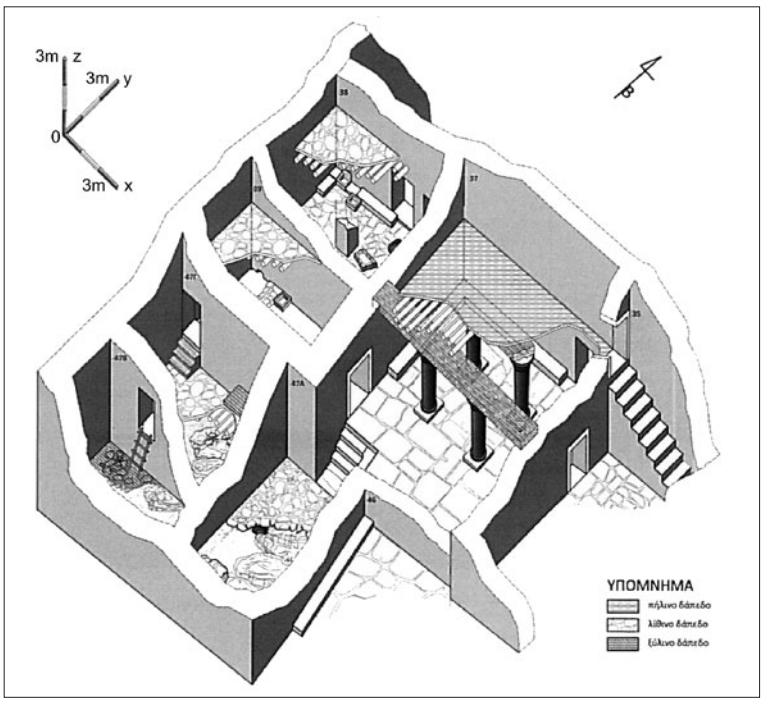
Excavations at Koumasa in 2018 focused on the Bronze Age settlement near the well-known cemetery that had been the focus of excavations in previous years.

Excavation, directed by Efi Sapouna-Sakellaraki (ASA) continued at Bronze Age **Zominthos** in 2018 and 2019 (**ID6897**; *Ergon* 2018: 44–49; https://www.archaeological.org/from-the-field/?ref_id=32359). Zominthos is located on a plateau on Mount Ida, on an ancient route between the palace of Knossos and the Idaean Cave (**Fig. 107**). The southwestern area, the site of two- to three-storey structures (**Fig. 108**), has

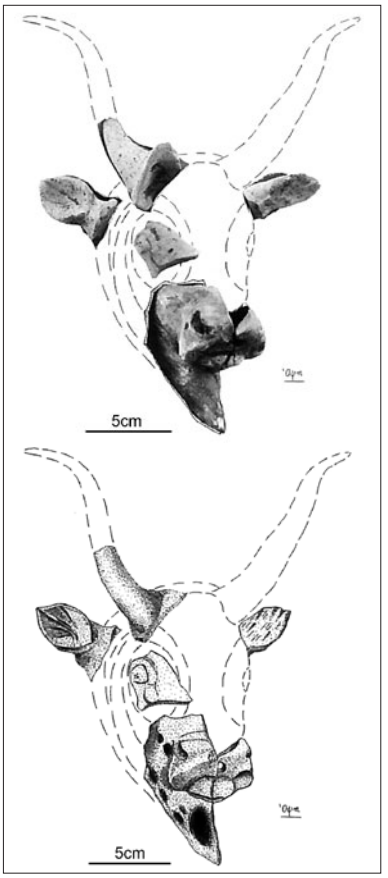


107. Zominthos: site plan. © ASA

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108. Zominthos: axonometric view of Room 47. © ASA.



109. Zominthos: fragmentary rhyton in the form of a bull's head from Room 57a. © ASA.

yielded a number of interesting architectural finds in recent years. In 2018, the excavation area was extended by 100m^2, within which was a double-door entrance (to Corridor 23) that led to an open-air paved area, possibly used for games or ceremonies in Minoan times. A paved entrance was also uncovered on the northeastern side. Room 64 was excavated for the first time in 2019. Here, evidence for a possible ramp or staircase has been found in the form of large slabs set on different levels. Room 1 also had several large slabs on different levels as well as charcoal evidence of a possible wooden beam.

Numerous portable finds were recovered from across the entire excavation site at Zominthos. For example, all rooms yielded fragments of rock crystal and obsidian, as well as pottery. Notable among the finds are the fragments of a 0.3m-high rhyton in the shape of a bull's head, found on the western side of the building in Room 57a (**Fig. 109**). Room 1 contained hundreds of Late Minoan I conical cups, which were also found in some quantities elsewhere in the complex. Other finds include a bronze chisel, a pendant and animal bones. The nature of the finds in the complex confirms its economic and, in particular, religious significance. The discovery of a coin of Hadrian in Corridor 23 attests, furthermore, to the use of the area in Roman times.

Jan Driessen (UCLouvain) reports on the ninth season (June to August 2018) of fieldwork at Bronze Age **Sissi** on Crete, under the auspices of the EBSA. The focus in 2018 remained on the

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Neopalatial monumental court-centred building on the southeastern summit of Kephali Hill or Buffo (**Fig. 110**; https://sarpedon.be/; for previous results, see Driessen 2018; Driessen *et al.* 2018). After clearing and finishing excavation of the 33m-long and brightly coloured central court, a large terrace wall overbuilt by a later wall was exposed. Excavations were undertaken in the lower level to the south and in the surrounding wings. A finely paved passage leading from the court to the outside was found to the north. A narrower, western passage had been found in 2017, and it is possible that the two may once have been connected by a road at the top of the hill. To the west, architectural remains sharing one wall with a finely plastered Neopalatial room were uncovered. In the eastern wing, foundation deposits and two sealstones were discovered.

To the west, architectural remains sharing one wall with a finely plastered Neopalatial room were uncovered.

The area immediately north of complex CD is now thought to be one of the first areas reoccupied after the Late Minoan IB fire destruction, late in Late Minoan IB and again in Late Minoan II–IIIA1. Near the façade of complex CD, a complete sacrificial calf and four overturned jars – each containing a baby or infant – were discovered. Excavations of the Neopalatial house tomb, *ca.* 20m east of the Neopalatial complex, also continued in 2018. A secondary bone deposit with miniature pots of Late Minoan IIIA date was found in the rocky area south of the building, and more of the Middle Minoan I–II house tomb as well as a possible road were excavated in the cemetery area. Survey around Sissi revealed several more archaeological sites from the Bronze Age as well as later periods, demonstrating the long occupation of the area. The 2019 season was the final field season.



110. Sissi: aerial view of the court-centred building on Kephali Hill. © EBSA, N. Kress.

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111. Rousses, Kentri: a view of the burial chamber with objects in situ. *© Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi.*

An unlooted Late Minoan chamber tomb was excavated by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi in an olive grove at Rousses, near **Kentri**, Ierapetra, after authorities were alerted to its presence by a local resident (**ID6545**; https://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2339). The tomb is carved out of soft limestone. Its interior is divided into three cut niches, in the southernmost of which was found a complete larnax, including its lid (**Fig. 111**). Inside the larnax, the well-preserved remains of an adult were discovered in a highly contracted position and, in front of the coffin, 14 stirrup jars, an amphoroid krater and a cup were noted. In the northernmost niche, another larnax – this one broken and without a lid – was found; it contained the decayed skeleton of an adult. Six small stirrup jars and two small jugs were in front of this second larnax. Based on the ceramic evidence, the tomb can be dated to Late Minoan IIIA2–B (*ca.* 1400–1200 BC). Its discovery provides important evidence for Late Minoan presence in the area.

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