Mistras. G. Marinou reports (*AAA* 39 [2006], 211–28) on new evidence for the architecture and form of the Laskaris house in the lower town, revealed in the course of cleaning and restoration work from 2002 onwards. Three building phases can be identified, and are described in detail. The original, possibly 13th Ct AD, building is a rectangular structure perpendicular to the contours of the hill, with a small vaulted triclinium on the 1st floor (only traces of its 2nd storey are preserved), a ground floor space and a stoa to the N. The building was extended in the first half of the 14th Ct (possibly by Alexios Laskaris Metochitis, governor of the Peloponnese), with the addition of a large triclinium supported on a 2-storeyed vaulted extension to the E and N of the original house. This extension occupied the site of earlier buildings. Removal of Ot additions (a cross-wall in the triclinium, masonry sealing its N windows etc.) revealed the triclinium floor, the original form of the windows and of the seat by their sills, and the form of the tympanum of the Byz arch on the E façade beneath the triclinium (2 openings with semicircular arches, separated by a pillar). The N portico is also seen to be a 2-storeyed arcade on the E façade. The 3rd phase saw the addition of a special room with pointed door and window openings at the S of the triclinium. On the E façade, the 2 large arches at the level beneath it were replaced by a wall with smaller pointed windows. The large arch on the ground floor beneath was also replaced. Parapets with corbels were installed on the balconies. A date of the 2nd half of the 14th Ct is proposed for this final phase, and the author suggests that the changes reflect the new taste for private rooms and westernizing features at the court of the Despot Manuel Kantakouzenos and his wife Isabelle de Lusignan.

Publication: S. Sinos (ed.), *Τα Μνημεία του Μυστρά. Το Έργο της Επιτροπής Αναστήλωσης Μνημείων Μυστρά* (Athens, TAPA 2009).

Menelaion
Publication: H.W. Catling, *Sparta: Menelaion* I. *The Bronze Age* (London, BSA 2009).

Agios Stephanos
Publication: †W.D. Taylour and R. Janko, *Ayios Stephanos. Excavations at a Bronze Age and Medieval Settlement in Southern Laconia* (London, BSA 2008).

Alepotrypa Cave (Diros). A. Papathanasiou publishes (*Sparta and Laconia*, 21–28) the human bone remains from the site.

Anthochori. E. Zavvou (Epigraphical Museum) publishes (*Sparta and Laconia*, 29–42) finds from the excavations conducted by the former Director of the 5th EPCA, C. Christou, in the early 1960s, together with the results of fieldwork conducted by the author (then of the 5th EPCA) in 2004. The old excavation finds include much EHII and MH pottery, along with LHIIA–LHIIIC. A Myc burial discovered in 1970 on the property of V. Bourazelis in the area of Anthochori includes 2 LHIIA squat jugs. Sherds of Laconian PGeo skyphoi and closed vessels are also noted. Ar and Cl pottery and votives relate to the known sanctuary: fragments of 4 stamped tiles of the 3rd Ct BC preserve the stamp Μεσσαπέος/Δαμόσιοι. Survey in 2004 showed that archaeological finds concentrate over a large area around the Church of the Metamorphosis, with material of the historical period (bg sherds, pithoi and black-painted tiles) especially to the S, and that of PH periods (EH saucers, Myc kylikes, handmade wares) to the E. Ca. 100m W of the church, on the property of P. Fraghis, an underground circular chamber (1.7m *h.* and 2.38m *di.*), with rectangular niches to the N and S of the chamber and a short dromos, was probably a storeroom rather than a tomb: no dating evidence was found. Rescue excavation on the property of D. Katsoulakos, just to the N of the church, revealed EH architectural remains over an area of 183m^2. In a lower layer, remains of successive building phases were revealed, with rectilinear houses showing successive additions and alterations. Construction was in stone in the herringbone technique, with a mud-brick superstructure and probably roofing in schist slabs. A large building was exposed in the NW sector of the excavation. Pottery from this lower layer dates early in EHII. Especially in the E sector of the excavation, the poor preservation of walls made it impossible to retrieve individual building plans. The pottery was mostly coarse or semi-coarse, with saucers, deep rounded bowls, basins, pithoi and open jars being the most popular shapes in coarser fabrics; finer wares sometimes have an (often high) polish and/or a red slip, and most finewares or semi-coarsewares have incised or impressed decoration. Stone finds (querns, a mortar, a palette and stone tools) are noted.

MESSENIA
(38th EPCA: 26th EBA)

Messene. P. Themelis (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2008], 46–60) on continuing excavation in the theatre, the Sanctuary of Isis and Sarapis, in the basilica, in the N stoa in the agora and at the sanctuaries on Ithome.

In the theatre area, excavation continued in the EByz cemetery reported in 2007, moving towards the Hel retaining wall of the E parodos. Seventeen cist graves were excavated, divided into 4 groups; these were built from the worked stones of the theatre, terracotta and stone slabs. The first group, of 5 tombs, included 4 found empty and one with the skeleton of a young woman without grave goods. Of the other groups, one had 3 tombs, the 2nd 7 and the 3rd 2 (**Fig. 47**). All were similar, contemporary constructions and contained bodies accompanied by pottery oinochoai, and dated to a later, EByz period. Particularly characteristic of these cemeteries is the peribolos which encloses them in an ordered arrangement, their separation into unitary groups with the use of common partition walls in each row to economise on space and cost, and the fact that each group was likely used for a family. The overall appearance of the burials confirms that they were contemporary constructions.



47. Messene: groups of EByz cist tombs in the theatre area.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400001113 Published online by Cambridge University Press

In the course of the cemetery excavation, the retaining wall of the E parodos of the theatre was also fully revealed; the E end of this is now visible, where it turns in a right angle and continues to the S. The W retaining wall shows the same trait. The E wall is exceptionally well preserved. It is constructed in a variant of the isodomic system with tooling on the visible surfaces of the blocks and small infillings, and in one case deviation from the verticality of the jointing (**Fig. 48**).

In the fill between the group of 5 graves and the retaining wall was found the head of a marble statue of a woman: the face is destroyed, with only the eyes preserved. The hairstyle copies that of statues of Faustina II. The head was a recutting of an older statue of a man, a practice attested by other sculptures of the 4th Ct AD made in a local workshop at Messene, such as the head of Hermes (**Fig. 49**) and that of the Emperor Constantine, which were both recut from statues of women of the Hel period.

Excavation was resumed in the Sanctuary of Isis and Sarapis. The plan was clarified of an underground Π-shaped reservoir located S of the theatre and separated from it by a road (6m *w.*). The N branch of the reservoir is 46.5m *l.* and the E and W 35.5m *l.* It is 3.25m *w.* and covered with an arched vault which has no openings for light. However, one high arched opening was located, approximately in the middle of the W branch, and 4 smaller ones in the N branch. At the end of the 4th Ct AD, the reservoir, then apparently out of use and unroofed, served the inhabitants of Messene as a dump for refuse, sculpture included. *AR* 50 (2003–2004), 29 reported fragments of a statue of Perseus holding the head of Medusa and a seated statue of Isis nursing Horus. New fragments belonging to this group, from the body of Horus, were found in 2008 (**Fig. 50**). The right side of a head of a marble statue of a male figure of the 2nd Ct AD was also found, plus the life-sized marble head of a lioness and pieces of many marble statues. These all probably come from the theatre and the Sanctuary of Isis, and are products of local workshops at Messene, mostly of the 2nd Ct AD. They were probably broken and deposited in the disused reservoir by fanatical Christians around the end of the 4th Ct AD. In the W branch of the reservoir were many fragments of mosaic pavements, as well as tesserae which probably came from the decoration of the Isis shrine. The function of the underground Π-shaped structure as a reservoir was clarified by the discovery of water channels in the upper part of the walls. The Sanctuary of Isis lay E of the reservoir, along with the remains of the basilica. On one of the architectural members of the basilica, in secondary use, was an inscription [-- ἔ]ργον ϶Ισιδος (see *PAE* [2001], 82).



48. Messene: theatre, E parodos wall.



49. Messene: 4th Ct AD head of Hermes recut from an original Hel statue.



50. Messene: Isis nursing Horus, restored statue group.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400001113 Published online by Cambridge University Press



51. Messene: bronze statue of Scylla-Medusa.

The narthex of the basilica was completely uncovered, and one monolithic column from the S colonnade re-erected with its base and capital. Investigation outside the S nave revealed many Ch cist tombs. A capital from the base of a bronze statue was found in secondary use: an inscription in large letters reads ᾽Αγαθὴ Τύχη. Also in secondary use, as a paving stone in the central nave, was a catalogue inscription κιστιοκόσμων ᾽Αθηνᾶς Κυπαρισσίας.

In the N stoa of the agora, stone blocks were re-erected and conservation undertaken of the 2 counters for withdrawing and measuring solids for the *agoranomeion.* On their undersides, these blocks preserved sockets and clamps for the suspension of the receptacles into which fell the solid goods being measured. The bronze head of Medusa previously reported (*AR* 54 [2007–2008], 38) was conserved, thus confirming its form with characteristic deranged hair, crowning snakes and arresting gaze (**Fig. 51**).

Publication: P. Birtacha, *Μεσσήνη. Το Ωδείο και το Ανατολικό Πρόπυλο του Ασκληπιείου* (Athens, ASA 2008).



52. Ithome, Sanctuary of Artemis Limnatis.

Ithome. P. Themelis (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2008], 61–63) on continued excavation at the Sanctuary of Artemis Limnatis (**Fig. 52**), which produced architectural members in sandstone and terracotta Corinthian-style roof tiles, as well as terracotta sima fragments with lion-head spouts (**Fig. 53**). Three hundred metres NW of the Sanctuary of Artemis, at a sanctuary investigated in 1989 (*AR* 36 [1989–1990], 33; *PAE* [1989], 107–10), sections of column capital, epistyle and geison of the Ionic order were found. A 2nd line of the inscription found in the previous excavation was read, making the text: Θηρύλος ἐνικ᾽ Αἰθίδασ[ι] Καλαι (or Καλοις). The excavator suggests that ἐνικα here has the sense of dedication to the *Kali Thea* or to the *Kaloi* (*Daimones*), i.e. to the Kouretes (**Fig. 54**).



53. Ithome, Sanctuary of Artemis Limnatis: terracotta sima.

Anc. Thouria. E. Greco (Director, SAIA) and P. Arapogianni (Director, 38th EPCA) report on a further season of research at Ellenika, anc. Thouria, focused on a sector of the anc. city located on the northernmost hill.

Three trenches were opened immediately behind the longest and best preserved stretch of the inner circuit of the city's fortification wall. The aim was to define more precisely the



54. Ithome, NW sanctuary: part of the dedication inscription on the temple krepis.

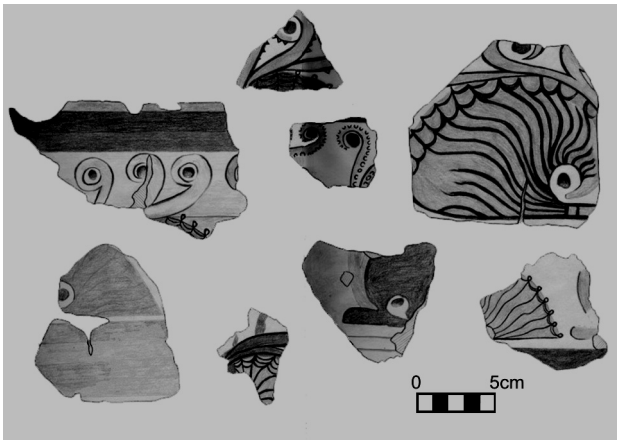
https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400001113 Published online by Cambridge University Press

chronology of the wall, which is generally dated to the 4th Ct BC, and to reconstruct the structure and confirm the existence of an inner curtain wall. Significant results are noted from trenches 1 and 2.

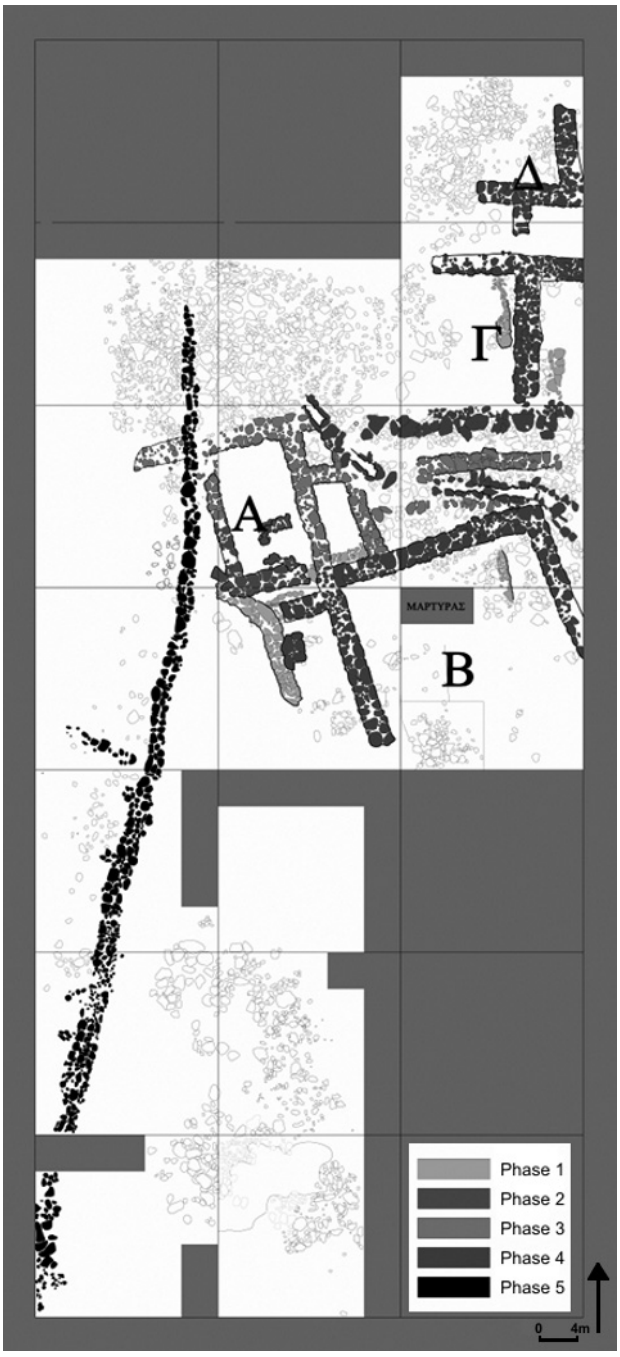
In trench 1 (close to the top of the wall) there was a marked difference in findings between the N and S parts of the trench. In the S was a vault, which had been partially removed in mod. times; on the top of it, roughly worked limestone blocks were placed between, but not joined to, the arch centre. Over this lay a compact greyish stratum with lenses of burning, within which were LCI–Hel sherds and a Cor coin of the E Imperial period.

Trench 2 was placed at the foot of the curtain wall in order to confirm the relationship with the layers of fill present and the rock beneath. Over the entire area, a uniform stratum of rather soft clay lay directly upon the rock on which the wall was founded. In the northernmost area there emerged collapsed material which probably relates to the supports and wall superstructure; underneath it, a stratum probably formed in mod. times consisted almost exclusively of pieces of brick.

Pylos. J.L. Davis (Director, ASCSA) reports on a further study season. Examination of faunal remains and their archaeological contexts has now been completed. Some 13,000 specimens, from the end of the EBA until the final destruction of the Palace of Nestor, have been studied; EMyc deposits are particularly well represented. Study of human remains and artefacts from graves is nearly finished. LHIIIA is the principal period of use of chamber tombs associated with the palace, although there were burials in several tombs in LHIIIC. Analysis of human remains from several chamber tombs at Kato Rouga, on the SW edge of Chora, was begun in collaboration with the 38th EPCA. Analysis of pottery from the pantries continued; matching fingerprints are helping to identify the products of individual potters. Systematic study of floor-plaster from the pantries of the palace suggests that here the main building had only a single upper floor. Plaster offering tables were inventoried. All fragments of wall-paintings in the Chora Museum have now been digitally photographed, with mending focused on Hall 64 and Room 6; a surprising new find from the latter is a naturalistically rendered running lion. A survey of nautilus representations (**Fig. 55**) reveals the stylistic diversity of this motif. New joins were made to figures from the large-scale procession.



55. Pylos, Palace of Nestor: nautilus representations on restored wall-paintings.



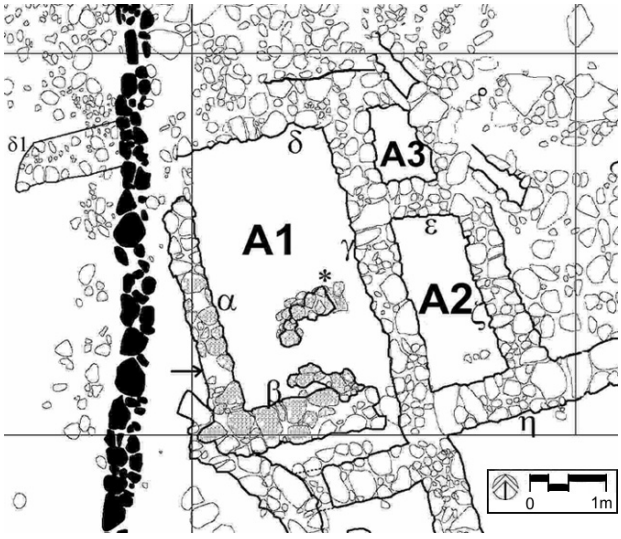
56. Iklaina: general excavation plan.

Iklaina. M. Cosmopoulos (ASA) reports (*Ergon* [2008], 64–80) on excavation in the BA settlement. In the S sector, investigation continued of the layer containing 2 floors which bore evidence of destruction by fire. Both floors were made of pebbles and beaten earth, and covered by a layer of fire-hardened earth which contained MHIII vessels and sherds, burnt pig and ovicaprid bones, various small finds, including an anchor-shaped pendant and 2 biconical spindle-whorls, and small fragments of burnt plaster. The 2 floors were separated by a heap of stones formed by the disintegration of wall foundations, burnt mud-brick and burnt MH coarseware.

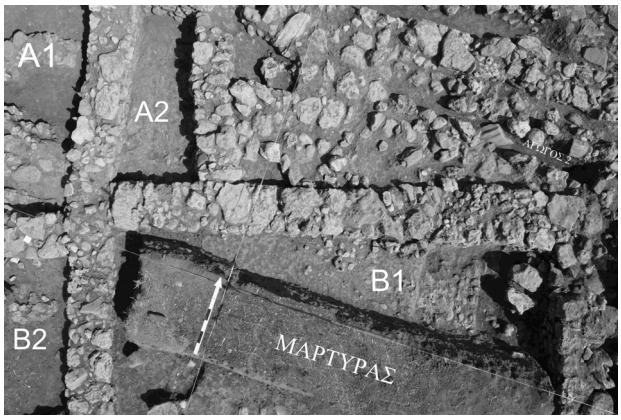
https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400001113 Published online by Cambridge University Press

In the S sector of the excavation there were at least 2 rooms occupied during the 2nd half of the MH period and destroyed by fire at the end of that period. This destruction was so extensive that it is impossible to define the location and direction of the walls or the plan of the rooms. It remains unclear whether these were 2 houses or 2 rooms in the same house. In the upper levels of both rooms were numerous LHIIIA2–LHIIIB sherds mixed with MH pottery, but there are no remains of walls to associate with them. In 2006, a long LHIIIA2–LHIIIB wall was excavated, associated with a stone paved area of uncertain function. Excavation of this area was extended to the E, exposing parts of 4 houses and water channels, which probably date to LHIIIA2–LHIIIB. (**Fig. 56**).

House A has 3 rooms (**Fig. 57**). Room A1 is rectangular (3.1m x 2m), oriented NW-SW and enclosed by walls α, β, γ and δ. The S half of wall α (up to 1.5m from its S end) preserved one course of large and medium-sized stones which bear strong traces of fire. By contrast, the N half of the wall is built of 3 horizontal rows of medium-sized stones, with no traces of fire: this part of the wall was built after the fire had destroyed the original construction. Wall β, which is also burnt, bonds and is contemporary with the S part of wall α, while walls γ and δ, which enclose room A1 to the E and N, are of different construction and do not bear signs of fire. The S part of the room contained a butterfly-shaped construction, of which parts of 2 burned walls survive. The floor of the room, made of pebbles and beaten earth, was built over a foundation course averaging 0.4m *d.* It is covered by a destruction layer 0.1–0.2m *d.,* which contained fire-hardened earth (with very strong signs of fire in the S part of the floor, around the butterfly-shaped structure, but only sporadic traces in the N half), stones and burnt pig, ovicaprid and bovine bones, and numerous LHIIIA2–LHIIIB sherds. On the floor and in contact with the N arm of the butterfly-shaped structure, a large tripod vessel was found *in situ.* Room A2 lies to the E of A1, and is an irregular parallelogram in shape. The floor is made of pebbles and beaten earth upon a foundation level as that of room A1. The pottery from room A2 was also identical to that from A1. Room A3 lies to the N of A2 and is separated from it by wall ε. It is a small room, perhaps used for storage; it was full of stones which had fallen from the later water channel constructed above. House A had 2 building phases. The earlier phase includes the S part of room A1 with the S part of wall α, wall β and the butterfly-shaped structure inside the room, all of which were destroyed by fire. After this destruction, the room took its final form with the construction of the N extension of wall α, walls γ and δ, and the unburnt N part of the floor. Rooms A2 and A3 belong to this same phase. The pottery of the 2 phases does not differ significantly, and it seems that they occurred in quick succession within the LHIIIA2–LHIIIB period.



57. Iklaina: house A.



58. Iklaina: house B.

House B lies to the E of house A. Room B1, oriented NW-SE (**Fig. 58**), is more recent than house A, and all its stones bear strong traces of burning. The interior has not yet been fully excavated, but part of a floor has been located. This floor is made of medium-sized stone slabs in beaten earth, on which lay LHIIIA2–LHIIIB sherds mixed with burnt earth and burnt animal bone. Room B2 has an E-W *l.* of 5.4m; its dimension N-S is not yet established. In the E face of wall λ, a row of 5 large stones forms a large rectangular bench 0.4m *l.* x 0.26m *d.* The floor of room B2 has not been uncovered, but the pottery from inside the room includes many LHIIIA2–LHIIIB sherds and sherds from burnt kylikes.

House Γ includes parts of 2 rectangular rooms oriented E-W. The E, N and S walls of room Γ1 survive, but the W wall was removed to lay down stone paving. On the floor, made of pebbles and beaten earth, was found a large quantity of LHIIIA2–LHIIIB pottery, including sherds of 2 rhyta and stems of at least 60 kylikes, an animal figurine and a large number of animal bones. The animal bones found in house Γ belong mainly to pigs and ovicaprids, but there were also many bones of deer, wild boar and hares, which are evidence of extensive hunting. A set of deer antlers, on the verge of being shed naturally, indicates the animal was killed in the autumn. Finally, the discovery of a forest species of snail (*Lindholmiola corcyrensis*) demonstrates the existence of woodland nearby.

At house Δ, part of a building with at least 2 rooms was located at the N edge of the excavation area. Room Δ1 was long and narrow (1.3m internal *w.*) and oriented N-S; the E-W dimension has not been established since the E part has yet to be excavated. An opening 0.5m *w* between the S end of wall γ and wall β of house Γ forms the entrance to the building from an exterior space, probably a courtyard, which opens to the W and leads to a paved area. Room D2 was destroyed by the laying down of the paving and only 2 walls are preserved.

Built water channels were placed between houses B and Γ; these run E-SE and join the paved area in the W. Channel 1 is the largest; it is covered by 14 large slabs, set in a straight line which follows the slope. At the W end of the channel, by the

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400001113 Published online by Cambridge University Press

final cover slab, is a hole 0.1m *di.* and 0.22m *d.*, filled with very fine gravel, which probably held a post to support the roof. From channel 2, only the channel itself and the cover slabs by the outflow are preserved. It lies 1.4m from channel 1 and curves from SE to NW. The NE corner of wall ζ of room Α3 was removed for the construction of the outflow of the channel. The walls of the channel outflows are built of upright slabs supported by smaller stones. They are filled with clayey earth and a very few undatable sherds. The outflows of the 2 channels come together at the NE edge of the paved area.

A burial was found W of the long wall, at a *d.* of barely 0.4m below the mod. ground surface. Only the cranium, parts of the right arm and 2 spinal discs were excavated: a 12/15-year-old female, buried in an upright, contracted position, with the head markedly pushed down towards the chest and the right hand below the jaw. The young woman suffered from porous lesions on the right eye socket and porotic hyperostosis in the cranial vault. While the precise factors behind this case cannot be determined, these symptoms are generally associated with anaemia, which can be genetic, a result of lack of iron in the diet or of internal haemorrage caused by parasites. Additionally, the 3rd molars show excess enamel, something which is also present on the crowns of the canines and incisors. This feature indicates illness or bodily harm one or 2 years before death. The head rested on the neck and rim of a MH storage vessel.

The results of excavation so far indicate that the settlement was first occupied in the 2nd half of the MH period, and was destroyed by fire at the end of that period. The site was reoccupied in LHII–LHIIIA1, as shown by the walls found at the deepest points in house Β (walls λ and μ) and house Γ (walls δ and ε). Thereafter, in the LHIIIA2–LHIIIB period, the oldest part of house Α was built (the S part of room Α1, with the S part of wall α, wall β and the butterfly-shaped structure). Room Α1 was destroyed by fire during this same period but was soon reused and extended to the N, with the additions to wall α and wall β, while rooms Α2 and Α3 were added to the house and wall η was built. The next phase, which also dates to LHIIIA2–LHIIIB, encompasses houses Β, Γ and Δ, the water channels and the paved area, which co-existed with rooms Α1 and Α2. The latest architectural feature to appear is the long wall, which was built at a higher level than wall δ of room Α1 and above the paved area. The settlement was finally destroyed by fire during LHIIIB, as is clear from burnt pottery in the destruction layer.

ELEIA including TRIPHYLIA
(7th EPCA: 6th EBA)

Triphylia. J. Heiden (DAI) and C. Rohn (FH Wiesbaden) report on the 3rd campaign of study of anc. Triphylia. Plans of Samikon, Platiana, Lepreon and Vrestos were made at 1:2,000 scale. A first series of geophysical prospections, using geomagnetometry, ground-penetrating radar and resistivity, took place at Skillous and Babes. Finds from older excavations at Samikon, Platiana, Lepreon and Vrestos (from both systematic excavation and cleaning by the Archaeological Service before 2002) were processed, and those which provide evidence for site chronology were catalogued and photographed.

Samikon. The city wall (**Fig. 59**) and all visible architectural remains within it were recorded. The residential architecture indicates 2 chronological phases. In the centre, S of the agora, small isolated buildings were apparently arranged unsystematically, whereas in the E part of the city, residential houses were arranged along a rectilinear street grid. The city appears to have been built in the E4th Ct BC.



59. Samikon: city wall.

Platiana. In the anc. city (**Fig. 60**) above mod. Platiana, the city walls, visible structures within them and a complex outside, to the SW, were recorded. The upper town contains a theatre and several other large public buildings, as well as smaller residential houses. These are arranged along a rectilinear street grid. Many remains of residential houses were also found on the very steep S slope. The upper town street grid is continuous here, despite the difficult topographic conditions. An isolated complex of buildings is located in the valley, far below the city. A tower house, built of large blocks, probably controlled the path leading up to the town. No finds predate the L5th Ct BC.

Lepreon. The 2008 campaign located the city walls and the S plateau with the Temple of Demeter. Small rooms are integrated in the city wall almost along its entire length, as also within the wall separating the upper and lower town. A building in the W part of the wall, recently used as an animal shelter, must have been a gate. Besides Geo stray finds, artefacts from Lepreon include numerous Ar objects, such as pyxis lids, and many items (for example, sherds of plates, footed cups and skyphoi) of the 5th and especially the 4th Ct BC.

Vrestos. Only initial fieldwork took place in 2008 at the anc. settlement near Vrestos. At this stage, there is evidence of a virtually circular city wall with several rectangular towers and a circular one in the N.



60. Anc. Platiana.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400001113 Published online by Cambridge University Press