MACEDONIA AND THRACE (PREHISTORIC TO HELLENISTIC)

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Introduction

Last year's report provided a wider chronological range but was more restricted in scope. This was a fair reflection of the reduced number of reports and publications available for the region in the calendar year 2011. This year's report on Macedonia and Thrace focuses on a number of emerging trends, as well as providing a partial overview of current projects, based on new reports that have been made available and on a summary of the relevant Ephoreia surveys in the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports' compilation for the last decade (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes). The Ministry's publication showcases medium- and long-term projects in the region, many of which have already received more detailed notice in past volumes of *AR*, through extended press notices or interim reports published annually in *AEMTh.* So the online album provides some new material and images on Madedonia and Thrace. However, the decennial review of work by the Ephoreias coincides with the publication of a number of books and an exhibition catalogue, which together offer an opportunity to reflect on trends and achievements over a longer time phase.

Details of a limited number of projects conducted in 2011 in Macedonia and Thrace were available as authored reports or edited for online access at the time when this synthesis was being prepared (reports that have normally been prepared by the EfA were incomplete). It seems sensible, therefore, to review the available material alongside broader reflections on a geographical basis, following the work of individual Ephoreias and their areas, rather than to present a straightforward chronological review of the last 12 months.

Publications

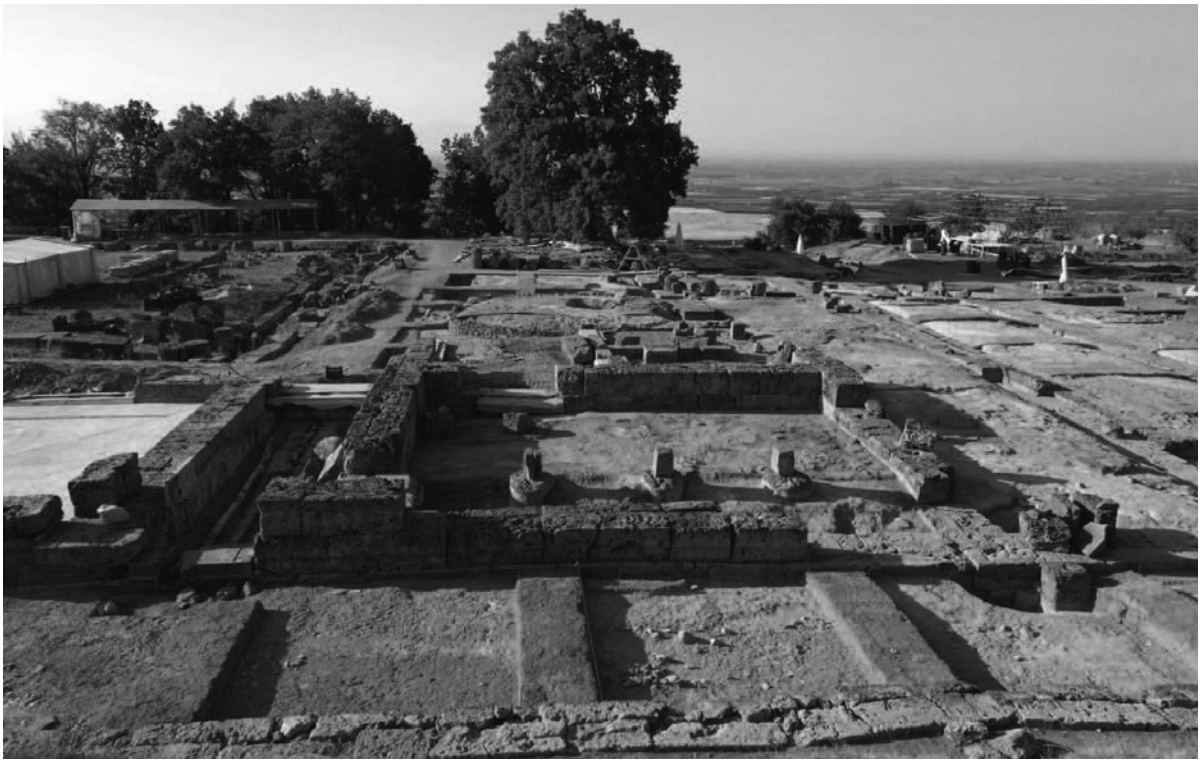
2012 has witnessed the publication of a captivating photographic album (Muller and Mulliez [2012]), celebrating the work of the École française d'Athènes on the island of Thasos. The School's archive has been re-explored to highlight key moments of the island's excavation history, a salutary reminder of how formidable were the practical as well as political obstacles in the earliest days of research and how rewarding the results. The excellent range of historic images gives a taste of the material potentially available for research of the island's modern historiography, as well as possible new directions for fieldwork and research.

Besides *AEMTh,* another journal dedicated to the far north of Greece has recently emerged, *Archaiologiko Ergo stin Ano Makedonia* (*AEAM*), whose first volume (for 2009) appeared too late for inclusion in last year's *AG*. A number of items referred to below are reported in volume 1. This publication reflects the expansion of research and rescue work in western Macedonia, including upland areas that have hitherto been the subject of study primarily amongst early prehistorians, anthropologists and historians of later periods. The marked increase in the number of sites identified in this upland area and the number of artefacts collected during research and rescue give some indication of the potential that the districts of 'Upper Macedonia' offer.

Last year I referred to the fact that archaeological information is still comparatively under-exploited by historians, with reference to the new Blackwell's *A Companion to Ancient Macedonia* (Roisman and Worthington [2010]). Another synthesis on Classical Macedonia, published by Brill, and edited by Robin Lane Fox, appeared in 2011, which competes with the former only in part of its coverage (Lane Fox [2011]). One important difference between the two volumes is the space given to the archaeological heritage of Macedonia in the Brill volume, and I will refer to individual chapters below. Joseph Roisman and Ian Worthington cover the period broadly between the sixth century BC and the incorporation of Macedonia as a Roman province, with later chapters covering the Imperial age and Late Antiquity. The thematic chapters nevertheless give significantly more space to the Classical than to any other historical period. Lane Fox focuses on the sixth to fourth century BC, while his contributors have adopted a broader time frame. Thus Chaido Koukouli-Chrysanthaki provides overviews of Amphipolis (409–36) and Philippi (437–52) that trace these cities from the time of their historical foundations, in the fifth and fourth centuries BC respectively, well into the period of the Roman Empire, while Polyxeni Adam-Veleni surveys Thessaloniki from before the time of Cassander's *synoikismos* to the time of the Emperor Theodosius; Thea Stefanidou-Tiveriou looks at Macedonian art under Roman rule (168 BC to AD 337) (563–84); and Dimitris J. Kyrtatas (585–99) provides a historical overview of early Christianity in Macedonia, though it is a pity that some account could not be taken of the funerary evidence associated with early Christianity in Thessaloniki, now highlighted again in the 16th Ephoreia's decennial report (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 181–83; *cf.* also *AR* 55 [2008–2009] 59–60). All the 'archaeological' chapters provide excellent bibliographical resources related to recent work.

Among the noteworthy additions to what is likely to become one of the most important resources on Macedonian civic architecture is the chapter by Angeliki Kottaridi on the **palace at Aigai** (297–333; *cf.* Kottaridi [2011]; *AR* 54 [2007–2008] 73; Saatsoglou-Paliadeli [2007]; **ID822**) (**Fig. 154**). Kottaridi's new interpretation of the structure and her dating of the principal outline of its construction to the reign of Philip II (*cf.* Drougou [2011] 248) are bound to stimulate debate, whilst full details of the stratigraphic data are yet to be published. Kottaridi's argument, accepted by other archaeologists excavating at the site, is that the palace and theatre should be studied together and were part of a single strategic design plan, beginning around the middle of the fourth century BC. The smaller, western palace complex appears, in the excavators' view, to have been the original nucleus, expanding with the construction of the much larger eastern complex, with its interior courtyard alone measuring *ca*. 2,000m^2. The dining accommodation is the most striking aspect of the whole construction, with three large rooms that could accommodate up to 30 couches each, and many smaller rooms, arranged, it appears, in sets of three. Classical scholars have found it hard to accept that the Argead monarchs really were innovators in various cultural fields, rather than imitators of southern Greek, particularly Attic, fashions. These views must be revised, whatever the detailed chronologies of the palace complexes at Aigai and Pella eventually reveal.

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154. Aigai: palace. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 17th EPCA.

The introductory chapter in the Brill volume by Lane Fox focuses on the dating of **Tomb 2 at Vergina**, attributed by scholars either to Philip II and one of his latest wives (whether Kleopatra or Meda) or to Philip III Arrhidaeus and his wife Eurydike (Lane Fox [2011] 1–34). The author's arguments build on his own earlier publications as well as an important review of the evidence by Miltiades Hatzopoulos in 2008. Both Hatzopoulos and Lane Fox aim to respond to the arguments put forward by a number of scholars in favour of Philip III Arrhidaeus and Eurydike, which were brought together in a long and ambitious article by Eugene Borza and Olga Palagia (2007), but which appeared too late for Hatzopoulos' piece. Borza and Palagia, whilst approaching the subject from different perspectives, both, nevertheless favour the case for Philip III and his wife Eurydike as the occupants of Tomb 2. Hatzopoulos provides a clear, dramatic and generously referenced account of the controversy and of the changing views of some of the principal contributors to the discussion.

Hatzopoulos (2008) and Lane Fox (2011) explore the wide range of historical and art historical arguments that have been deployed over more than 30 years, either to back Andronikos' original dating of the tomb or to reject it. The former chose the 30th anniversary of the excavation of the tomb as a moment of reflection, building on the publication of the frieze and other architectural aspects of Tomb 2 by Chrysoula Saatsoglou-Paliadeli in 2004 and of the ceramic finds by Stella Drougou in 2005. Hatzopoulos placed significant emphasis on the forensic analysis of the human bones and on the architectural history of the tomb itself, which was not constructed as a single commission, but shows evidence of having been composed in at least two stages, with the ante-chamber following the main chamber after an indeterminate interval. Lane Fox, on the other hand, attempts to demolish the arguments of Borza and Palagia, which were partially refuted by Hatzopoulos in 2008.

Lane Fox is himself the co-author of an important new paper, in which the forensic team of Jonathan Musgrave, Richard Neave and John Prag, along with Hugh White (2010), re-examine the suggestion put forward by A. Bartsiokas in 2000 that the skeletons in Tomb 2 were burned dry and that other features of the bone evidence are more consistent with the main corpse having been that of Philip III Arrhidaeus. For anyone less than fully engaged with the significance of the various discussions about dating and identity, this new paper may seem rather technical, especially when compared with the kinds of arguments that have populated the vast literature that has accrued over the last 30 years on this subject. However, Musgrave and his colleagues provide by far the most convincing scientific data that have been marshalled over the same period. Architecture, iconography, royal regalia and ceramics are ultimately material manifestations that do not lend themselves at all easily to precise dating. In the case of a royal burial – and no serious argument has ever been put forward to suggest that Tomb 2 was not royal – we might expect exceptional objects of many kinds, which by definition cannot be dated in the same sort of way that standard items can be. In terms of significant objects, I should also mention the remarkable iron pectoral, with its gilded silver cover, decorated with stamped geometric and vegetal patterns, which has a different set of associations from those of other objects identified in the main burial and, like the gold bow case, poses new questions about the cultural dimensions of the

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tomb's occupants that have hitherto not attracted as much interest among scholars as some of the other finds (see Archibald [1985]).

Musgrave and his colleagues' rearticulation of the forensic evidence, with important experimental details concerning the time required for a corpse to become fully defleshed in order to qualify as a 'dry' corpse, make it clear that Arrhidaeus and Eurydike must have been exhumed and cremated before being brought back to Vergina by Cassander. The forensic case for the occupant of Tomb 2 being Philip II remains as good as it was in 1984, when Prag, Musgrave and Neave published the findings of their systematic and searching analysis of the skeletal material. Musgrave and Prag (2011) have written a short piece for the Ashmolean catalogue edited by A. Kottaridi and S. Walker, outlining the principal arguments of the 2010 article.

The pyre on top of Tomb 2 has played only a very minor role in the arguments about the dating of the tomb and its occupants. Visitors to the reconstructed and conserved tomb at Vergina will have seen the remains of the pyre on display and marvelled at the quantities of material that were consigned to the flames. The animals sacrificed at the same time have recently been discussed by T. Antikas, in particular the horse remains (2006). This study has not been cited in any of the recent publications on Vergina and deserves to be better known.

The exhibition catalogue that accompanied the display of Macedonian material in the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Oxford (Kottaridi and Walker [2011]) is the fruit of a collaboration between the Museum and the then Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism, with the 17th EPCA. Some of the contributors to the catalogue also contribute to the Brill volume (Lane Fox on Macedonian history *ca*. 650–336 BC; Hatzopoulos on Macedonian royal and political institutions; Kottaridi on Macedonian legend, on queens and princesses at the Macedonian court, on burials at Aigai, on royal banquets and an Appendix on the palace at Aigai; Kremydi on coinage; Drougou on metallurgy; Lilibaki-Akamati on Pella). There are also new contributors: Yannis Galanakis on 160 years of archaeological investigation at Aigai; Elena Kountouri on Mycenaean evidence in Macedonia; Ioannes Graekos on trade and on war and hunting; Harikleia Brekoulaki on painting; and Susan Walker completes the volume with a comparative study of *kaisareia*, the ambitious architectural complexes of the Roman East that seem to have been inspired by the royal palaces at Aigai and Pella.

The Ashmolean catalogue provides excellent photographs of many of the finds from Vergina, which formed the exhibition, as well as items recently conserved, including fragments from the gold and ivory couches in Tomb 2 (34, fig. 29; *cf*. ivory board from a footstool: 78, fig. 61) and the magnificent grave goods of a queen, dated *ca*. 500 BC (97, figs 112–24, 270, cat. nos 328–39). There is a well-marked, coloured plan of the excavated area in and around the acropolis, the city walls (**Fig. 155**), the exposed civic remains and cemeteries at Aigai (154, fig. 172; this plan is shown upside down in the Brill volume, with different annotations). The plan is published in a recent report (Kontogoulidou [2007]; **ID2235**) on new finds in the necropolis of Aigai, where 37 new burials were recovered from an area of 400m^2, of which 30 belong to the Archaic period.

Regions and regionalism

The attentive reader of these new book-length publications on Macedonia looks in vain for a survey of sites and for any regional topographical explorations. Where were the people of Macedonia? What part did they play in the events that made Macedonia a name of global significance? The Brill volume, like the Blackwell Companion and the Ashmolean catalogue, documents dynastic, not regional history. In this respect Nicholas Hammond's first and second volumes of *A History of Macedonia* remain the only academic reference work that attempts to survey Macedonia as a territorial entity over time.

The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports' decennial publication (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes) is presented according to Ephoreia bundles which more or less coincide with the new administrative regions that came into force in January 2011 (i.e. this differs somewhat from the previous organization of *AG*). Historical works usually distinguish between 'upper' and 'lower' Macedonia, with various ways of describing the territories conquered by Philip II and not directly incorporated into the Argead kingdom. Hatzopoulos' term, 'the new territories', has the merit of emphasizing the temporal nature of political power in the areas east of the Axios from the second half of the fourth century BC onwards. The new administrative divisions locate Pieria and Imathia in central Macedonia (rather than western Macedonia, as in former editions of *AG*), along with Serres, so that the division between central and eastern Macedonia/Thrace runs west and north of Mount Pangaion. Florina, Grevena, Kastoria, and Kozani are now grouped with Epiros into the region of western Macedonia and Epiros.



155. Aigai: northern fortification wall. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 17th EPCA.

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156. Makrygialos: goods from tomb 5, one of 20 graves excavated during rescue work in 2010. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 27th EPCA.

The section on the 27th EPCA's work in **Pieria** perhaps inevitably covers a fraction of the work that has been carried out in the region during the decade covered by the report. The huge expansion of development work west of Thessaloniki, with the construction of the new Egnatia Odos (**Fig. 156**), the improvement of the road and railway connections along the Pierian coast (see the contributions to Tsouna [2008]) and urban growth at many key locations, has led to a vast growth in datasets and finds in Pieria. Of the sites included, **Methoni** deserves prominence in the year when a major monograph appeared as an e-book, published with exemplary speed and care by Manthos Bessios, Yannis Tzifopoulos and Antonis Kotsonas (2012), presenting the ceramic finds and graffiti (see also **ID493**; Bessios [2010]) (**Figs 157–59**).

Methoni was the subject of a conference in Thessaloniki on 8–9 June 2012. Titled *Panhellenes at Methoni*, its core was the corpus of nearly 200 graffiti on pottery, almost all of the period *ca*. 725–680 BC, from a huge pit of unknown purpose on the acropolis of the site, situated immediately south of the then mouth of the Haliakmon river. All but 25 of the marks are non-alphabetic, and the vast majority – very many numerical – is on a range of transport amphorae. The closest comparable



157. Methoni: plot 274, Building A. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 27th EPCA.



158. Methoni: plot 274, red-figure Attic cup. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 27th EPCA.



159. Methoni: plot 274, Corinthian pinax fragment. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 27th EPCA.

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sets are from Pithekoussai and Kommos. The alphabetic texts raised much debate, with a clear preference for seeing most as Euboean. They are almost all owners' inscriptions of some kind, including one in iambic verse on a skyphos and another, although fragmentary, clearly of a similar purport to the message on Tateie's lekythos from Cumae.

Systematic excavations at the site of ancient Methoni (first identified in 1970 as located between two hills north of modern Nea Agathoupolis, *ca*. 35km south of Thessaloniki) have been in progress since 2004. It is often considered, on the basis of ancient reports, to be the earliest known settlement of 'southern' Greeks on the northern shores of the Aegean and its harbour is considered to have been the safest landfall in the Thermaic Gulf, before the silting up of the estuaries of the main arterial rivers, the Haliakmon, the Loudias and the Axios. The evidence from excavation does indicate that Methoni became the principal commercial and craft production centre, along the western coast at least, in the Early Iron Age. On the other hand, the actual role of newcomers from the south in the development of Methoni has yet to be clarified, since the trading activities showcased in the new book (Bessios *et al*. [2012]) emerged within an indigenous settlement that already had a history over many thousands of years.

Neolithic activity on the eastern hill began in the sixth millennium BC and was succeeded, apparently without interruption, throughout the Bronze Age, while a Late Bronze Age cemetery has been located on the western, the higher of the two hills. During the Early Iron Age the settlement extended onto both hills. The excavations at Methoni offer an opportunity to rethink the framework of 'colonizing' activities in the region, much as those at Torone have helped to enlarge our understanding of long-term interactions between 'north' and 'south' on the Chalcidic peninsula.

The history of Methoni as a major focus of regional and inter-regional exchange was affected by the silting up of the three great estuaries to the north of it. The geomorphology of the Thermaic Gulf has been subjected to a number of recent studies, which now provide a more coherent thesis to explain how the surface geography of the coastal plain came to have the appearance that it now has. The alluvial and colluvial silting of the coastal landscape began much earlier than has usually been assumed, beginning in Neolithic times, and accelerated from the Bronze Age onwards (Ghilardi *et al*. [2008]). Results of an investigation of two public buildings at Methoni during 2011 could indicate that the inhabitants took refuge there during the siege of the city by Philip II in 354 BC (**ID2701**). This is the interpretation suggested by the large quantities of every-day pottery and a series of hearths inside the buildings (*Aggelioforos tis Kyriakis* 26.02.12).

The report of the 27th EPCA (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes 187–92) also includes a short account of some of the country-house estates that have been among the most striking new forms of settlement to have emerged from work related to development projects in the last decade, notably **Komboloi** and **Tria Platania** (**Fig. 160**). These are among the sites presented in a fair amount of detail, and generously illustrated, in the book edited by P. Adam-Veleni, E. Poulaki and K. Tzanavari, and published with admirable speed in 2003. Adam-Veleni also wrote a long report for the 20th anniversary volume of *AEMTh*, arguing that at least some of these country farms presage the development of slave-run villa estates (Adam-Veleni [2009]). The accounts published so far indicate that the scale of the Hellenistic country houses does not correspond to that envisaged for an intensively-managed estate run to generate high revenues. However, the range of properties currently undergoing investigation means that it will soon be possible to say a good deal more about the organization of a range of estates dating from the period of Roman occupation, particularly about the large number of such estates identified in the area of Thessaloniki. Adam-Veleni lists 14 that post-date the Roman conquest of Macedonia.

Examples of such country houses have also been identified in the Haliakmon valley. At **Agios Konstantinos** an area of 6,475m^2 was excavated, revealing a Hellenistic house (Building A) in the northern sector composed of 11 rooms around a central courtyard focusing on a paved area (**ID2724**). A destruction deposit above this comprised Corinthian-type tiles and mortar. The walls were carefully constructed of small dressed stone courses, superimposed by unbaked brick and covered with plaster inside and out. Entry into the building was on the southeast corner of Room A. There was probably a second entrance opposite, in Room Iα. A storage pithos was buried in the floor of Room B, which is north of Room A. Polychrome marble decorated the interior walls. This decoration, as well as a circular table and assorted iron nails found in Rooms B and Γ, suggest to the excavators that each of these rooms may have been an *andron* (Karamitrou-Mentesidi [2009b]). Both rooms face onto the courtyard. Room Δ to the north contained nine pithoi 1.1m in diameter, and should be identified as a storage room on a large scale (*pitheonas*). In the destruction deposit of Room E, on the west, a coin of the Thessalian League was discovered (196 BC), showing the head of Apollo and the image of Athena Itonia and the inscription [Θ]ΕΣΣΑ-ΛΩΝ on the reverse. One of the smaller rooms off the courtyard has a pebbled floor. Room Iα has been identified as a kitchen (*optanion*), judging by the circular hearth and large quantities of pottery.

A rectangular ceramic kiln (3 × 3.5m) was constructed on the ruined eastern wall of Room I, with the stoke hole on the east. Unusually, the exterior walls were built of stone, while the interior ones were of the more normal brick, with six brick pillars in the fire chamber. Kiln furniture was also found outside the kiln structure.

I have already mentioned the growing importance of discoveries in 'upper' Macedonia. The district of **Kozani** has been one of the most intensively investigated areas of Greece during the last few decades. The expansion of the modern city of **Edessa** has revealed a wide range of sites, of all historical periods, while conservation work in the centre of the city has secured a well-preserved focus around the southern sector of the ancient fortification wall (**Fig. 161**). The number of registered sites in the Kozani district has risen to close on 500, with the recovery of many thousands of finds. Among these, the range of multi-period sites in the middle Haliakmon valley, investigated in advance of the Ilarion Dam project, represent one extremely valuable group of datasets. Some of the individual sites with early prehistoric evidence are discussed below. Of particular significance are multi-period sites, such as **Polymylos** (identified as ancient

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160. Tria Platania: Hellenistic country house at the centre of a farming estate. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 27th EPCA.



161. Ancient Edessa: conservation area in the centre of Verroia, showing Hellenistic and Roman houses near the southern gateway. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 17th EPCA.

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Euia), first investigated in the period between 1995 and 2000, where there are traces of activity from the Neolithic, Late Neolithic, Bronze Age, Hellenistic and Late Roman periods (*cf*. **ID474**), and **Longkas Elatis** (**Fig. 162**), where prehistoric finds have been discovered alongside Hellenistic ones, as well as a Mycenaean-type sword. There is an important site, possibly a sanctuary, spanning the period between the seventh and sixth centuries BC at **Akrites** (**ID1167**), in the far west of the Kastoria district, an unusually rich cemetery of the Classical period at **Keramario Paliourias** (**ID2192**) (**Figs 163–65**), in the valley of the Haliakmon, Late Classical remains at **Anarrachi** (**ID1985**; see now Karamitrou Mendesidi [2009c]) and a Hellenistic settlement with a bathing complex at **Vromoneria Panaghias** (**ID2190**) (**Fig. 166**).

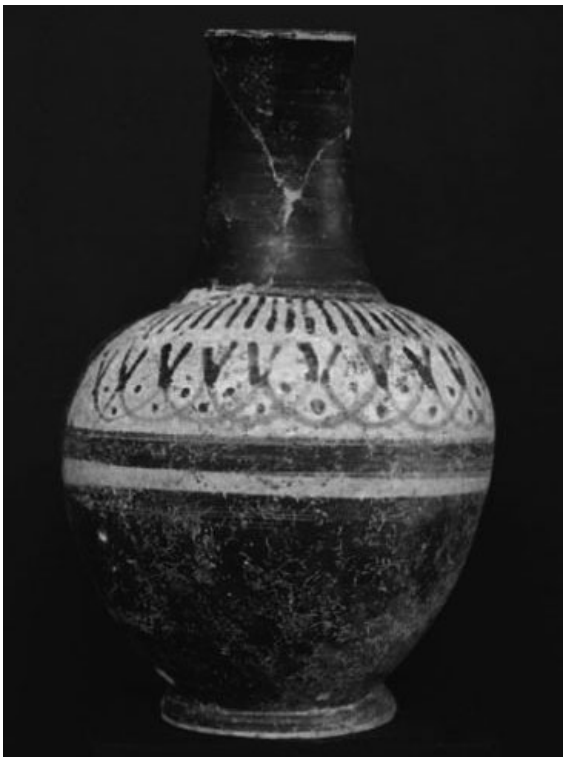
Twenty-five HL graves were discovered during rescue excavations at Ai Markos, **Mavropigi**. Coins of Cassander, Demetrios Poliorcetes and Antigonos Gonatas were among the grave goods. These burials help to put into context chance finds made since 1970. The contents show that eight of the unlooted burials belong to women. Some graves contained more than one burial. Aside from one Early Iron Age tomb, the rest could be dated in the fourth and third centuries BC. There was an associated settlement in the nearby Kastro (Karamitrou-Mendesidi [2009c]).



162. Longkas Elatis: Hellenistic single-roomed structure. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 30th EPCA.



163. Keramario Paliourias: view of the cemetery on the eastern hill. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 30th EPCA.



164. Keramario Paliourias: locally-made jug. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 30th EPCA.



165. Keramario Paliourias: bronze grave goods. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 30th EPCA.

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166. Vromoneria Panaghias: aerial view. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 30th EPCA.

Twenty-four tombs dating from the Archaic and Hellenistic periods were recovered south of the western sector of **Diporo, Haliakmon**, in 2009, over an area of 200m^2 (**ID2722**). These were mainly extended inhumations in pit graves (apart from one cist and two *enchytrismoi*), three of the deceased being laid on a bed of pebbles. Two of the pit graves were delimited by stones and one was covered with a slab. Six of the graves belonged to children. Tomb 52 contained a bronze lebes with a child's cremation, covered by a stone slab, the grave being covered by a mass of clay. Among the grave goods were two bronze pins, two fibulae and other finds dateable to the fourth century BC. Six graves contained exaleiptra and were dateable to the end of the sixth to the fifth century BC. Men were accompanied by spearheads, women by vases with silver and bronze jewellery. Two or possibly three Classical burials contained a black-figure lekythos, black-gloss pottery, an iron sword and bronze jewellery. Five other graves were Hellenistic in date (Karamitrou-Mendesidi [2009a]).

At **Panagia Diporou** two new horse skeletons, with metal ornaments, were recovered, belonging to the Hellenistic phase, along with bronze fibulae and a bronze ring, depicting a horse (Karamitrou-Mendesidi [2009a]).

Investigation of a 26ha area northwest of Thessaloniki during 2011 revealed 199 burials belonging to the western cemetery of the 'trapeza'/table mound of **Polichni**. Fifty-four *enchytrismoi* were of Early Iron Age date, there were four substantial Classical tombs, fifty-one of Hellenistic date and 11 Late Roman. Grave goods were in all cases rich (*Ethnos* 29.02.12).

Fieldwork in the **Thasos agora** in 2011 focused on the putative **bouleuterion** – the so-called *Édifice en tuf* (Grandjean and Salviat [2000] 11) – located in the northwest angle of the agora, between the northwest portico and the building with *paraskenia* (**ID2647**). The area was thoroughly cleaned and an analysis conducted of the structure's building phases. To the latest phase belongs the marble toichobate, as do the tufa walls and the semicircular wall of marble ashlar slabs. This structure can now be seen as the successor of an earlier building/s, whose walls were identified below. The immediate predecessor of the *Édifice en tuf* consisted of a complex of rooms, with a pair of rooms facing the agora, behind which was a row of five, narrower inner chambers. This structure had in turn been preceded by a structure raised on three external walls, made of polygonal masonry.

The research project initiated in 2004 to study systematically **epigraphic documents** on the island of Thasos, both documents that have been deposited in the Museum of Thasos and those in the field, continued through 2011 (*cf. AR* 54 [2007–2008] 85). The first area to be explored is the northeast corner of the agora, with the adjacent civic structures, under the direction of J.-Y. Marc (EfA/Strasbourg). A new study of documents in the Museum, connected with the planned **Corpus of Thasian inscriptions** (under the direction of J. Fournier, P. Hamon and N. Trippé [EfA]), focused on the civic archon list. Architectural masonry belonging to two sctructures was examined, an unidentified building finished in white marble (the bouleuterion?) and the structure with *paraskenia*. It was found that two inscribed blocks from the archon list probably belong to the same level.

One of the more extensive reports in the decennial album (www.yppo.gr/0/anaskafes) is that of the 18th EPCA. A combination of development and regular excavations has produced a wide range of studies, from the multi-period site (with Early Bronze Age activities underlying a Classical and Roman settlement) at **Perni** to 46 burials at **Phagres**, including a Late Bronze Age pithos

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burial, as well as a clay sarcophagus from the late fifth century BC and a variety of other graves from the second half of the fourth century BC. Following the direction of the Egnatia Odos west of Abdera, a series of 50 graves was recovered, mainly of Roman date, but also including some from the second century BC and four Neolithic pit graves. At **Akontisma**, the well-preserved fortification walls of the acropolis of a settlement in the mountains above Nea Karvali have been exposed (**Fig. 167**) (**ID423**; *cf. AR* 53 [2006–2007] 72). The first construction phase of the walls is dated by imported Thasian amphorae and bronze coins of Cassander (316–297 BC). A second hill-top site, west of Nea Karvali, was inhabited between the late sixth and mid-fourth century BC, and is thought to have been set up to exploit the timber and metal reserves further inland. The panorama of recently explored sites includes **Neos Skopos** (ancient Berge: 2000–2003) and **Argilos**, where the synergasia between the Ephoreia and the Canadian Institute of Archaeology has revealed paved streets running up from the late sixth-century BC harbour wall, other contemporary structures in the town and a Hellenistic rectangular house on the hill-top (**Fig. 168**). At **Platanias** a stone peribolos has yielded traces of activity from the Late Neolithic to the sixth century AD.

On **Samothrace**, recent work outside the Sanctuary of the Great Gods has focused on the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age site at **Mikro Vouni**, near the southwestern coastline, an Early Iron Age fortified upland site at **Vrychos** and the open-air sanctuary of **Madul - Panaghi**, as well as an ethno-archaeological survey of the island (Matsas [2009]; [2010]). Bronze Age sealings with Minoan-type symbols, including identifiable Linear A pictograms, as well as a disc-shaped balance weight, point to significance maritime contacts in a period that is still poorly understood in the island's history. Early Iron Age pottery at Vrychos indicates close connections between Samothrace, Thasos (Kastri IIB2) and the north Aegean coastline, including sites like Kastanas, while the presence of megalithic tombs at Vrychos and at other island locations (Gialomandra, Sellada, Vigla) suggests cultural links with the mainland opposite. The native population seems to have been progressively Hellenized, in linguistic terms at least. The preponderance of non-Hellenic graffiti between the seventh and fifth centuries BC was superseded by Greek ones thereafter.

Early prehistoric sites

Among the most interesting new sites that have emerged from development projects are those that continue to expand the range of evidence about the earliest human history of the north. The 18th EPCA has found a mid-sixth-millennium BC site at **Limenaria**, Thasos (succeeded by Early Bronze Age stone-built structures) and a fourth millennium BC site, including hearths and domestic equipment, but also two burials, at **Agios Ioannis Theologou** (**Fig. 169**). The 31st EPCA has investigated traces of Late Neolithic activity at **Laphrouda, Abdera**, dating to the mid-sixth millennium BC. At **Panagia Diporou** there were pits containing Late Neolithic pottery, resembling Macedonian matt-painted forms (Karamitrou-Mendesidi [2009a]). Bronze Age traces have recently been discovered at **Foufa, Kouri**, near Anarrachi, in Eordaia. In the Drama area a Middle Neolithic site has been investigated at **Arkadikos**, with traces of post-built, apsidal-ended houses.



167. Nea Karvali, Akontisma: fortified acropolis. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 18th EPCA.



168. Argilos: Hellenistic house on the hill-top. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 18th EPCA.



169. Agios Ioannis Theologou, Thasos: Neolithic site. © Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 18th EPCA.

A site of the fourth to third millennium BC onwards was excavated by S. Papadopoulos (18th EPCA) at Agios Antonios, near the village of **Poto** on **Thasos**. Nine structures were revealed, built on stone foundations with an unbaked brick superstructure, and clay interior and exterior installations, in the adjacent courtyards. These rectangular houses, with apsidal ends, date from the fourth millennium BC (3900–3600 BC). There is local incised and stamped pottery of the third and second millennia BC,

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as well as fragments of Minyan and Mycenaean pottery, indicating exchange with more southerly centres. A deep shaft contained a flexed inhumation burial, accompanied by a pot (*To Bima* 20.03.12 http://www.tovima.gr/culture/article/?aid=449 532; http://utopia.duth.gr/~efpapad/anaskafes/agios_ antonios/keimena.html).

Field survey in the mountainous region of **Grevena** in 2009, under the direction of N. Evstratiou (Thessaloniki) and P. Biagi (Venice), focused on the area around Smolika, above 2,300masl, northwest of **Samarina**. Traces of Middle Palaeolithic activity were recorded. The site was occupied seasonally and lay close to water sources and flint beds (**ID2721**; Evstratiou and Biagi [2009]).

At **Kleitos**, northeast of Kozani, rescue excavations revealed a Neolithic site (now known as **Kleitos 1**) surrounded by a palisade and ditches, within which were ten house structures built of packed clay, reinforced with branches (**ID1976**). This is one of the sites where destruction by fire has preserved elaborate geometric patterns on the exterior of the house units (see *AR* 57 [2010–2011] 88–89). Three phases have been identified. The interior arrangement of the houses has also been remarkably preserved, with hearths, tables and ovens, while outside were pens for animals and clay storage vessels.

Sixteen burials were also recovered, including animal offerings beside the human remains, along with lustrous pottery decorated with zoomorphic patterns, anthropomorphic figurines and spondylus shells (*spondylus gaederopus*), clay stamps and stone tools.

A second site, **Kleitos 2**, was discovered some way to the northeast of Kleitos 1 (0.025ha in area), on a low hill close to a spring. Two phases were identified here, one Late Neolithic and one Final Neolithic. Domestic structures include rounded and rectangular forms. The architecture resembled that of Kleitos 1, in addition to which there was a paved area at the centre of the settlement, ditches on the southern side and a retaining wall south of the stream. Three flexed inhumations and three inurned cremations completed the evidence (dating from the final phase).

A curved ditch belonging to the Middle Bronze Age cut the Neolithic features in the southeastern sector, over a distance of *ca*. 60m. Large quantities of ceramic debris from domestic areas, and large clay storage vessels, were associated with the ditch. Traces of Late Bronze Age activity were found at Kleitos 1 (Chondrogianni-Metoki [2009]; Ziota [2009]).

The botanical material from the Neolithic site at **Mavropigi** excavated in the 2005 and 2006 seasons has shown the presence of einkorn (*triticum monococcum*), other wheat varieties, including *triticum dicoccum*, barley (*hordeum sp.*), lentils and wild fruits. Large quantities of *triticum dicoccum* and barley were placed in the burials of a neonate and a youth (tombs 1 and 3), thought to be part of a mortuary rite (Valamoti [2009]) (**Fig. 170**).

Prehistoric traces were found in 2009 at **Diporo, Haliakmon**, below the Byzantine cemetery (**ID2722**). A house built on an elliptical plan (4.2m maximum length) was preserved up to two stone courses. Two other structures were also identified as houses, varying between 2.2 and 3.5m in diameter. Pottery, tools and flint flakes were also recovered. A stone construction, 10m in length and 3.2m wide, seems to have been an encircling peribolos wall. Course and burnished pottery, as well as a necklace of stone beads and three anthropomorphic figurines were found in close proximity (Karamitrou-Mentesidi [2009a]).

Close to the chapel of **Agios Konstantinos**, **Haliakmon**, a series of stone cairns was recovered, along with a cist tomb, oriented east–west and containing a triple burial, belonging to two adults, placed back to back, and their child (**ID2724**; Karamitrou-Mentesidi [2009b]). Sherds of Mycenaean cups were found in the fill.

The Bronze Age site of **Kryopigado** has been investigated over an extensive area covering two hills (**ID2730**). Radiocarbon dating provides dates between 2570–2460 BC and 1300–1120 BC, from, in other words, the Early Bronze Age to the Late Bronze Age. Twenty-nine postholes provide part of the layout of the site on the east hill, with semi-subterranean houses, between 3m and 22m^2, accompanied by small storage pits. A ditch and three stone structures (?defensive) and three retaining terrace walls, also of stone, on the eastern slope, complete the main features. Pottery recovered includes storage and tableware, 151 stone tools, as well as implements for textile working and ornaments. Forty-two anchor-shaped figurines and 192 fragments of others give an indication of artistic products, whilst terracotta moulds for bronze axes point to other artefacts produced here. Similar traces of habitation were found on the eastern slope of the western hill (Karamitrou-Mendesidi and Lokana [2009]).

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170. Mavropigi: tomb 7, stone and bone tools© Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports: 30th EPCA.

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