Archaeological Reports 56 (2009–2010) 1–201 DOI: 10.1017/S0570608410000013

ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2009–2010

CATHERINE MORGAN
The British School at Athens
director@bsa.ac.uk

INTRODUCTION

The appearance of this year's *Archaeology in Greece* (*AG*) coincides with the first anniversary of its sister publication *AGOnline* (www.chronique.efa.gr). As we anticipated this time last year, the new website went live on 1st December 2009, and was formally presented by the British School and the École française d'Athènes on 17th December in the presence of the British and French Ambassadors, and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Dr Lina Mendoni. I join the Director of the École française in expressing our sincere thanks to Dr Mendoni and her colleagues throughout the Greek Archaeological Service for their support. We share their desire to promote a fuller understanding of the work of the Ministry in rescue archaeology, site conservation and management. Not for the first time, the reports presented in *AG* underline the importance of rescue excavation in providing vital evidence for basic research questions, from urban development to city constitutions (this year's account of Argos includes a full description of the excavation at 48 Korinthou Street which produced the extraordinary collection of fourth-century inscribed bronze tablets noted in previous editions of *AG*).

AGOnline is now a well-established research tool valued by scholars worldwide. Its capacity to host and link large quantities of data and extensive illustrations came into its own this year as we sought to synthesize the unusually large volume and range of information recently published. At the heart of this year's *AG* are the two volumes of *ADelt* 55 which contain reports of work conducted up to 2000. *ADelt* 56, extending to *ca.* 2005, is in press, but the future of the *Archaiologikon Deltion* thereafter, as a print or electronic publication, is currently a matter of discussion. Whatever the outcome, *AGOnline* will allow us to present new data as soon as it is published, and the RSS facility on the site provides researchers with the latest updates, selected as they wish by region or period. Also included are reports from *AAA* 40–41 (2007–2008); a commemorative volume marking the 20th anniversary of the *AEMTh*; volumes 1 and 2 of the *AEThSE*; *Κερματία Φιλίας: Festschrift for Ioannis Touratsoglou* (Athens 2009); and *Αρχαιολογικό Έργο Κρήτης* I (the 2010 publication of the first pan-Cretan conference held in Rethymnon in 2008, an advance copy of which was generously provided by our colleagues in Rethymnon). Otherwise, our most up-to-date information comes from Ministry of Culture and Tourism press releases, reports of the activities of the foreign Schools and Greek universities in 2009 and the *Ergon* of the Archaeological Society of Athens. We thank the Secretary General of the Society, Dr Vasileios Petrakos, for supplying many of the images used in *AG*, and offer our warm congratulations upon his election as General Secretary of the Academy of Athens. As ever, we endeavour to credit the excavators of each site and to supply details of their institutional affiliation. This year, the task is complicated by the long period of research covered, from 1999 to 2010, during which many colleagues in the Archaeological Service in particular have moved positions. We apologize to all concerned for any errors that may remain in the text. Overall, this is one of the largest editions of *AG* in recent years: indeed, space constraints have prevented us from taking full notice of certain publications, notably the 2nd EPCA's *Τα Μεσόγεια στον Αργοσαρωνικό: το έργο μίας δεκαετίας, 1994–2003*, the *Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Boeotian Studies* (2008) and the *Proceedings of the 8th Symposium on Trikalina Studies* (2009). This material will appear quickly in *AGOnline* and be noted in print in next year's *AG*.

There are plenty of highlights in this rich collection of material. The recovery of two sixth-century kouroi from Klenia in the Corinthia was a significant success in the battle against the trade in illegal antiquities, and the ensuing excavation revealed an important part of the main cemetery of ancient Tenea. In southern Laconia, Linear B tablets plus fresco fragments confirm the existence of a higher-order Mycenaean centre at Ag. Vasileios; we look forward to reporting the results of the first season of systematic excavation next year. And a major shrine deposit at Bouri, on the relatively unexplored north coast of the Megarid, attracts comparison with Perachora to the west.

An important feature of *ADelt* 55 is the picture of the long-term development of several major urban centres provided by the presentation of large quantities of data with clear maps and systematic linking with the results of previous research. Some single plots are of importance in their own right: the complex history of settlement, from Middle Helladic to Late Roman, on the site of the new Acropolis Museum in Makriyianni is a case in point. Elsewhere, extensive bodies of evidence for particular periods or activities add to our knowledge of well-documented centres – the urban residences of Roman Sparta, with their rich mosaics, for example, or the extensive cemeteries discovered in the course of railway construction near Thebes. At Mytilini, the sections of water-front and quays revealed in pipe-trenches provide rare evidence for the long-term development of trading facilities and the nature and direction of trade from the Hellenistic period to the 20th century. Growing bodies of evidence should also be noted from the towns of western Greece, including the Classical–Hellenistic houses of Arta, the cemeteries of Sami and Fiskardo on Kephallonia and the large cemeteries emerging in Corfu town.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608410000013 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Large public projects continue to determine the course of archaeology in many regions. The mostly Neolithic and Byzantine settlement remains discovered during the Lake Karla drainage programme are one such case, and across Greece, the extensive programme of motorway construction and redevelopment is likely to exert a major influence for some years to come. Mycenaean remains recently discovered in the area of Derveni during the widening of the Corinth-Patras motorway have attracted considerable press attention, for example, and we hope to report more fully next year on the extensive excavations conducted during the construction of the E65 between Lamia and Karditsa.

A number of major conservation and restoration programmes have drawn to a close over the past year. The completion of work on the Propylaea is a landmark in the Acropolis restoration programme, and we report fully on the programme at Nikopolis which earned a Europa Nostra prize in 2009 (Europa Nostra awards in 2010 recognized the conservation of the tower of Ag. Triada on Amorgos and the Athens observatory). Work elsewhere has included the creation of archaeological parks around the Mycenaean acropolis of Ag. Andreas on Siphnos, and the aqueduct, quarry and shrines at Melanies on Naxos, presentation of the site of ancient Pelinna, conservation of the fortifications at Aigosthena and, at Vasiliko on Euboia, restoration of the Medieval tower which now houses an information centre on Early Christian and Latin Euboia. Attention is now turning to ancient theatres, with a major programme involving some 25 sites across Greece, from Melos to Dodona, the Theatre of Dionysos in Athens and Thasos, supported by an innovative combination of EU, local government and private funding.

The development of the museum network across Greece continues apace, with new or refurbished archaeological museums opened at Chaironeia, Igoumenitsa, Kalamata, Kalymnos, Karditsa, Nikopolis, Nisyros, Pella, Philippoi, Pythagoreio on Samos, Thasos and Thessaloniki (the Museum of the Ancient Agora). In Athens, the new permanent displays of the Byzantine and Christian Museum, which opened in stages through the year, are a tribute to the scholarship and vision of Dimitris Constantios, Director since 1999, who transformed the outlook of the Museum until his untimely death in February 2010.

Certain exhibitions and conferences held in Greece over the past year may be of interest to readers of *AR*. Exhibitions: *Magic of Amber* (Archaeological Museum, Thessaloniki: July 2009–February 2010); *Glass Cosmos* (Archaeological Museum, Thessaloniki: October 2009–December 2010); *Eros* (Museum of Cycladic Art: December 2009–April 2010); *Ancient Coin Hoards* (Numismatic Museum, Athens: April–December 2010); *Eretria* (National Museum, Athens: April–August 2010); *Alexander the Great* (Ioannina Archaeological Museum: August–October 2010); *Myrtis: face to face with the past* (National Museum, Athens: September–November 2010).

Conferences: *Recent Archaeological Research on Kephallonia, Ithaka and Zakynthos* (Netherlands Institute in Athens, 35th EPCA: October 2009); *Coroplastic and Small Finds from the Geometric Period to the Roman Era. Colloquium Held in the Memory of Eos Zervoudaki (*Ministry of Culture and Tourism: November 2009); *Early Helladic Laconia* (Netherlands Institute in Athens, Free University Amsterdam, 5th EPCA: January 2010); *Villae Rusticae and the Rural Economy in Greece in the Roman Period* (6th EPCA, KERA/EIA, Nomos of Achaia, Demos of Patra: April 2010); *Nomisma. La circulation monétaire dans le monde grec antique (*EfA: April 2010); *Fifth Symposium on the History of Phthiotis* (Lamia: April 2010); *Η ΤΩΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΩΝ ΑΡΧΗ. The Athenian Empire: old and new problems* (BSA, Greek Epigraphical Society: May 2010); *Fourth International Symposium of Siphnian Studies* (Society for Siphnian Studies, Demos of Siphnos: June 2010); *Sixth International Symposium of the Society for Boeotian Studies* (Society for Boeotian Studies: September 2010); *First Academic Symposium on the History, Archaeology, Art and Folklore of Imathia* (Society for the Study of the History and Culture of Imathia: September–October 2010); *ΠΕΤΡΑΣ 1985–2010. 25 years of Excavation and Study* (Danish Institute at Athens: October 2010); *The Architecture of the Agion Oros* (Agioreitiki Estia, 10th EBA: October 2010).

We end with a brief note on the production of this edition of *AG*, which is the first to be compiled as a joint endeavour with the École française. The BSA chapters were compiled by the School Director, the Assistant Director (Robert Pitt) and the Knossos Curator (Don Evely): chapters by the Director of the École française d'Athènes, Dominique Mulliez, were translated from the original French by Catherine Morgan. We thank Heinrich Hall for German translation and Evangelia Kiriatzi for last-minute editorial assistance. We thank Heinrich Hall for German translation, Evangelia Kiriatzi and Catherine Aubert (EfA) for their editorial support, and George Bruseker for preparing illustrations. Our production editor, Gina Coulthard, kept us on course despite the arrival of the newest member of the *AG* team, Lilly Coulthard Forrest, in August 2010.

Catherine Morgan
The British School at Athens

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608410000013 Published online by Cambridge University Press