THRACE

A new publication presents a valuable overview of evidence spanning the mod. Bulgarian-Gr border: H. Todorova, M. Stefanovich, G. Ivanov (eds), *In the Steps of James Harvey Gaul* 2. *The Struma/Strymon River Valley in Prehistory: Proceedings of the International Symposium Strymon Praehistoricus. Kjustendil - Blagoevgrad (Bulgaria); Serres - Amphipolis (Greece) 27th September to 1st October 2004* (Sofia, Gerda Henkel Stiftung, 2007).

Nomos of Xanthe
(19th EPCA: 12th EBA)

Kimmeria. *Ethnos* (08/03/08) cites the report of D. Makropoulou (Director, 15th EBA) of the discovery of a previously unknown ECh (probably 6th Ct AD) basilica (15m x 13m).

Nomos of Rhodope
(19th EPCA: 15th EBA)

Komotini. *Ethnos* (08/03/08) cites the report of D. Makropoulou (Director, 15th EBA) of the discovery on Venizelos street of traces of a Byz cemetery and a cistern. Within the city, a previously unknown 14th Ct AD bath with a hypocaust has been located, the construction of which is perhaps to be attributed to Gazi Evrenos.

Maroneia. P. Tritsaroli (ASCSA, Wiener Laboratory) reports (*AEMTh* 20 [2006], 31–39) on analysis of the human skeletal remains from the extra-mural cemetery at ECh/Byz Maroneia (theatre area, Kabana region). The sample of 36 individuals included 32 adults of advanced age and 4 children (3 over the age of 4); different nutritional habits were traced according to age and sex. Attention focused on the discovery in tomb 5 (W parados of the theatre) of the cranium of a mature woman (over 30 years of age) which had been artificially deformed, probably by binding: the woman had also suffered multiple fractures of other bones. The tomb itself was archaeologically indistinguishable from the rest, but cranial deformation is not generally attested in Gr lands nor does it fit Ch tradition. The deceased may therefore have retained customs from her homeland – perhaps adding evidence for the arrival of immigrants from the Caucasus or the Balkans (or W Europe) during the migration period (5th Ct AD onwards) as part of the mixed population of this major Byz trading centre.

Maroneia, Cave of Polyphemos. A. Panti and M. Myteletsis (EPSVE) report (*AEMTh* 20 [2006], 21–29) on excavation in the 2 main chambers as part of a programme to prepare the cave for public viewing. Two trenches were opened, revealing the same 4 strata in each. The top level, 1, dates to the L12th–13th Ct AD and contained a large quantity of glazed and plain pottery, plus animal bone (mainly bovine, implying use of the cave as a shelter). Prominent are cups and plates of Zeuxippos ware group II (including some probable local imitations, noting also many cups similar to those produced at Mikro Pisto in Rhodope), also many lamps. Two legible bronze coins among the 9 found are also of this date (one from Thessaloniki of Theodoros I Laskari [1204] and the other an imitation of Alexander III). Two more found outside the cave were a Latin imitation of Manuel Despotis (1204) from Thessaloniki and a Latin imitation of the small Constantinople type A. Level 2, disturbed and with traces of burning, contained LRom amphorae of types 4 and 7 (7th Ct AD), 1st Ct AD terra sigillata and some EH sherds. Level 3 was very slight, with a little Neo pottery in trench I and EH sherds in both trenches. Beneath a 0.1m lime crust, level 4 (ca. 0.05m thick) produced EBA akin to that of Sitagroi phase IV and a quantity of EH II, paralleled in Sitagroi phases Va and b (typical shapes include the kantharoid cup and prochous), also spindle-whorls and a serpentine axe. Two intrusive bg sherds of LAr kylikes represent the only evidence for use of the cave between EH II and the LRom period. In addition to excavation, a 3D scan of the cave interior is proposed.

Nomos of Evros
(19th EPCA: 15th EBA)

Zoni (Mesimbria). P. Tsatsopoulou (19th EPCA) reviews (*AEMTh* 20 [2006], 1–7) the past 3 seasons of work in the territory of Zoni, identifying the main points of defence and discussing the potential identity of sites. W of the valley of Zoni, the valley of Petroton shows evidence of continuous occupation from the PH to the LRom period. This is the only area with a harbour capable of handling external trade. On the W side of the valley, the area of **Mikros Elaionas** (1,000masl) has traces of anc. settlement covering ca. 20 stremmata (rectangular buildings, roof tiles and Cl and Hel sherds). The site is protected to the W, NW and NE by 3 peaks which have evidence of fortification and sherds of Thracian pottery. Three main routes inland from the coastal plain around Zoni are discussed: a 200m *l.* stretch of wall ca. 3km from the sea is identified alongside one of them.

The plain around mod. Perama and Komaro is defended by 2 peak strongholds, both with traces of fortification and Hel and Thracian sherds. A 3rd peak defends the main route down to Zoni. The easternmost of these 3 peaks has direct visual connection with mod. Makri (anc. Sali), with traces of a PH peribolos.

A brief review of finds from Zoni itself, emphasizes the importance of the large collection of inscriptions in the Thracian language (2 on stone, plus a collection of 300 graffiti in Gr script on pottery from the Sanctuary of Apollo).

Traianoupolis. K. Tsouris presents (*DeltChAE* 28 [2007], 67–74) a detailed architectural study of the ruins of a small (11.25m x 6.15m) church. Its LByz (1st half of the 14th Ct AD) construction postdates the sack of 1206 and represents important evidence for continuing settlement at a time of major upheaval.

Tymbo Thyreas (Didymoteicho). *Ethnos* (02/08/07) cites the report of M. Koutsoumanis (19th EPCA) of the discovery of many PH tools dating ca. 5000–4500 BC during excavation of the mound, which lies ca. 8km from Didymoteicho. Seven stone axes, arrowheads, tens of other tools and pottery sherds are noted. *Apogevmatini* (06/02/08) reports the discovery, during excavation of the mound, of a Rom family tomb. This contained the cremations of a man and a woman, plus an animal (probably a horse), along with ceramic, glass, iron and bronze offerings, and a small amount of jewellery. Also found in the mound were Neo tools, such as axes and stone arrowheads. Finds are kept in Komotini Museum. *Ethnos* (15/03/08) further reports (with illustration) the discovery of a bronze lamp with a handle in the form of a swan's head from this area of later burials (2 pyres and the burial reported above are noted).

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Didymoteicho Kalé. *Ethnos* (08/03/08) cites the report of D. Makropoulou (Director, 15th EBA) on the discovery during cleaning of rock-cut chambers used for worship.

SAMOTHRACE

Sanctuary of the Great Gods. J. McCredie (ASCSA/New York) reports on the 2007 season of study and conservation.

Work continued on volume 9, *The Monuments of the Eastern Hill*, in the series *Samothrace. Excavations Conducted by the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University*, and on the catalogue of coins from the E hill (L. Gadbery). Documentation of the architectural blocks associated with the Milesian Dedication on the W hill continued.

ISLANDS OF THE NORTHEAST AEGEAN
(20th EPCA: 14th EBA)

Lemnos

Hephaestia. E. Greco (Director, SAIA) reports on continuing exploration of the area of the Isthmus wall. Trenches were opened at the foundation of the Ar wall corresponding to the walls of the LH settlement previously noted (**Fig. 84**). Among the oldest sherds (from the deep levels of the levelling fill over the sterile clay level) are classes dating back to LH IIIA2. The structures immediately following these first phases date to the LH IIICL.



84. Lemnos, Hephaestia: wall structures of the LH settlement

N of the boundary wall (of uncertain date), are 2 EByz rooms side by side set on the ridge of the Ar wall. Amphorae, storage vessels, terra sigillata and a coin date to the 6th Ct AD. One room contained architectural spolia.

Outside the boundary wall, close to the monument with limestone blocks, the NW corner of the westernmost room of the rectangular building with benches discovered in 2005 (*AR* 53 [2006–2007], 76–77) was also explored. Among Ar finds are many sherds of the karchesion shape (common in cult buildings excavated in the town). A new room belonging to the same complex was found in the W side, covered by a major L Imperial dump. A test was made in the NE corner of the W room to investigate the foundations of the walls.

New investigations were made on the S limit of the town, in the N side and the SW corner of the L antique peristyle house, and in the road delimitating the house at the S. This permits reconstruction of a diachronic image of life in the area, from the LAr–E7th Ct AD. Further studies will be made of palaeobotanic remains recovered from the levels investigated and the raw materials used in the house construction.

Lesbos

Mytilene (anc. city). H. Williams (Canadian Institute/British Columbia) reports on the study of finds from excavations on the acropolis and near the N harbour with special attention to the large numbers of terracotta figurines and lamps from the sanctuary and the extensive collections of Aeolic grey wares from both sites. The latter represent Ar, Cl and Hel deposits.

Chios
(20th EPCA: 3rd EBA)

Journal of Archaeological Science 35 (2008), 1169–76 publishes widely reported work (cf. *Eleutheros Typos* and *Ta Nea* 05/11/07) by B.P. Foley and M.C. Hansson (MIT and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute) on DNA analysis of residues contained within 2 amphorae from the 4th Ct BC ship wrecked in the straits between **Chios** and **Oinousses** (*AR* 51 [2004–2005], 90; *AR* 52 [2005–2006], 97). The amphorae analysed contained oregano and olives: there are also indications of wine and possibly pistachio nuts.

Kato Phana. L. Beaumont (BSA/Sydney) reports on a further study season devoted to the conservation and cataloguing of LH IIIC–LRom finds from the 2005 excavation. The date and nature of the finds (fineware cups, figurines, objects of valuable metals) emphasize that this was a cult site as early as the LBA, and probably remained in continuous use until the LRom period.

I. Basiakos undertook quantitative chemical and morphological (microscopic and macroscopic) analyses of soil samples from the deep cores taken in 2006 in the archaeometry laboratory of NCSR Democritos. Preliminary results indicate that the sea, now some 300m W of the archaeological site, reached in antiquity to the foot of the sanctuary. This helps to explain the massive anc. peribolos walls which defined the low natural mound on which the sanctuary was established and were designed, not only to withstand the pressure of the earth fill behind them, but also to protect the sanctuary from the sea.

Nea Moni. A. Christofidou and A. Papanikolaou (Directorate of Restoration of Byz and Later Monuments, Ministry of Culture) report (*DeltChAE* 28 [2007], 41–54) on new architectural details revealed by consolidation and restoration work in the katholikon, which allow the secure identification of 6 construction phases.

CYCLADES AND SAMOS

NOMOS OF SAMOS
(21st EPCA: 3rd EBA)

Samos

Publication: C. Hendrich, *Samos* 25. *Die Säulenordnung des ersten Dipteros von Samos* (Bonn, Habelt, 2007).

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