© The Author(s), 2021. Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies and the British School at Athens

ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2020–2021

Introduction & overview

Yannis Galanakis | University of Cambridge | ig298@cam.ac.uk
Andrew Shapland | University of Oxford | andrew.shapland@ashmus.ox.ac.uk

This brief introduction presents the structure and contents of the current issue of Archaeology in Greece*, linking the various contributions to events or very recent discoveries that were reported in the press in the period immediately before the completion of this issue in September. It also offers an overview (not meant to be exhaustive) of archaeological activity in Greece over the past 12 months, focusing on major exhibitions and important recent publications.*

The period covered by this year's *AR* has continued to be a challenging one for the archaeological sites and museums of Greece, for visitors and employees alike. A November 2020 lockdown saw sites and museums close, with many remaining shut until May 2021, when all museums reopened (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3785). One positive development over this period was a move towards increasing accessibility at various locations, with the Acropolis receiving new walkways and a new lift (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3588). The summer marked a resumption of some archaeological projects that had been disrupted the year before, but also saw extremely high temperatures. The archaeological site of Olympia narrowly avoided the resulting wildfires but among the large areas burned in north Euboea was an olive tree reputed to be 2,500 years old (https://greekreporter.com/2021/08/08/evia-fire-greece-ancient-olive-tree-burned/). At the height of the heatwave many archaeological sites, including the Acropolis, closed during the hottest part of the day. As we report on the year's archaeological discoveries, latest research and other significant events in this volume, we hope that next year marks a return to business as usual.

The volume begins with a report on the BSA's activities for 2020–2021 by its Director, John Bennet. The period covered, up to February 2021, was largely spent in lockdown but as the report shows, various digital initiatives flourished. These included contributions on the BSA's early history in the Video Archive, newly digitized historic documents in Digital Collections and a variety of blogs. In addition, the BSA's Museum Study Collection was fully documented in digital form for the first time. Ceramics from the Peloponnese were the focus of a new research project undertaken by the BSA's Fitch Laboratory, with the aim of distinguishing the geologically similar pottery of sites including Corinth and Sikyon. This project is led by Carlotta Gardner, the current Williams Fellow in Ceramic Petrology, and highlights the important role of funded postdoctoral fellowships at the BSA. One of this year's *AR* authors, Bela Dimova, holds the A.G. Leventis Fellowship in Hellenic Studies and, as Bennet reports, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has funded a new '1821 Fellowship', awarded to Michalis Sotiropoulos.

In 'Newsround', Tulsi Parikh (Cambridge) reports on archaeological discoveries made in 2020–2021. International travel restrictions have meant that some projects have gone ahead with smaller teams than planned, but a significant amount of research has been possible. One example is the *Small Cycladic Islands Project* (SCIP), a synergasia involving the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades, NIA and Carleton College. Though small and often uninhabited now, the survey has shown how these islands were used in the past for a variety of purposes, from religious sanctuaries to navigational waypoints. Rescue archaeology has continued too, such as excavations in advance of a new town hall at Paiania, on the outskirts of Athens. Here an elaborate life-size two-figured tombstone was discovered; it is dated to the fourth century BC, from before such monuments were prohibited. Perhaps the most topical research was carried out, again by the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades, on the island of Rineia, which was used in ancient times as a necropolis for neighbouring Delos, but from the 19th century until the early 20th century as a place of quarantine.

doi:10.1017/S0570608421000016

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608421000016 Published online by Cambridge University Press

The thematic papers this year start with the Palaeolithic period, with a review of the last decade's research compiled by Vangelis Tourloukis (Tübingen). As he reports, the lignite mines of Megalopolis have produced important results for the Lower Palaeolithic thanks to the exceptional preservation of organic remains alongside the lithics more commonly found at sites of this date. Hominin remains are also infrequent in the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic of Greece but a skull from Apidima in the Mani is now regarded as the oldest-known modern human in Europe, at 210 ka BP, following restudy with the latest scientific techniques. Similarly following restudy, petroglyphs from Asphendou Cave on Crete are now regarded as Upper Palaeolithic in date, which would make them the earliest cave art in Greece. These are part of a wider debate about Palaeolithic seafaring and mobility more generally, covered by Tourloukis, that is complicated in some locations (but not Crete) by variations in sea levels. He concludes that the last decade has helped Greece to catch up with archaeological research in some of the more intensively studied areas of the Pleistocene Mediterranean.

Moving to Neolithic and Bronze Age Cyprus, Angelos Papadopoulos (Athens) provides a long overdue round-up of Cypriot archaeology for *AR*. He begins chronologically at the point the previous article ends, with the Late Pleistocene pre-Neolithic site of Aspros, which provides evidence, both on land and underwater, for some of the earliest inhabitants of the island. The slightly later Pre-Pottery Neolithic A site of Klimonas comprises an extensive settlement, including one complex of 23 overlapping and juxtaposed buildings, which has also yielded the earliest domesticated cereals on Cyprus. Much later, but another important agricultural development, is the discovery of installations for fermentation and brewing at the Late Bronze Age site of Kissonerga-Skalia. Papadopoulos identifies mining and metallurgy as another important theme, which emerges both from new discoveries and the publication of legacy material. His review of publications and conferences supports his conclusion that research on the archaeology of Cyprus is thriving.

A thematic article follows, with Bela Dimova (Athens) and Margarita Gleba (Padua) summarizing the archaeological evidence for textile economies that has emerged in the last 20 years (see also Spantidaki and Margariti in *AR* 63, 2016–2017). Rather than looking at sporadic finds of textiles, they focus on developments in the understanding of textile tools which in turn have revolutionized research into textile production. Well-funded projects have created a large dataset and context in which changing shapes and weights of spindle-whorls and loomweights can be translated into meaningful evidence about textile production, including differences between sites and change over time. For instance, although wool was most commonly used for textiles in antiquity, some earlier spindle-whorl shapes indicate the use of plant bast fibres. The authors broaden the discussion to topics such as the mobility of craftspeople, different cultures of textile production and value systems.

Following last year's article on Peloponnesian sanctuaries, Dimitris Grigoropoulos (DAI) examines the development of sanctuaries and cult places from the Roman period to Late Antiquity across a wide area of Greece. As he shows, the assumption that these sanctuaries faded away in their 'late' periods, their demise hastened by the onset of Christianity, is not always backed up by the evidence. New Roman building programmes have been identified recently at sites such as Actium, Kalapodi and the Heraion of Samos. The theatres and stadia of Olympia, Nemea, Isthmia and Delphi were maintained into the fifth century AD, suggesting that public spectacles continued even after temples had been banned. Conversely, episodes of destruction, such as a fourth-century AD desecration of cult statues at Messene, indicate the vitality of the cult at that time. It was only in the fifth century AD that the abandonment or transformation of cult spaces accelerated. As Grigoropoulos suggests, the new evidence has helped to inform the restudy of old excavations.

Finally, Rossana Valente (BSA/Newcastle) summarizes research into the Byzantine Peloponnese. She provides a round-up of important new excavations of Byzantine levels at Corinth and Messene, the urban cores of which were transformed in this period. She brings the archaeological evidence into dialogue with the main historical source for this period, the *Chronicle of Monemvasia*, which has been used to support the theory of a large influx of Slav-speaking people in the sixth and seventh centuries AD. As she shows, the changes seen in the archaeological record are the result of a number of factors: recent scholarship suggests that the significance of the *Chronicle* for understanding these changes has been overstated. Evidence related to the circulation of ceramics, and even genetics, is helping scholars to question the traditional view of a historical rupture.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608421000016 Published online by Cambridge University Press

A number of significant temporary exhibitions have opened in Greece over the last year. The National Archaeological Museum in Athens marked the 2,500th anniversary of the battles of Thermopylae and Salamis with an exhibition entitled 'Glorious Victories: Between Myth and History' (October 2020 to October 2021). It included a bust of Themistocles from Ostia, a model trireme and archaeological objects from museums across Greece (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3542). It was accompanied by a virtual exhibition that brought together contributions from a number of different Greek museums (https://2500years.culture.gov.gr/en).

The Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki is celebrating another major anniversary, 200 years since the start of the Greek War of Independence, with an exhibition called 'For a Flame That Burns on: Antiquities and Memory, Thessaloniki–Macedonia (1821–2021)' (July 2021 to July 2022). This shows how a growing interest in Greek antiquities intersected with the independence movement, even in areas that remained under Ottoman control until the 20th century. On a similar theme is the exhibition 'Filoxeni Archaiologia: From Antiquarianism and Philhellenism to the Foreign Archaeological Schools' at the Heraklion Archaeological Museum (August 2021 to January 2022). This is a photographic exhibition about the foreign archaeological schools and institutes and their role in Cretan archaeology.

All the museums mentioned above, along with the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens and the Museum of Byzantine Culture in Thessaloniki are set to join the Acropolis Museum in Athens as legal entities governed by public law, and will no longer come under the umbrella of the Ministry of Culture and Sports as they do now (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3656). The proposed legislation is intended to give these museums more autonomy but concerns have been raised about the wider impact of this change in status.

Among other museum news is the opening of Greece's first underwater museum at Alonissos, which allows divers access to the Classical period Peristera shipwreck (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3396). New (terrestrial) museums opened in 2021 at Chalkis on Euboea (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3796) and Sami on Kephalonia (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3922). A significant new permanent exhibition opened at the Museum of Prehistoric Thera on Santorini: the long-awaited presentation of some of the best-known Akrotiri frescoes (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3904). There was also a temporary exhibition of prehistoric finds from Keros at the Athens Municipal Gallery (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3805).

Digital resources have never been more important as a means to access archaeological research, as Bennet's contribution shows. One major development worth highlighting is the online publication of the archaeological cadastre of Greece (https://www.arxaiologikoktimatologio.gov.gr/en). Including data for sites, monuments and archaeological zones, it allows users to browse an interactive map. For researchers, the Athens Archaeological Society now offers free access to a wide range of titles (monographs and articles) via the society's electronic catalogue: http://catalog.library.archetai.gr/.

Our own, non-exhaustive list of publications that have appeared since the last volume of *AR* follows.

Ackermann, G. (2020) *La céramique d'époque hellénistique: une chrono-typologie au service de l'histoire d'une ville greque entre la fin du IVe et le Ier s. av. J.-C.* (Eretria 24) (Gollion)

Ackermann, G., Krapf, T. and Pop, L. (eds) (2020) *Αποβάτης: mélanges eubéens offerts à Karl Reber par ses étudiants à l'occasion de son 65éme anniversaire* (Athens)

Akamatis, N. (2020) *Argilos* 2: *The Attic Red-Figured Pottery* (Athens)

Apostolakou, V., Brogan, T.M. and Betancourt, P.P. (eds) (2020) *Alatzomouri Pefka: A Middle Minoan IIB Workshop Making Organic Dyes* (INSTAP Prehistory Monograph 62) (Philadelphia)

Baldwin Bowsky, M.W. (2021) *Lissos: Inscriptions Found in Excavations of the Asklepieion* (AURA Supplement 7) (Athens), http://epub.lib.uoa.gr/index.php/aura/article/view/2261

Bonias, Z. and Perreault, J. (eds) (2021) *Argilos* 3: *Argilos, 25 années de recherches: organisation de la ville et de la campagne dans les colonies du nord de l'Égée, VIIIe–IIIe siècles av. n.e.: actes du colloque de Thessalonique, 25–27 mai 2017* (Athens)

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608421000016 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Charami, A. (2020) *Archaeological Museum of Schimatari* (Thebes)
D'Acunto, M. (2020) *Ialiso* 1: *la necropoli: gli scavi italiani (1916–1934): i periodi protogeometrico e geometrico (950–690 a.C.)* (Monografie della Scuola Archeologica di Atene e delle Missioni Italiane in Oriente 31) (Athens)
Delivorrias, A., Vikela, E., Zarkadas, A., Kaltsas, N. and Trianti, I. (eds) *Σπονδή: αφιέρωμα στη μνήμη του Γιώργου Δεσπίνη* (Benaki Museum Supplement 12) (Athens)
Driessen, J. and Vanzetti, A. (2021) *Communication Uneven: Acceptance of and Resistance to Foreign Influences in the Connected Ancient Mediterranean* (Aegis 20) (Louvain)
Eder, B. and Zavadil, M. (eds) (2021) *(Social) Place and Space in Early Mycenaean Greece* (Mykenische Studien 35) (Vienna)
Forsén, J. (ed.) (2021) *Agios Elias of Asea, Arcadia: From Early Sanctuary to Medieval Village* 1 (Acta Instituti Atheniensis Regni Sueciae, 4o 58:1) (Stockholm)
Galanaki, C. (2021) *Gournes, Pediada: A Minoan Cemetery in Crete* (INSTAP Prehistory Monograph 63) (Philadelphia)
Gavranović, M., Heilmann, D., Kapuran, A. and Verčík, M. (eds) (2020) *Spheres of Interaction: Contacts and Relationships between the Balkans and Adjacent Regions in the Late Bronze/Iron Age (13th–5th Centuries BCE): Proceedings of the Conference Held at the Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade, 15–17 September, 2017* (Perspectives on Balkan Archaeology 1) (Rahden)
Gounari, E.G. (2021) *Φίλιπποι: η οικία της τέταρτης οικοδομικής νησίδας ανατολικά του Forum* (Thessaloniki)
Hadjidaki-Marder, E. (2021) *The Minoan Shipwreck at Pseira, Crete* (INSTAP Prehistory Monograph 65) (Philadelphia)
Heiden, J. (ed.) (2020) *Die antike Siedlungstopographie Triphyliens* (Berlin)
Hodos, T. (2021) *The Archaeology of the Mediterranean Iron Age: A Globalising World, 1100–600 BCE* (Cambridge)
Houby-Nielsen, S. (2020) *Chalkis Aitolias* 2: *The Archaic Period* (Athens)
Isler, H.P. (2021) *Ausgrabungen in der frühbronzezeitlichen Siedlung im Heraion von Samos 1966* (Wiesbaden)
Kalogerakou, P., Chasiakou, A., Kosmopoulos, M., Lolos, I., Marabea C., Peppa-Papaioannou, I. and Platon, L. (eds) (2021) *KYDALIMOS: Studies in Honor of Prof. Georgios St. Korres* 1–4 (AURA Supplement 4) (Athens), http://epub.lib.uoa.gr/index.php/aura/issue/view/156
Karageorghis, V., Demesticha, S., Destrooper-Georgiades, A., Donald, A. and Spyrou, A. (eds) (2020) *Cypriote Antiquities in the S.O.F.I.A. Foundation Collection Including Part of the Photos Photiades Collection* 2: *From the Late Bronze Age to the Roman Period* (Athens)
Karantzali, E. (ed.) (2021) *3rd International Interdisciplinary Colloquium: The Periphery of the Mycenaean World: Recent Discoveries and Research Results, 18–21 May, Lamia 2018: Proceedings* (Athens)
Kokkou, A. (2020) *Ιωάννης Τραυλός: η ζωή και το έργο του* (Athens)
Kopanias, K. and Doulfis, G. (eds) (2020) *Τέχνης εμπειρία: νέα αρχαιολογικά ευρήματα και πορίσματα: τιμητικός τόμος για την Καθηγήτρια Γεωργία Κοκκορού-Αλευρά* (Athens)
Laffineur, R. and Palaima, T.G. (2021) *Zoia: Animal-Human Interactions in the Aegean Middle and Late Bronze Age* (Aegaeum 45) (Leuven and Liège)
Leone, S. (2020) *Polis, Platz und Porträt: die Bildnisstatuen auf der Agora von Athen im Späthellenismus und in der Kaiserzeit (86 v. chr. – 267 n. chr.)* (Berlin)
Lolos, Y.A. (2021) *Sikyon* 1: *The Urban Survey* (Athens)
Matthaiou, A.P. (2020) *Το Αττικό ψήφισμα περί των Αθηναίων οικούντων εν Λήμνω* (Athens)
Mazarakis-Ainian, A., Lemos, I. and Vlachou, V. (2020) *Ανασκαφές Ωρωπού: Πρωτογεωμετρική-Υπογεωμετρική περίοδος (10ος–9ος αι. π.Χ.)* (Volos)
Middleton, G.D. (ed.) (2020) *Collapse and Transformation: The Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age in the Aegean* (Oxford)
Morgan, L. (2020) *Wall Paintings and Social Context: The Northeast Bastion at Ayia Irini* (Keos 11) (Philadelphia)

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608421000016 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Mulliez, D. (2020) *Corpus des inscriptions de Delphes* 5: *les actes d'affranchissement* 1: *prêtrises I à IX (nos 1–722)* (Paris)
Papadopoulou, V. (2020) *Εφορεία Αρχαιοτήτων Άρτας, Res Gestae: τα πεπραγμένα της Εφορείας Αρχαιοτήτων Άρτας κατά τα έτη 2014–2020* (Arta)
Petrakos, B. (2021) *Το παρελθόν σε δεσμά: οι αρχαιότητες της Ελλάδος κατά τον πόλεμο και την κατοχή* 1–4 (Library of the Athens Archaeological Society 332–35) (Athens)
Petrakos, B. (2021) *Ζημίαι των αρχαιοτήτων εκ του πολέμου και των στρατών κατοχής* (Library of the Athens Archaeological Society 336) (Athens)
Pilz, O. (2020) *Kulte und Heiligtümer in Elis und Triphylien: Untersuchungen zur Sakraltopographie der westlichen Peloponnes* (Berlin)
Platon, L. (ed.) (2020) *Zάκρος* 1: *ιστορικά και μεθοδολογικά: έρευνες στην ευρύτερη περιοχή της μινωικής εγκατάστασης* 1–2 (Library of the Athens Archaeological Society 328–29) (Athens)
Skartsi, S.S. (ed.) (2021) *Αγωγός ιστορίας και μνήμης/A Pipeline Traversing Greek History: ευρήματα από τις ανασκαφές του Διαδριατικού Αγωγού Φυσικού Αερίου στη βόρεια Ελλάδα/Archaeological Finds from the Excavations for the Trans Adriatic Pipeline in Northern Greece* (Athens), https://www.tap-ag.gr/nhea/nhea-eidheseis/agoghos-istorhias-kai-mnhemes
Sinos, S. (2021) *The Late Byzantine Palace of Mistras and its Restoration* (Athens)
Stefani, E., Tsangaraki, E. and Arvanitaki, A. (2020) *From the South to the North: Colonies of the Cyclades in the Northern Aegean: Exhibition Catalogue 12.07.2019–31.08.2020* (Thessaloniki)
Theurillat, T., Ackermann, G., Duret, M. and Zubriggen, S. (2020) *Les thermes du centre* (Eretria 25) (Gollion)
Touloumis, K. (2021) *Προϊστορική αρχαιολογία: είκοσι χρόνια (2000–2019)* (Thessaloniki)
Vasileiou, A. (2021) *Βυζαντινή εφυαλωμένη κεραμική από το Άργος (10ος–α' μισό 13ου αι.): όψεις του υλικού πολιτισμού ενός περιφερειακού κέντρου στην Πελοπόννησο* (AURA Supplement 5) (Athens), http://epub.lib.uoa.gr/index.php/aura/article/view/2238
Vavouranakis, G. (2021) *Εικόνα και αρχαιολογία: το παράδειγμα της προϊστορικής αρχιτεκτονικής στην Ελλάδα* (Athens)
Voskos, I. (2021) *Η αρχαιολογίας της αποθήκευσης: οικονομία και κοινωνική αλλαγή στην Κύπρο κατά την κεραμική νεολιθική και χαλκολιθική περίοδο* (AURA Supplement 6) (Athens), Available online: http://epub.lib.uoa.gr/index.php/aura/article/view/2262
Waksman, S.Y. (ed.) (2020) *Multidisciplinary Approaches to Food and Foodways in the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean* (Lyon)
Wallace, S. (2020) *Karphi Revisited: A Settlement and Landscape of the Aegean Crisis Period c. 1200–1000 BC* (London)
Yangaki, A.G. (2021) *Ceramics in Plain Sight: The Bacini of the Churches of Crete: 'Reflections' of the Late Medieval and the Early Modern Material Culture of the Island* 1: *The Regional Unit of Chania* (Institute of Historical Research, Section of Byzantine Research 9) (Athens)
Zarifis, N.G. (2020) *Το ιερό του Ερμή και της Αφροδίτης στη Σύμη Βιάννου: παρατηρήσεις στην τυπολογία και στην εξέλιξη των κεραμίδων* (Ευλιμένη 4) (Rethymno)

Acknowledgements
We would like to express our warmest thanks to all the contributors to this year's volume, to John Bennet (BSA Director) for his guidance, to Hallvard Indgjerd and Nathan Meyer (BSA IT Officers) for the production of the excellent maps, to Tania Gerousi (BSA Administrator) for much practical help and to Gina Coulthard for her superb assistance in the publication of this issue. Numerous individuals and institutions, credited in the appropriate captions, granted us permission to use images. Without them, this issue would not have been possible. It is thanks to the hard work of the members of the Greek Archaeological Service and museums, and the fruitful collaborations between colleagues and institutions, based in various countries and rooted in different scholarly traditions, that we are able to report on new discoveries, academic discourses and the vibrant scene of archaeology in Greece.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608421000016 Published online by Cambridge University Press