

Introduction & Overview

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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.

Nominally this volume of *AR* covers fieldwork up to the end of 2019, with updates from the first half of 2020. In reality, 2020 was almost the year that never was for archaeological fieldwork in Greece. Most fieldwork projects involving the foreign schools were postponed and the work of the Archaeological Service was also severely affected. On 13 March 2020, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports made the decision to close all archaeological sites and museums in Greece. Sites reopened on 18 May, museums on 15 June. Although these were public health measures in the face of a devastating pandemic, the reopening of the Acropolis was a symbol of hope, widely reported in the world's media. Exactly 2500 years earlier, in 480 BC, the Acropolis was razed during the second Persian invasion, the anniversary of which is being marked in 2020, with commemorations centring on the battles of Thermopylae and Salamis

(<https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3064>; see also Loy, this volume). The fortunes of the buildings on the Acropolis have long had a symbolic and political resonance for those living in Athens and beyond. In their own way, the discoveries and research reported in this year's *AR* are contributions to the long view of archaeology, helping to contextualise the events of what feels like a turbulent year.

This volume starts with the customary update on the work of the BSA in 2019–2020, contributed by its Director, John Bennet. Based on his report to the annual meetings in London, Athens and Thessaloniki in February 2020, it covers the period when lectures, meetings and conferences could still take place in person. As ever, the BSA has been at the centre of a varied programme of events, covering a broad chronological and thematic span, from the origins of agriculture to modern Greek poetry and music. The Director highlights the work of two of the BSA's centres of research: the Marc and Ismene Fitch Laboratory and the Knossos Research Centre. As the Fitch approaches 50 years of operation, he thanks the donors who have sustained its impressive research output by supporting both equipment and staffing. And as the BSA's attention turns to the rebuilding of the 'Strat', he initiates an appeal to the generosity of the BSA's supporters for the *Knossos 2025* fundraising campaign.

In the Newsround, Tulsi Parikh (Cambridge) discusses archaeological discoveries reported in the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020. As noted above, field seasons in 2020 were largely disrupted but work by Greek teams was possible at the Sanctuary of Poseidon at ancient Helike, Agios Vlasios in Atsicholos, Megalopolis and the Archaic sanctuary of Apollo on Despotiko. Among the most spectacular finds reported this year were those made in rescue excavations as a result of the extension of the metro line to Piraeus. The depth of the excavation meant that waterlogged layers with exceptionally well-preserved wooden

objects from the Hellenistic to Roman period were encountered, including a small headless wooden sculpture of Hermes. Among other highlights from a busy year, two long-running projects reported important discoveries in 2019: 200,000 year-old stone tools on Naxos discovered by the Stelida Naxos Archaeological Project (SNAP), and two new tholos tombs at Pylos found as a result of continuing work by the University of Cincinnati/ASCSA at the site.

The thematic articles start in the north of Greece: Eleni Vasileiou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina) summarizes research into Neolithic and Bronze Age Epirus in the last three decades. Her aim is to disperse the metaphorical fog which hangs over the prehistory of this region, leading to its omission at times from discussions of Greek prehistory. As she suggests, one of the reasons for this neglect is that the settlement and subsistence patterns in Epirus remained remarkably stable for the period under discussion, in contrast to the palatial societies which emerged further south. New discoveries also demonstrate similarities with other regions, such as the extended Neolithic site at Episkopi, the first of this type to be found in Epirus. As she argues, there is also evidence for contact with both the north, as suggested by Early Bronze Age tools, and the south, in the form of Mycenaean pottery. Rich Late Bronze Age burials show that such trade could have contributed to some social stratification without fundamentally altering the way of life.

Unlike Epirus, palaces abound in Bronze Age Crete and excavations have continued at a number of them in the last few years. Kostis Christakis, BSA Knossos Curator, summarizes the significant amount of research on sites of the palatial period (Middle Minoan IB to Late Minoan IIIA, *ca.* 1900–1300 BC) that has happened since 2016. As elsewhere in Greece, research excavations have continued at sites which have been known for a century or more, such as Gournia, Palaikastro, Knossos, Malia and Phaistos. Continued exploration of the area around the palaces at Zakros and Petras, and the recent discovery of palatial centres at Sissi, Galatas and Zominthos have complicated the picture. Despite this, Christakis welcomes a growing archaeological interest in the lives of ordinary people, through the excavations of typical houses and theoretical attention on the archaeology of households. As the areas around Ierapetra and Rethymnon become better known, he argues that it is time to focus on the difference between regions rather than to continue to treat Minoan Crete as a single entity.

In their contribution, Mark Lawall (Manitoba) and Chavdar Tzochetev (BSA), examine the last decade's work on transport amphoras in the Aegean and Black Sea areas. They trace a widening of the chronological limits of study, so that Early Iron Age amphoras are now discussed as part of this phenomenon. At the same time, a more traditional interest in the stamps of Hellenistic amphoras has continued to yield new corpora and to refine chronologies for a number of production sites, particularly Rhodes, Thasos and Herakleia Pontica. They also highlight new technology which allows for the detailed imaging of shipwrecks and their cargoes. All this work adds up to advanced knowledge of trade patterns with fine chronological resolution. Despite this progress to date, however, they point out that more needs to be done to make these data accessible, both through digital methods and collaboration with economic historians.

The sanctuaries of the Peloponnese have been a focus of archaeological attention since at least the 19th century. Maria Spathi (Society of Messenian Archaeological Studies) shows that there is no shortage of new information about them as she rounds up the research of the last

ten years. She highlights work at a variety of sanctuaries including the well-known sites of Messene, Amykles, Olympia, Nemea and Isthmia. Even so, new sites remain to be discovered: test trenches for a large-scale infrastructure project in Achaia resulted in the discovery of a sanctuary to Demeter and Eileithyia. Although archaeologists continue to make extensive use of Pausanias, she identifies a shift towards interest in material culture in the last decade. This shift includes renewed attention to the meaning of votive offerings, as well as the use of faunal remains and ceramics to identify consumption rituals at a number of sites.

The final contribution this year on recent work in the islands of the Saronic Gulf is by Michael Loy, recently appointed Assistant Director of the British School at Athens. Apart from the individual significance of discoveries on Aegina, Poros, Salamis, and the Methana peninsula, his contribution highlights the growing interest in looking at the connections between them too. New data have emerged both from long-running projects such as that investigating the Sanctuary of Poseidon at Kalaureia and rescue excavations occasioned by development. He also highlights the importance of pottery studies to trace some of these connections through scientific work to characterize Aeginetan ceramics. His article spans all periods, from the Neolithic period on Salamis to the Byzantine churches and monasteries of Aegina, also covering the reception of the archaeological remains of this area in early modern travel literature and contemporary art.

Travelling pots of a different kind characterized the *Countless Aspects of Beauty*, a touring exhibition which has moved around Greece and reached its final stop at the Chios Mastic Museum (June – September 2019). It was organised alongside the exhibition of the same name which opened in the National Archaeological Museum (NAM) in 2018 and closed in December 2019 after receiving a total of 950,000 visitors. It was followed there in February to July 2020 by the exhibition *These are what we fought for...Antiquities and the Greek War of Independence* which combined 18th and 19th century artworks with antiquities in order to examine subjects including philhellenism and the plundering of monuments (https://www.namuseum.gr/en/temporary_exhibition/these-are-what-we-fought-for-antiquities-and-the-greek-war-of-independence/). It marks the start of events to commemorate the 200th anniversary of start of the Greek War of Independence which will get into full swing in 2021. In the meantime, as part of the NAM's 'Unseen Museum' displays, the 'Androniano Hoard' was put on show, a group of 20 bronze objects (mostly tools and weapons) of Late Bronze Age date from Euboea (https://www.namuseum.gr/en/hidden_museum/o-thisayros-ton-andronianon/).

Exhibitions at other venues included the 'Last Monk of the Strofades' by Robert McCabe and Katerina Lympelopoulou (May – September 2020) at the Benaki Museum of Greek Culture (https://www.benaki.org/index.php?option=com_events&view=event&id=1004840). Further afield, a collaboration between the Archaeological Park of Pompeii and the Ephorate of the Cyclades resulted in an exhibition at the Quirinale in Rome, *Pompeii and Santorini. Eternity in a Day* (October 2019 – January 2020). The exhibition explored ideas of preservation as well as catastrophe, and it marked the first time that objects from these kindred archaeological sites were shown together.

There have been a number of digital developments too this year: in his contribution, John Bennet announces the launch of BSA Digital Collections (<https://digital.bsa.ac.uk/index.php>).

Among these are the BSA's Mycenae records, in time for the centenary of the start of the excavations of Alan Wace. To celebrate this anniversary, the Faculty of Classics in Cambridge collaborated with the University Library and the BSA to unite digitally the physically separated archival material pertaining to these important excavations. The collection principally consists of notebooks, drawings, plans and photographs of the archaeological endeavours of the BSA team at Mycenae in 1920–1923, 1939 and 1950–1957 under the directorship of Wace. These records are invaluable in helping specialists do archaeology in reverse – from physical records in digital format working their way back to the excavation trenches and individual finds – and in allowing all those interested in Mycenae's past to get closer to the day-to-day activities of pioneers in archaeological fieldwork (see: <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/mycenae>; <https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/digitalmycenae>).

Another significant development was the digitization of the publications of the Archaeological Society at Athens, with the exception of the five most recent years, including those in the *Praktika*, *Archaiologike Ephemeris*, *Ergon* and the *Vivliotheke* series (<https://www.archetai.gr/index.php?p=content§ion=1&id=18&lang=en>). The digitization of the full collection of the Society's archival records is also in progress (<http://webapps.servers.archetai.gr/scarabaeus/viewer/archetai/viewer.html>; https://www.lifo.gr/articles/archaeology_articles/269710/deite-gia-proti-fora-to-polytimo-arxeio-tis-en-athinai-arxaiologikis-etairias).

In conclusion, we note that, as in previous years, the last 12 months have seen numerous publications. Without claiming to be exhaustive, we list here a sample of those that appeared since the last issue of *AG* and mid-2020.

- Aurigny, H. (2019) *Fouilles de Delphes Tome V: Bronzes du Haut-archaïsme a Delphes: Trépieds, chaudrons et vaisselle de bronze (fin VIIIe–VIIe siècle)* (Paris)
- Blakomer, F. (ed.) (2020) *Current Approaches and New Perspectives in Aegean Iconography* (Aegis 18) (Leuven)
- Boardman, J. (2020) *A Classical Archaeologist's Life: The Story so Far* (Oxford)
- Bonetto, J., Francisi, D. and Mazzocchin, S. (2019) *O teatro del Pythion, scavi e ricerche 2001–2013* (Gortina 9:1–2) (Athens)
- Brunet, M., Coulié, A., Hamon, P., Holtzmann, B., Marc, J.-Y., Muller, A. and Picard, O. (2019) *Thasos: Heurs et malheurs d'un Eldorado antique* (Paris)
- Chalikias, K. and Oddo, E. (eds) (2019) *Exploring a Terra Incognita on Crete. Recent Research on Bronze Age Habitation in the Southern Ierapetra Isthmus* (Philadelphia)
- Chankowski, V. (2019) *Parasites du dieu: Comptables, financiers et commerçants dans la Délos hellénistique* (Paris)
- Davis, B. and Laffineur R. (eds) (2020) *Neôteros: Studies in Bronze Age Aegean Art and Archaeology in Honor of Professor John G. Younger on the Occasion of his Retirement* (Aegeum 44) (Leuven)
- Devolder, M. and Kreimerman (eds) (2020) *Ashlar. Exploring the Materiality of Cut-Stone Masonry in the Eastern Mediterranean Bronze Age* (Aegis 17) (Leuven)
- Drougou, S. (2019) *Βεργίνα η νεκρόπολη των Αιγών: Οι τάφοι "Heuzey" - Ο τάφος "με το περιστέρι" στα Παλατίσια* (Thessaloniki)
- Drougou, S. (ed.) (2020) *10th International Scientific Meeting on Hellenistic Pottery: Pottery Workshops Craftsmen and Workshops* (Athens)

- Dumont, S. (2020) *Vrysaki: A Neighborhood Lost in Search of the Athenian Agora* (New Jersey)
- Garcia, D., Orgeolet, R., Pomadère, M. and Zurbach, J. (eds) (2019) *Country in the City: Agricultural Functions of Protohistoric Urban Settlements (Aegean and Western Mediterranean)* (Oxford)
- Girella, L. and Caloi, I. (eds) (2019) *Kamilari. Una Necropoli di Tombe at Tholos nella Messarà (Creta)* (Monografie della Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene e delle Missioni Italiane in Oriente 29) (Athens)
- Hamon, P. (2019) *Études Thasiennes XXVI: Corpus des Inscriptions de Thasos III: Documents publics du quatrième siècle et de l'époque hellénistique* (Paris)
- Herbin, F. (2019) *Exploration Archéologique de Délos fascicule XLV: Le Sanctuaire d'Apollon a Délos. Tome II. Les monuments votifs et honorifiques (sans toit)* (Paris)
- Hood, S. (2020) *The Masons' Marks of Minoan Knossos*, ed. L.M. Bendall (British School at Athens Supplementary vol. 49) (London)
- Karagiorga-Stathakopoulou, T.G. (2019) *Ντόλις Μαντινείας: Η κεραμική της άνασκαφής* (Athens)
- Korres, M. and Eleutheriou, V. (2019) *Σμίλη και μνήμη: Η συμβολή της μαρμαροτεχνίας στην αναστήλωση των μνημείων / Chisel and Memory: The contribution of marble craftsmanship to the restoration of monuments* (Athens)
- Kremydi, S. and Marcellesi, M.-C. (2019) *Les Alexandres apres Alexandre: Histoire d'une monnaie commune* (Athens)
- Lambrinouidakis, V. and Ohnesorg, A. (2020) *Das Heiligtum von Gyroulas bei Sangri auf Naxos* (Athens)
- Lippolis, E., Caliò, L.M. and Giatti, C. (2019) *L'isolato del Ninfeo la topografia, i monumenti e lo scavo: (campagne 2003–2008)* (Monografie della Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene e delle Missioni Italiane in Oriente 27) (Athens)
- Lovén, B. and Sapountzis, I. (2019) *The Ancient Harbours of the Piraeus Vol. II. Zea Harbour: The Group 1 and 2 Shiphsheds and Slipways. Architecture, Topography and Finds* (Monographs of the Danish Institute at Athens 15.3) (Athens)
- Machaira, V. (2019) *Ελληνιστικά γλυπτά της Ρόδου II* (Athens)
- Matthaiou, A.P. and Bardani, V.N. (2019) *ΣΤΕΦΑΝΩΙ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ: Μελέτες εις μνήμην Στεφάνου Ν. Κουμανούδη (1931–1987)* (Athens)
- Meadows, A. (2019) *Between Greece and Rome. Coinage in the Imperium of Mark Antony* (Athens)
- Melena, J.L. with Firth, R.J. (2019) *The Knossos Tablets, 6th edition* (Philadelphia)
- Michaelidou, M. and Papi, E. (2019) *Hermes Balducci Pinxit: Ψηφιδωτά δάπεδα από την Κω / Pavimenti a mosaico da Coo* (Athens)
- Miller, S.G. (2020) *Nemea and Me: 1971–1999* (Athens)
- Moretti, J.-C. and Valavanis, P. (2019) *Les hippodromes et les concours hippiques dans la Grece antique* (BCH Supplement 62) (Paris)
- Mulliez, D. (2019) *Corpus des Inscriptions de Delphes V: Les actes d'affranchissement vol. 1: prêtrises I à IX (nos 1–722)* (Paris)
- Murphy, J.M.A. and Morrison, J.E. (eds) (2020) *Kleronomia: Legacy and Inheritance: Studies on the Aegean Bronze Age in Honor of Jeffrey S. Soles* (INSTAP Prehistory Monographs 61) (Philadelphia)
- Murphy, J.M.A. (ed.) *Death in Late Bronze Age Greece: Variations on a Theme* (Oxford)

- Nikolaou, Y. and Touratsoglou, I. (2019) *ΟΒΟΛΟΣ 14: Η Κυκλοφορία του Βυζαντινού Νομίσματος στο χώρο του Ελλαδικού κόσμου και στα Βαλκάνια. Η μαρτυρία των θησαυρών, 5^{ος}–15^{ος} αιώνες / The Circulation of Byzantine Coinage in Mainland Greece and the Balkans. The Hoard Evidence: 5th–15th centuries* (Athens)
- Palagia, O. and Sioumpara, E.P. (2019) *From Hippias to Kallias: Greek Art in Athens and Beyond 527–449 BC* (Athens)
- Palyvou, C. (2019) *The Architecture of the West House* (Athens)
- Papadimitriou, A. and Spathari, E. (2020) *Mycenae: A Journey in the World of Agamemnon* (Athens)
- Papadimitriou, N., Wright, J.C., Fachard, S., Polychronakou-Sgouritsa, N. and Andriku, E. (eds) (2020) *Athens and Attica in Prehistory: Proceedings of the International Conference, Athens, 27–31 May 2015* (Oxford)
- Papadopoulou, S. (2019) *Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Δράμας* (Drama)
- Papadopoulou, T.I. and Papadopoulou, E. (2020) *Ephyra-Epirus: The Mycenaean Acropolis Results of the Excavations 1975–1986 and 2007–2008* (Oxford)
- Pappa, M. (2020) *Δ.Ε.Θ., Θέρμη, Μακρύγιαλος: Οργάνωση του χώρου και οικιστικά στοιχεία στους νεολιθικούς οικισμούς της κεντρικής Μακεδονίας* (Thessaloniki)
- Petrakos, V.C. (2020) *Ο Δήμος του Ραμνούντος, vols. III–VI* (Library of the Archaeological Society at Athens 324–327) (Athens)
- Relaki, M. and Driessen, J. (eds) (2020) *OIKOS. Archaeological Approaches to House Societies in the Bronze Age Aegean* (Aegis 19) (Leuven)
- Sakellarakis, Y.A. (2020) *Kythera: Hagios Georgios sto vouno: Minoan cult and the Post Bronze Age history of the site*, edited by E. Sapouna-Sakellarakis (Library of the Archaeological Society at Athens 323) (Athens)
- Sampson, A. (2019) *Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Sailors in the Aegean and the Near East* (Newcastle upon Tyne)
- Schulz, T. (2019) *Die römischen Tempel im Heraion von Samos. II: Der Peripteros und der Naiskos* Thekla Schulz (Samos 29) (Wiesbaden)
- Sekunda, N. (ed.) (2020) *Wonders Lost and Found: A Celebration of the Archaeological Work of Professor Michael Vickers* (Oxford)
- Vivliodetis, E. (2020) *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum Greece, Fascicule 15. Athens, National Museum, Attic Black- and Red-Figure Pyxides* (Athens)
- Walter, H., Clemente, A. and Niemeier, W.-D. (2019) *Ursprung und Frühzeit des Heraion von Samos. Teil 1: Topographie, Architektur und Geschichte* (Samos 21.1) (Berlin)

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