The tomb had undergone multiple openings. Since in most cases the dromos was excavated down to the floor level of its previous use, only 2 major fill episodes are clearly visible. Pottery from the dromos included carinated kylix sherds. Excavation of the stomion correlated well with the various levels observed in the dromos. The lowest level, beneath the blocking wall, contained multiple thinly compressed floor levels, from which samples were taken for micromorphological analysis. Above these levels, it is apparent that the stomion was rebuilt during a secondary use of the tomb. The S side, facing the dromos, was set back, and the top of the E face of the doorway reconstructed with rubble masonry. This masonry continued into the chamber E of the stomion. It seems that during an opening of the tomb, the E side of the stomion and part of the SE portion of the chamber collapsed and were rebuilt. Evidence for this was preserved in stratified layers of humus and silt sloping down into the collapsed chamber from S to N. In associated levels, 2 vessels, preliminarily dated to the Geo period, were discovered above the stomion.

Excavation of the chamber revealed the interment of a minimum of 9 individuals with 14 ceramic vessels. On the floor was a layer of poorly preserved burials, including 2 primary and 3 secondary burials. In addition, a pit was discovered in the SW area of the chamber just W of the stomion; this contained 4 or 5 secondary burials. The bones in this pit were better preserved, and included 2 adults and 2 or 3 sub-adults or children. The ceramic vessels in the chamber were associated with the burials outside of the pit, and can be preliminarily dated from LHIIIA2 to LHIIIB2. They include stirrup jars, jugs, an alabastron and a flask dated to LHIIIB1. Organic residue analysis is in process, as is phytolith analysis from soil samples taken from the dromos, stomion and chamber.

Tomb 6 is similar to the other tombs discovered in this cemetery, which are very modest in terms of the wealth contained. The cemetery was most heavily used in LHIIIA2 and LHIIIB1, with some evidence for early activity in LHIIIA1, and it continued in use on a lesser scale into LHIIIB2. The cemetery was probably associated with the nearby settlement at Tsoungiza, and contained family tombs reused over generations. In tomb 6, the importance of continuity is emphasized by the fact that those who conducted burials here felt it important to reconstruct a tomb that had collapsed during its period of use.

**Kleonai**. T. Mattern (DAI/Marburg) and K. Kissas (Director, 37th EPCA) report on a collaborative pilot project to produce an inventory of remains in the immediate surroundings of the anc. city, through a combination of field survey of the area immediately to the S, recording of previously known sites and analysis of EPCA records. An initial overview of this evidence will be of value in its own right, as well as a tool to assist in coordinating the protection of archaeological monuments. Results include the identification of anc. roadways in the immediate vicinity of the city, some flanked by funerary monuments. Several extramural sanctuaries were located; they probably include Khan Kourtesa, S of the city, the location of a spring, a mod. church and several members of a monumental Doric structure, including part of a geison. Together with earlier discoveries of grave material in the immediate vicinity of the Khan, this suggests a locus of settlement here. To the NE of the Temple of Herakles, several architectural members may suggest a further extramural sanctuary, and S of the city wall there is evidence of dispersed settlement.

## ARGOLID
(4th EPCA: 5th EBA)

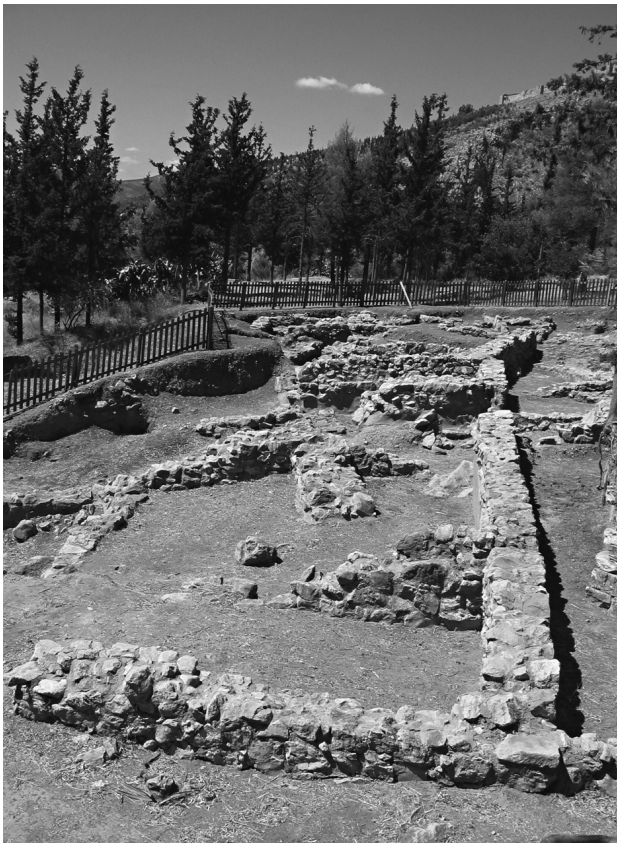
**Lerna**. M.H. Weincke (ASCSA) reports on a further study season.

Further to the ongoing studies and publications reported in 2007 (*AR* 54 [2007–2008], 25), $C^{14}$ analysis of 10 bone samples from the fills of the shaft graves is underway and conservation of the metal objects in the Lerna storeroom has begun. A conservation plan for the walls of the House of the Tiles is being developed and study for a revised site display in Argos Museum has been undertaken: the first phase comprises the creation of a digital plan of Lerna.

**Argos, Aspis**. G. Touchais (EfA/Paris 1) and A. Philippa-Touchais (EfA) report on the 2008 campaign.

The MH walls of the central area of house O were consolidated and cleaning was undertaken in various parts of the site (**Fig. 23**).

Preliminary study of the pottery and human bone remains recovered from the 2007 cleaning in the area of Vollgraff's excavation shows that the 3 skeletons uncovered belong to a (probably male) adolescent 16/17 years old, a newborn baby suffering from congenital anaemia and an 8/9-year-old child. At the request of the 4th EPCA and the municipality of Argos, a project was developed to assess the Cl–Hel remains on the hill of Profitis Ilias, the Myc cemetery on the Deiras and the Sanctuary of Apollo Deiradiotis, with a view to creating an archaeological park for the better protection and display of the antiquities and to enhance the environment of the city of Argos.



23. Argos, Aspis: SE sector after landscaping.

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**Argos, Nannopoulos plot**. A. Pariente (EfA/Lyon) and C. Piteros (4th EPCA) report on the 6th excavation campaign in this area, focused on the structures of the agora.

Thirty six further tombs were excavated, mostly dug into the fill associated with the general abandonment of the anc. agora. Twenty held the remains of adults, 12 the remains of children and 2 those of babies. Two had primary burials plus the remains of a secondary burial, and one grave contained the double burial of an adult and a child (**Fig. 24**). All were pit graves possibly covered with planks of wood. In the almost complete absence of grave goods, the burials could not be dated; the exception is a double burial where a *tpq* is provided by the fact that the bottom of the pit rests on what is probably a Byz road.

Excavation of the E part of the monumental exedra continued. Of particular interest is the junction between the foundation still in place and the collapsed remains of the seating, buried in fill in which the latest items date to the 6th and 7th Cts AD (**Fig. 25**). This impressive collection of blocks from the lowest level of the exedra resulted from sudden and uniform collapse, as indicated by the marked angle of the edges of the disturbance. In total, 12 blocks have been revealed from 3 foundations for the seating (limestone foundations, interior and exterior steps placed side by side, and a limestone bench) lying in the same relative order which they occupied within the structure itself. The causes of this massive collapse remain to be investigated. The fact that the blocks are intact indicates that the lowest level of the exedra had suffered no previous destruction before this collapse.

**Mycenae**. S. Iakovides (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2008], 35–45) continued excavation on the acropolis, in the lower city and in the area of Petsas House.

On the acropolis, excavation of building K was completed (**Fig. 26**). The oblong building had on the E side 3 rooms at ground level and a staircase: a courtyard at the edge of the complex is delimited by the N Cyclopean wall. To the W of the rooms is an inclined passageway with an earthen surface, which leads into the courtyard. The rooms date to the 13th Ct BC and were built using materials from earlier structures. They remained in use for quite a short period and were destroyed ca. 1200 BC.

The 2008 excavation was limited to the area of the inclined passageway, over which were 4 dressed blocks with square and round sockets for connection with other blocks, as well as a round structure built of unworked stones, associated with a few sherds and bones. The LHIIIB2 destruction level, which bore traces of fire, contained sherds, tile fragments, animal bone and many small finds (mainly fragments of wall-painting, figurines, beads, stone grinders, obsidian blades and flakes, lead and iron objects, loomweights, strainers and spools). Among these finds were a half-worked sealstone with no decoration and a clay sealing baked in the fire which destroyed the building. It bears a depiction which can with difficulty be read as the Linear B ideogram for oil.

Excavation continued in the lower city (**Fig. 27**). As in 2007, the topmost level dated to the Hel period: in the NW square, an apsidal building and remains of a potter's workshop were found. There may have been a kiln here. Immediately S of the apsidal building was the external wall of a large building, and beneath it an orthogonal cist tomb with the skeleton of a mature individual, probably female, accompanied by 5 Geo vessels, a pin and an iron ring, all dating to the 9th Ct BC (**Fig. 28**). In the SE sector lay an apsidal building of which the 2 end walls were preserved along with the interior cross walls. The building appears to be Myc and is partially covered by Hel remains and part of a cobbled road.



24. Argos, Nannopoulos plot: double burial.

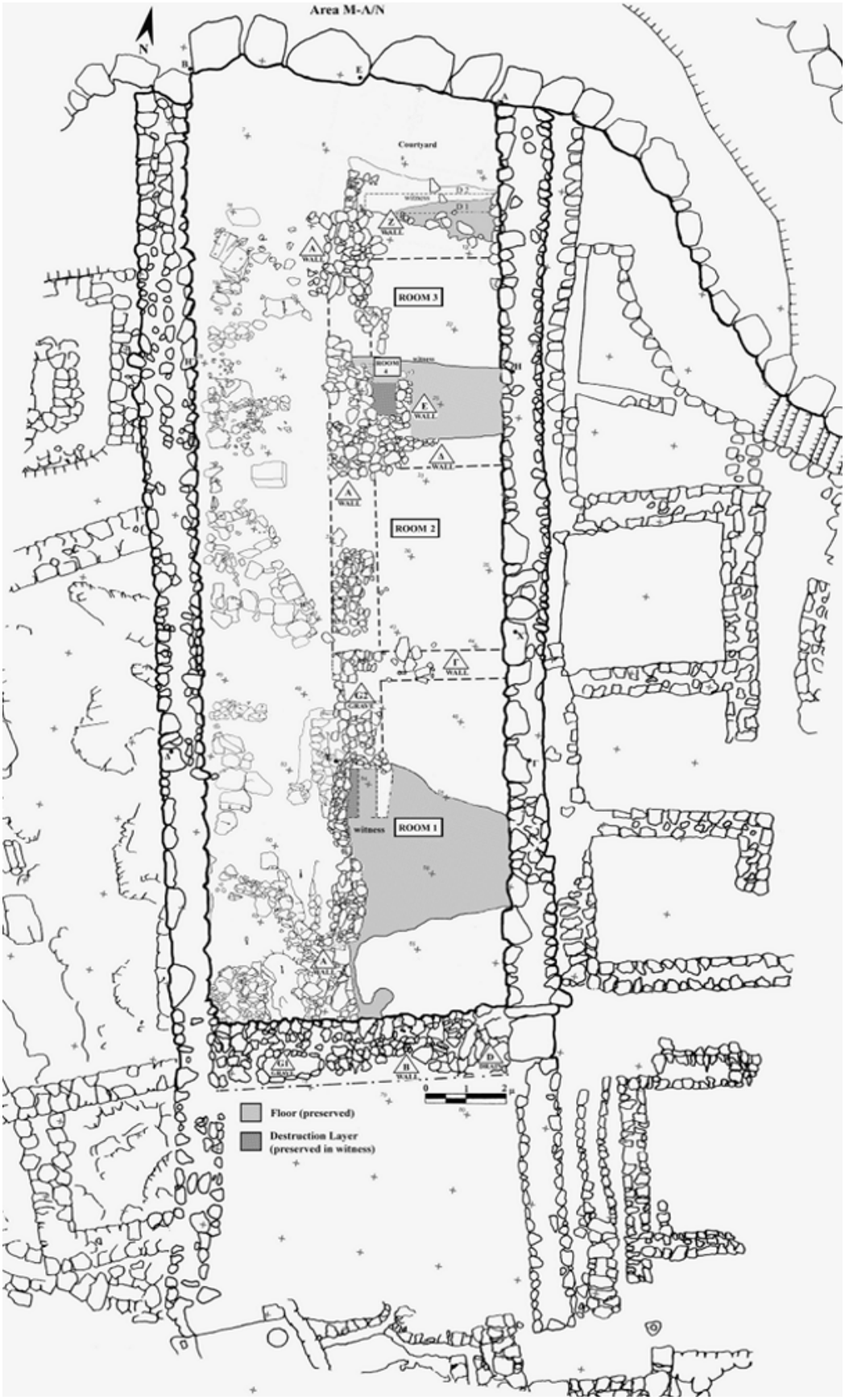


25. Argos, Nannopoulos plot: collapsed seating in the exedra.

Various small finds were discovered, including obsidian, fragments of wall-painting, pigments, animal bones, sherds, metal objects and coins, which date to the Myc, Geo and Hel periods. The remains of historical periods are separated from those of the Myc period by a thick level of reddish-brown earth washed down from the slopes of the surrounding hills and from Mt Sara, which dominates the site of Mycenae.

At the so-called Petsas House, examination of area B was completed in 2008. On its floor, which was strewn with earth and sherds, were traces of fire and burnt bricks from the super-

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26. Mycenae, acropolis: building K.

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27. Mycenae, lower city: 2007–2008 trench plan.

structure which was in part wooden. The S and N walls of the room were not found, and it is suggested that the room was unroofed. Area 10 was partially investigated in 2007, with work completed in 2008. Neither the S wall nor a normal floor were found. It was filled with destruction debris, with a layer of fire debris on the bedrock. Among finds from this fill are figurine fragments and sherds of at least 6 LHIIIA2 stirrup jars similar to those found in 1950 in room A. In room T, 2 rectangular sandstone bases each had a rectangular cutting in the centre and other smaller cuttings around (**Fig. 29**) to accommodate wooden supports either for the roof or for an upper floor. In 2007, part of a carbonized beam was discovered in the N part of the room: in the S part are fragments of wall-painting. Finds from room T provide important information about the upper floor, which was decorated. Pithoi indicate organized storage of the commodities necessary to maintain a large household and workshops. It appears that the space was used for the manufacture, or at least the storage, of vessels and figurines. The pottery confirms that the area was destroyed towards the end of LHIIIA2. In 2007, the bases of 6 pithoi were found in Room Y, *in situ* on stone slabs sitting in small stones and mud. In 2008, 4 further bases were found, plus one slab without a base. Thus the room contained at least 11 pithoi.

Hundreds of sherds were found in the course of the 2008 excavations in the Petsas House, plus 17 complete or restored vessels, and an abundance of small finds, mainly fragments of wall-painting. Figurine fragments were also found, as well as 2 sealstones, a piece of repoussée gold leaf, fragments of ivory and objects of stone and glass paste.

Publication: D. Danielidou, *Ανασκαφές Μυκηνών* II. *Το ‹‹εργαστήριο›› των Μυκηνών* (Athens, ASA 2008)

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28. Mycenae, lower city: offerings from the cist grave S of the apsidal building in the NW square.



29. Mycenae, Petsas House: sandstone bases in room T.

**Midea**. The Gr-Swedish excavations on the Myc acropolis of Midea continued in 2008 under the direction of K. Demakopoulou (Director Emerita, National Museum) with the collaboration of A.-L. Schallin (Director, Swedish Institute) and N. Divari-Valakou (3rd EPCA). The Gr team excavated in the SW part of the lower acropolis and the Swedish team in the area E of the east gate.

The Gr team worked on the lower W terrace of the acropolis, continuing the investigation of the gallery discovered in 2007 through the thickness of the W section of the fortification wall. The entrance of the gallery in the inner face of the wall, as well as the area in front of it, were further cleared. The entrance is flanked by wall 3 and a megalithic construction. Bedrock was revealed in a large part of this area, sloping down towards the entrance to the gallery, which was accessed via steps.

The interior of the gallery was investigated to a *l.* of ca. 3.5m with the removal of a deposit about 0.9m *d*, which almost reached the roof. The gallery is an underground passageway or syrinx through the fortification wall, which at this point is 5.7m thick. Its side walls are built of boulders and curve slightly inward towards the top, while the ceiling is mostly made of horizontal stone slabs (**Fig. 30**). The floor, of levelled bedrock, has a slight inclination with low steps at several points. The syrinx, which is 1.4m *h.* and 0.6m *w.*, runs straight through the wall to the investigated length of 3.5m. At this point it seems to turn to the N and consequently to run obliquely to emerge at an exit. In order to find the exit of the syrinx, the excavation was extended outside the fortification wall.



30. Midea: interior of the gallery through the W section of the fortification wall.

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A large part of the outer face of the wall was exposed for a *l.* of 10m and a *h.* of 2.8m maximum. The wall, founded directly on bedrock, is very well preserved, built of boulders and large and medium-sized stones. The exit of the syrinx was located about 3.5m N of the axis of the entrance in the other side of the wall. It was found blocked with medium-sized and small stones, apparently by the Mycenaeans themselves. Although the exit is blocked, its corbel-vault construction is clear. The side walls of the opening curve to form a corbel arch. The dimensions of the exit, 0.6–0.8m *w.* and 1m *h.*, are consistent with a secret sally port, rather than a tunnel leading down to an underground cistern.

The excavated part of the syrinx contained a fill of dark stony soil. Abundant LHIIIB2 sherds were recovered. A few LHIIIC E sherds indicate that the entrance remained open in the first half of the 12th Ct BC, although the syrinx was no longer in use. Four sherds joined the LHIIIC E krater reconstructed from fragments found in the upper layers of trench C during the 2006 and 2007 excavations (**Fig. 31**). Part of the lower body of a Group A deep bowl decorated with antithetic spirals may be dated to LHIIIB2 L or LHIIIC E. The LHIIIB2 pottery includes mainly deep bowls of Groups A and B, stemmed bowls, cups and bowls, as well as jugs and stirrup jars. There are 2 sherds with pictorial motifs, one with a bull protome. The commonest fine plainware shapes are kylikes and dippers. There are many fragments of coarse storage and cooking vessels, such as pithoi, vats and a bowl. Fragments of large bowls of Handmade Burnished Ware and some small EMyc (LHIIA–B) sherds were recovered. Also found were some fragmentary clay human and animal figurines, notably the body of a bovid decorated with rock pattern. The other small finds from the interior of the syrinx include fragments of stone tools, such as millstones and pounders, bronze scraps including a small rivet from a knife or dagger, pieces of fluorite, mother-of-pearl and ochre, sea shells, as well as a small fragment of painted plaster.

The deposits removed from the area adjacent to the outer face of the fortification wall contained a large quantity of mixed and worn sherds. These mostly date to LHIIIB2 with a few LHIIIC E and PGeo sherds. There are also many MH and EMyc sherds, as well as pottery of the LRom and Byz periods. The LHIIIB2 pottery recovered from this area includes a small stirrup jar now partly restored. Also noteworthy is a large part of a stone tripod mortar.

The deposit below the floor of room I was also examined: according to the pottery found in 2007, this dates to LHIIIC E. A trench adjacent to the inner face of the fortification wall was excavated to a *d.* of 0.8m. The deposit removed was clearly a debris layer containing many stones fallen from the fortification wall. The fragmentary pottery from this layer is dated to LHIIIB2 L. This supports the conclusion that room I was constructed above the destruction debris caused by the earthquake that struck Midea at the end of the 13th Ct BC. The pottery from the debris layer contained many fragments of deep bowls of Groups A and B, of a small bowl with an internal pattern in added white paint, of jugs and of a miniature handmade vase. Other finds include a fragmentary clay human figurine, 2 steatite spindle-whorls and pieces of mother-of-pearl.

Work continued on the conservation of ceramics from previous seasons. Huge pithoi, restored from fragments, provide evidence for the storage of agricultural products inside the acropolis. In furtherance of the project to conserve the acropolis, with the maintenance and arrangement of the N and SW part of the site, a photographic survey was made of the section of the fortification wall in this area.



31. Midea: LHIIIC E krater from the gallery, trench C.

The work of the Swedish team concentrated on the upper plateau, SE of the east gate. Two areas E of the east gate were investigated: trench 12 and the baulk between trenches 3 and 9 (see *AR* 54 [2007–2008], 30 for work in these trenches from 2004 onwards).

Trench 12 is situated next to trench 3, along the inner face of the citadel wall, where a row of buildings was previously unearthed. The outline of the structure within the citadel wall was revealed. The first wall encountered, along the S scarp, is the continuation of that found in trench 3; it stretches towards the E and forms a right-angled corner with the other wall. The latter wall, running towards the citadel wall, is preserved to a lower level. The complete perimeter of the room partly excavated in trench 3 is now exposed. Finds comprise a majority of LH finewares and coarsewares, Myc figurine fragments, a bronze pin and 3 obsidian arrowheads. Green-glazed sherds found in a pit provide evidence of Med activity.

Work was resumed between trenches 9 and 3 to clarify the architectural layout of rooms encircling the citadel wall. Most of the NW part of this baulk had been excavated down to bedrock in 2007. Work in 2008 provided evidence for a wall running E-W, which rested on bedrock and was preserved to a *h.* of 3 courses. The whole E part of the baulk was excavated down to bedrock. The dark brown soil (layer 2) contained pottery, bones and an obsidian arrowhead. Close to the bedrock in the SE corner of this part of the baulk, a cylinder seal of black stone was found, depicting quadrupeds and chevron filling motifs (**Fig. 32**). The seal most probably belongs to the LMyc Mainland Popular Group.



32. Midea: LMyc cylinder seal from the baulk between trenches 3 and 9, E of the E gate.

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Publication: G. Walberg, *Midea: the Megaron Complex and Shrine Area. Excavations on the Lower Terraces 1994–1997* (Philadelphia, INSTAP 2007).

**Tiryns**. J. Maran (DAI/Heidelberg) reports on the 3rd season of excavation in the W lower town.

Investigation of grid squares L51 and L52 focused on the hitherto little-known occupation of the site during the pre-Myc, EMyc and EPalatial (LHIIIA) periods, as well as during the EIA. Although Pre-Myc and EMyc levels have not yet been reached, the basic course of occupation is reflected in finds appearing as earlier admixtures in later levels. Another EH sealing supplements the group of such objects already known from 2007. An unusual object of likely MBA date is a steatite stamp seal, the form and decoration of which has close parallels in Minoan seals of MMII–III date (**Fig. 33**).

The earliest confirmed architectural remains date to LHIIIA2 and belong to a building distinguished by its relatively large size and massive wall, resembling the LHIIIA building complexes uncovered between 1969 and 1974 in the zone immediately S of the current excavation. Until now, only a segment of the S exterior wall of this new building and parts of 2 rooms with associated floors have been exposed. In refuse deposits, which had accumulated above the former ground surface in an open area outside the building, a 0.037m *l.* fragment of a Linear B tablet of very fine clay was found (**Fig. 34**). Only a short segment of one original straight edge of the tablet is preserved, whereas on all other sides the piece is broken and heavily worn. The surface shows 3 parallel lines and traces of a 4th, as well as one partially preserved sign. Although the size of the object and its bad state of preservation render it useless as a textual source, its significance lies in the fact that it comes from a chronologically homogenous context, and it is the earliest example of such a tablet in Tiryns.

Still within the sub-phase LHIIIA2, the above building was replaced by the room uncovered in 2007 and interpreted as a potter's workshop. The walls of this latest attested Myc building phase were not founded on top of those of its predecessor and were built in a different technique. It is now clear that the room, which yielded most of the unusual objects, plus installations thought to be linked to pottery production, was not a roofed space, but rather a courtyard associated with a building outside the S boundary of the excavation area. It is likely that most of the examples of painted plaster found in 2007 and 2008 had decorated the walls of this building. A Myc sealing with an unclear impression probably predates the use of the courtyard, as it came to light inside the fabric of its floor. The ceramic evidence confirmed last year's assessment of only a minor overlap of the latest Myc building phase with LHIIIB1 and a subsequent abandonment of the area during most of LHIIIB and LHIIIC.

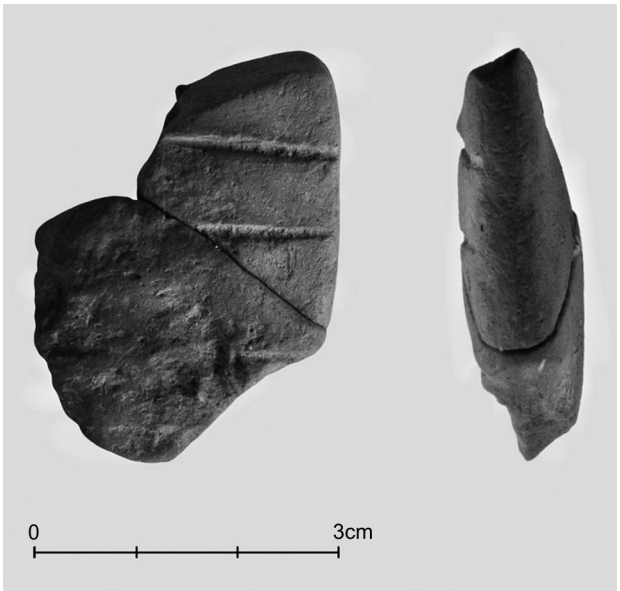
The most significant EIA discovery is a structure interpreted as a Geo burial precinct, only partly situated inside the excavation area (**Fig. 35**). To the N the precinct was enclosed by a reused earlier terrace wall probably of Myc date, and to the W by a row of at least 3 large stone blocks. Cut into the N boundary wall and arranged at an approximate right angle to it, a Geo amphora lay obliquely on its belly, with its mouth toward the interior of the enclosed space. Parts of another large vessel found at its mouth probably served as a cover. Along the W side of the amphora, 2 small vessels, an undecorated trefoil-mouthed jug and a decorated skyphos, were found standing in an upright position. Linked to the deposition of the amphora is a pavement of broken limestone slabs which followed the inner side of the N boundary wall and curved in a bow outwards in front of the mouth of the amphora. The amphora was removed *en bloc* to allow investigation of the contents. In light of these discoveries, the possibility arises that the pavement of large limestone slabs uncovered in 2006, and first interpreted as the covering of a cist grave, served as an access to the burial precinct. In such a case we would be dealing with a very elaborate construction. A remarkable stray find from an EIA level is a golden spacer bead (0.0085m *l.*) consisting of 4 thin tubes of which the 2 in the middle are slightly shorter than the ones on the outside (**Fig. 36**). This is likely to come from a disturbed rich grave of the Geo period.

In grid square L51, the uppermost part of a curved structure built with small stones began to appear. This possibly represents a PGeo house.

Restoration and analysis of the large complex of wall-paintings found between 1999 and 2001 in excavations




33. Tiryns, W lower town: MBA steatite stamp seal.




34. Tiryns, W lower town: fragment of a Linear B tablet.

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35. Tiryns, W lower town: N and W boundary of the EIA burial precinct with deposited amphora and pavement of limestone slabs.

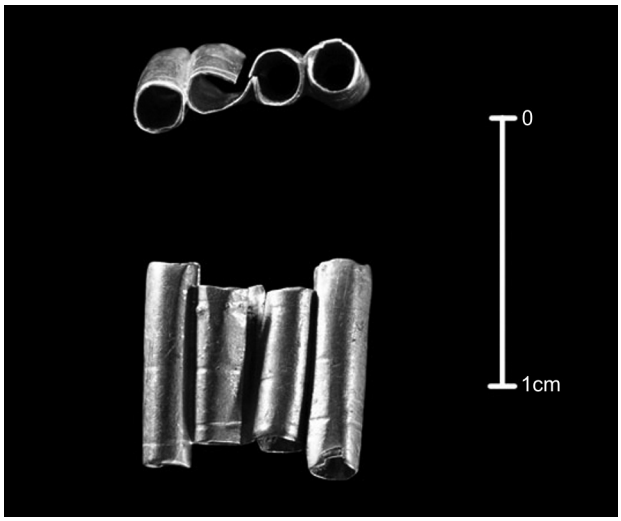
conducted by the Greek Archaeological Service in the area of the western staircase was continued in cooperation with A. Papadimitriou (4th EPCA) and U. Thaler. An intensive search for joins between the fragments led to significant progress in reconstructing fresco compositions which add to the known range of Tirynthian palatial frescoes, especially scenes linked to the religious sphere.

Publication: L. Rahmstorf, *Tiryns* XVI. *Kleinfunde aus Tiryns* (Wiesbaden, Reichert 2008).

**Asine**

Publication: A. Ingvarsson-Sundström, *Asine* III. *Supplementary Studies on the Swedish Excavations 1922–1930,* 2: *Children Lost and Found. A Bioarchaeological Study of Middle Helladic Children in Asine with a Comparison to Lerna* (Stockholm, Swedish Institute, 2008).

**Epidauros**. *Eleftherotypia* (23/04/08) cites a report by V. Lambrinoudakis (President of the Committee for the Conservation of the Monuments of Epidauros) of excavation of the N parodos and part of the koilon of the little theatre. Continuing study of the ca. 1,000 inscriptions from the theatre by S. Petrounakos is noted, with particular reference to those on ca. 252 4th Ct figurines, all of which were inscribed by their dedicators.




36. Tiryns, W lower town: gold spacer bead probably of Geo date.

**Franchthi Cave**. K.D. Vitelli (ASCSA) reports on continuing study and analytical programmes.

Study of the Pal and Mes ornaments was completed, focusing on those made from *Columbella rustica.* Study of the Neo material was begun, revealing abundant shell ornaments which change the overall picture of Neo ornaments. The Initial Neo and ENeo are dominated by *Columbella* and *Cyclope* beads, which establish an element of continuity with the Mes. In parallel, more 'typical' Neo ornaments, i.e. geometric beads and pendants, appear as early as the Initial Neo. The rate of change, both in terms of the composition of the ornaments and the techniques of production, is considerably higher in the Neo than the Pal and Mes periods.

Faunal analysis continued to focus on trench H1-B: analysis of material from periods 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2, 3 and 4 is now complete. Taxonomic abundance at Franchthi Cave is unusual in several respects, and provides important information about the anc. environment and subsistence. First, in all periods except period 2, small game taxa (birds, small mammals and reptiles) outnumber ungulates in absolute abundance. In period 2, the numbers of ungulate and small game specimens are more or less equal. Although small game have been shown to be an important part of LPal economies, at Franchthi they are interesting for their early appearance, their consistency across the sequence and their sheer numbers. Despite relative stability in the representation of small game versus ungulate taxa, there is substantial taxonomic change within the small game and ungulate categories themselves. In the early part of the sequence, wild ass (*Equus hydrantinus*) dominates the ungulate assemblage. However, red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) steadily increase in number until they surpass the equids in period 3. Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), wild goat (*Capra aegagrus*) and aurochs (*Bos primigenius*) never play more than distinctly secondary roles. The small game assemblage is comprised primarily of hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and birds (namely partridge and pigeon). The exception is a pronounced peak in period 3, when fish (primarily gilthead sea bream; *Sparus aurata*) become the most common taxonomic group in the assemblage. This peak is all the more pronounced given that fish are virtually absent from the sequence until period 2 when they comprise less than 15% of small game taxa. They return to this same low frequency in period 4.

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