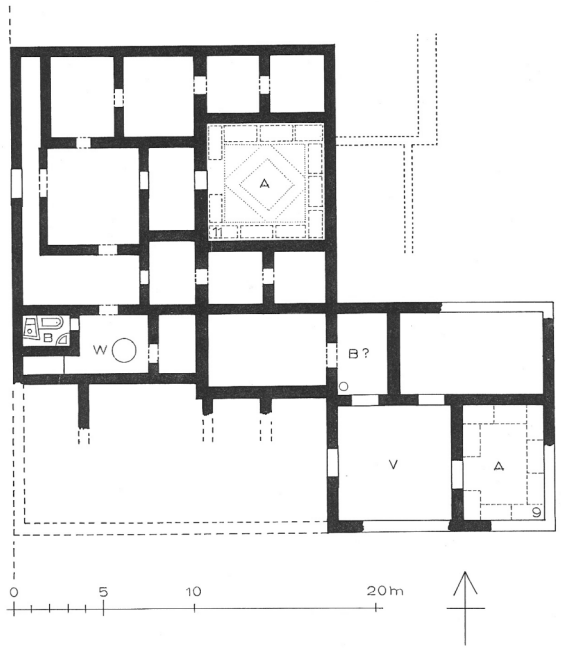


A Andron
B Baderaum
H Hof
V Verteilerraum
H W Heizung, Wasserversorgung

38. Aigeira: Hel guesthouse, provisional reconstruction

Sigrid Deger-Jalkotzy and Eva Alram-Stern (Mykenische Kommission, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna) continued their study of the PH material from the excavations on the acropolis.

Aigeira publications. a new volume has appeared: Aram-Stern, E., S. Deger-Jalkotzy, *Aigeira I: die Mykenische Akropolis, Faszikel 3: Vormykenische Keramik, Kleinfunde, Archäozoologische und Archaobotanische Hinterlassenschaften, Naturwissenschaftliche Datierung, ÖAI, Vienna, Sonderschriften, Bd. 43 (Veröffentlichungen der Mykenischen Kommission, Bd. 24) (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Philosophisch-Historische Klasse, Denkschriften, Bd. 342)* (Wien, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften 2006).

KEPHALLENIA with ITHAKA (6th EPCA; 6th EBA)

Kephallenia (Kephallonia)

Poros, Drakaina cave. G. Stratouli and E. Chatziotou (EPS) report (*ADelt*, 1007–09) on further work at this cave, inhabited in Neo times and later re-used. Signs of Neo habitation were concentrated in trenches Z5 and E4 (already opened in 1995; see *ADelt B Chron* 50 [1995], 837–38; *AR* 47 [2000–2001], 45). Radiocarbon dates from the lowest levels indicate a date in the 2nd half of the 6th millennium BC for the earliest human habitation. Snail samples were taken for environmental analysis. Finds from these levels include animal bones and archaeobotanical samples. Pottery comprises Neo plain wares in both open and closed shapes, and a very small quantity of painted wares. The chipped stone (flint mainly) includes blades, arrowheads and possible fish-hooks. Other finds include ground stone axes and other tools (**Fig. 39**), some with scratch marks, bone bracelets and finger-rings, possibly made out of spondylus shells (*spondylus gaederopus*), and other stone and bone decorative objects.

Later finds were more abundant in the new trenches opened. These comprised burnt animal bones, other burnt material and pottery of the 6th to 3rd Ct BC, which have been interpreted as signs of cult. There is also a small amount of residual PH, probably BA, pottery mixed in with these levels.

Ithaka

Eleftherotypia (17/11/2006) reports a claim that a stone object discovered in 1996 at the site of **Ayios Athanasios** is inscribed both with an image of a ship and with a sign in Linear B, which together are supposed to provide a link with the *Odyssey*. On a related theme, *Ethnos* (29/04/2006) reports the discovery of an EBA (EH II–III, 2500–2300 BC) wreck off the coast of Ithaca, containing over 40 ceramic vessels, indicating maritime trade well before the supposed date of Odysseus.

AITOLIA/AKARNANIA

(once 6th, now 36th EPCA; once 8th, now 22nd EBA)

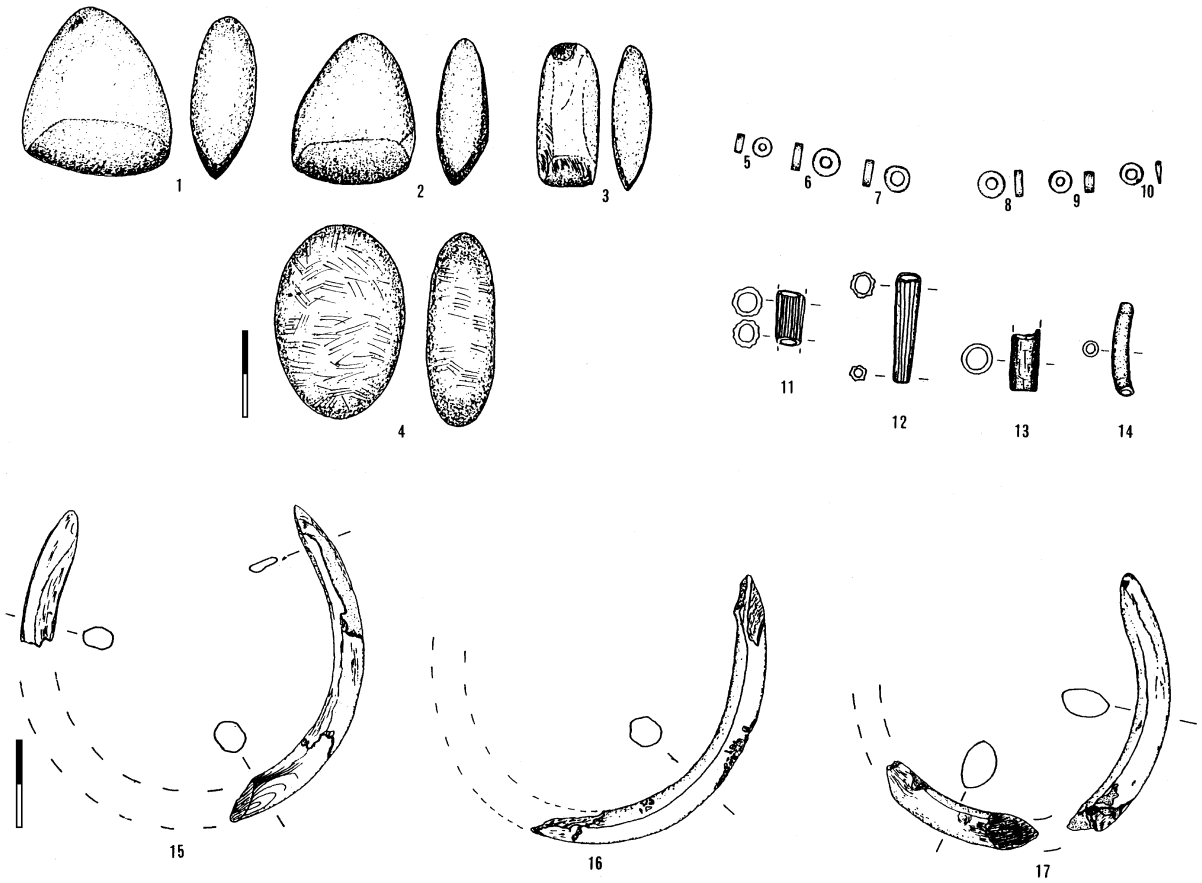
Playia survey. Franziska Lang (Darmstadt/DAI Athens) reports on the final last season of the German-Greek survey on the Plaghiá peninsula which took place in August/September 2006, under the direction of Lazaros Kolonas (General Directior of Greek Antiquities) in cooperation with the department of Classical Archaeology, TU Darmstadt (F. Lang), the architectural historian Ernst-Ludwig Schwandner and the Department of Ancient History of Münster University (Peter Funke).

This final season was devoted mainly to those areas that had been inaccessible in previous years for a variety of reasons. This comprises of the E part of the Plaghiá valley towards mount Prophitis Elias, the areas N and E of anc. **Palairos** and some areas in the NW of the peninsula. Furthermore, the processing of the small finds was completed and the study of a variety of sites was continued. As in previous years, we were able to improve our knowledge of the peninsula's settlement history through the discovery of hitherto unknown sites. The earliest such finds were Neo, while the most recent, as previously, were from the 20th Ct.

Although the N slope of **Palairos** is very steep in places, some roads had been built here. They are aptly placed topographically, so that the lake can be reached by passing the steep slopes quite fast and relatively easily. W of the city gate, one reaches the so-called sanctuary of Artemis and then, through the Great *Remma*, which is terraced and rests on supporting walls, the suburban farms and, further up, the temple plateau.

The area to the N of anc. Palairos, extending as far as the lake to the N and mount Tampia to the E, contained, amongst other things, a large anc. **necropolis** of Palairos. Its extent of nearly 2km, from the harbour gate E, was unknown so far. The finds are dated Ar to Hel. Cist graves were cut into the rock and covered with tiles. Occasional graves were entirely constructed of tiles. Extensive looting pits have destroyed many of the graves. Further evidence for the necropolis is provided by numerous fragments of grave stelae, mainly of local limestone, some of which bore inscriptions. On a plateau by the edge of the necropolis, halfway up the N slope, remains of walls and well-preserved buildings were found. The houses were erected in the 19th Ct, some of them on anc. walls.

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39. Kephallenia, Drakaina cave: Neo polished stone tools and bone ornaments

The processing of the **Palairos urban survey** has shown that the acropolis was already settled in EH/MH. Evidence for a LH phase is still lacking – a phenomenon that applies not only to the Plaghiá peninsula, but to large swathes of coastal Akarnania.

The plain to the E of Palairos was the location of anc. **farmsteads**, its slight rises were also the locations of 19thCt farms. One of the anc. ones belonged to the villa rustica type and was of generous scale. A probable peristyle is indicated only by column drums; there are also remains of a heating system. Another large building is indicated by well-hewn orthostaths with lifting holes. No further evidence of their original shape could be gained. Evidence of a Byz phase or any material up to the 19th Ct is absent so far. In contrast, the edges of the plain yielded Med material.

The known anc. **quarry** at Váriko in the S of the peninsula was measured systematically; its extent was thus determined. The quarrying areas could be followed considerably further S then hitherto recognized; in some places, enormous worked blocks were located under water. The mod. bay is probably the result of extensive quarrying. A small plateau above the bay contained some areas of red soil that contrasted markedly with the general yellow-brown clays. Closer examination showed that they contained handmade pottery. Perhaps they are the results of an EH/MH urn cemetery.

After the completion of fieldwalking in the E Plaghiá valley, it is clear that this area was used for settlement especially in L antiquity. Hardly another area in the peninsula has such a concentration of sites from that period. The position of sites, however, indicates dispersed settlement or individual farmsteads rather than a coherent settlement. Numerous amphorae, presses and mills are evidence for agricultural activity.

Once more, a small **post 16th Ct village** (Palaichóri, E of mod. Peratei village) was discovered, hidden in the interior of the peninsula. Similar topographic locations having been encountered already in earlier seasons, this supports the conclusion that 16th to 18th Ct villages were not located coastally, but far inland, in places not easily visible from the sea. A small hilltop church is from the same period. Since no further building remains were in its vicinity, our typology places it in the group of rural churches outside settlements, which are quite common in the peninsula.

Survey of the **high summit of Lamia**, the striking NW terminal of the peninsula, contradicts earlier views which claimed no trace of human activity could be found here. The summit is encircled by a wall that forms part of a mod. bastion. From it, there are strategically optimal panoramic views of the Ionian Sea, Levkada and Preveza.

A further site was discovered on the coast, NW of Perateiá/Ag. Barbara village. It is characterized by a large scatter of Cl material (pottery, tiles, cut stone). The extent of this site suggests a hitherto unknown large anc. settlement.

Palairos. A. Dellaporta (EMA) reports (*ADelt,* 1022–23) on work undertaken by D. Evangelisti on this known submerged Rom site. The mosaic floor (**Fig. 40**) was conserved and a disturbed burial noted.

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Palaiomanina (near mod. **Astakos**). *Apogevmatini*, *Ethnos* (29/03/2007), *Vradyni* (22/03/2007) and *Eleftheros Typos* (23/03/2007) report on a summary of five years of investigation of this walled city, which may be anc. **Mitropolis**, situated next to the river Acheloos. The city is surrounded by a formidable outer fortification wall, 1.65 km *l.*, enclosing an area of 7.5ha overall. Within this is a fortified inner enclosure (1.4ha) and a fortified acropolis and refuge (0.5ha). The outer wall has a sophisticated gate ('court gate') similar to the Arcadian gate in anc. Messene. Differences in the style of masonry (polygonal in places, isodomic in others) indicate different phases of construction of the fortification from the 5th to the 3th Ct BC. Little remains on the surface of the Cl–Hel houses within the city, though one building with multiple rooms can be distinguished. Finds of Geo–Ar pottery, bronzes and graves of the 8th–6th Ct BC, various Ar inscriptions (some from tombs and one important 6th Ct inscription) indicate that the settlement is of some antiquity.

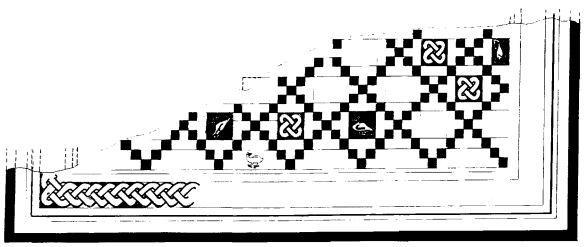
Thermon, Sanctuary of Apollo. Ioannis Papapastolou (ASA) reports (*Ergon*, 50–54) on a final season of excavations of the BA and EIA structures, investigated earlier by both Soteriadis and Rhomaios. Claims have been made with regard both to **Megaron A** and **Megaron B** that hero cult or ancestor worship was practised here in both the LBA and the EIA. Investigation of the pits around Megaron A revealed no traces of cremations or burials underneath this LBA structure. Similarly, investigation of deposits around the EIA Megaron B, constructed in the 11th Ct BC and abandoned around 800 BC, revealed no definite traces of burials or cremations underneath or around the structure. A deposit of ash with iron weapons, which the excavator had earlier (*Ergon* [1993], 56) interpreted as indicating a possible cremation, turns out to be a dump created by Soteriades, the contents of which probably relate to activity at the sanctuary from 800 BC onwards. He concludes that there is no positive evidence for either ancestor worship or hero cult here at Thermon. Analogies between either of these structures and the Toumba building at Lefkandi are illusory.

PHOKIS and WEST LOKRIS (10th EPCA; 7th/1st EBA)

Delphi. A new general survey on finds in the museum has appeared: Κολώνια, Ρ., *Το αρχαιολογικό μουσείο Δελφών* (Athens, Κοινωφελές Ιδρυμα Ιωάννη Σ. Λάτση 2006).

BOIOTIA (9th EPCA; 1st EBA)

Thisve/Kastorion. Archie Dunn (BSA/Birmingham) reports on a survey undertaken in collaboration with Ch. Koilakou (1st EBA) and Dr Aravantinos (9th EPCA) of Byz Thisve.



40. Palairos: submerged Rom mosaic floor

Mod. and anc. Thisve is probably the lost Byz bishopric and port of '**Kastorion**', home of Osios Loukas and area of his E *askesis*. It is also a previously unrecorded site of production of the imperial purple dye. In 2006, using documented laser scanning technology, the topographical, architectural and geophysical survey of Thisve recorded eight ruined Byz churches, a Med tower and a monumental vat (**Fig. 41**). The remains of the twin acropoleis and interconnecting walls of Thisve/Kastorion are being surveyed to produce the first integrated general plan of this urban site.

Geophysical survey of a vast half-buried complex of walls of EByz appearance below the lower acropolis records complementary features of this rediscovered Med town.



41. Thisve/Kastorion: multiple phases of walling

Tanagra. A new volume of the urban survey has appeared: Slapsak, B., B. Music, *Tanagra Urban Survey: Report on the Architectural and Geophysical Survey by the Ljubljana Team in 2005 with References to the Results of the Ljubljana 2001–2004 Survey* (Ljubljana, University of Ljubljana 2006).

EUBOIA (11th EPCA; 1st EBA)

Karystos. A new general book has been published: Chidiroglou, M. (ed.), A. Chatzidimitriou (trans.), *Antiquities of Karystia* (Karystos, Publications Kosmos 2006).

Area of Karystos, Kampos Survey. Zarko Tankosic and Donald Keller (Canadian Institute/Toronto) report on the first (2006) season of a new survey project in the alluvial Karystian Kampos (plain) located W of the town of Karystos, S Euboea.

The goals of the survey are: to examine a hitherto archaeologically poorly known part of the Karystia; to methodologically and spatially connect the previously surveyed areas in the region where different survey methods were employed; and to test the hypothesis that some of the mod. roads or trails were also used in anc. times.

The survey methodology during the first season consisted of following non-random transects that were predetermined either by natural features of the investigated landscape, such as streambeds or by man-made alterations, such as roads and trails. These transects were supplemented by two long artificial transects encompassing the limits of the survey area, which followed the natural boundary of the Kampos at the foothills of the surrounding hills N and S of the plain proper. The transects were *ca* 10m to 30m wide, with investigators

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